

December 15, 2018

Eli Basch
1 Hawk Dr
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Mr. Basch,

I am writing in support of the name change for the SUNY-New Paltz buildings in the Hasbrouck complex named after the Huguenots who settled the area. As a direct descendant of these settlers and a current member of the Huguenot Historical Society and LeFevre Family Association, I feel the time is long overdue for the recognition of others who participated in the growth of the region. Growing up, my grandmother would tell me stories of our "great" ancestors and how they overcame religious persecution to build new lives in America. While these things are true, it is only half the story. Through the increased transparency of modern historical research, it is easier to see the whole picture where enslaved Africans and Native Americans were marginalized for our success. I have seen strides made on Huguenot Street to include more archeological digs to further the knowledge of others who lived on the site. It is my hope that one day our detailed archives will help others find their ancestral history in the way that mine has been documented. Let the renaming of these buildings be one small step in the restorative justice this nation is seeking. I wish you and the university the best of luck in resolving this sensitive issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Harris". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Catherine Harris