

**February 11, 2022, Board of Regents Meeting**  
Agenda Item 8. Resolution Related to Repatriation of Mimbres Objects

**Statement by Ken Powell, Chair:**

Today's repatriation determination is another milestone for our institution and our Tribal partners. It is driven by our values rather than just by the law. This is an opportunity to reaffirm the mission of the University of Minnesota. While the law maps out the decisions to be made, it is the moral and ethical calling of our land grant university that inspires and guides us, demanding that we act justly by repatriating that which was never ours.

We cannot undo our past. We can accept responsibility for it. That means more than acknowledgements and apologies. Today, the University is exhibiting the values of what it means to be a land grant institution by authorizing the repatriation of the Mimbres objects to their rightful home with their Native peoples. We express our regret that it was not done sooner.

With the same humility, we hope today's University decision will contribute to how we as a society reckon with our past. We cannot undo history or fully right our wrongs, but we can learn from each other as to how to build a better future. That is a responsibility we all share.

This journey toward repatriation finds the University owing a debt of gratitude to many: foremost to the Tribal Nations of the Southwest, who have long called for justice and offered us their counsel, especially the Nations of the Pueblo, Hopi and Zuni; also to the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and its associated 11 Tribal Nations who have cared for Mimbres ancestral remains and tirelessly advocated for repatriation.

We now call upon President Gabel – who has the Board's respect for her leadership in these matters of Tribal relations – to complete what is required to work with the affiliated Tribal Nations to repatriate the ancestral remains and associated artifacts in a manner respectful and appropriate to their noble and long-standing traditions.