



New York State
Adirondack
Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

Certificate of Appreciation Professor Curt Stager Paul Smiths College

With the signing of Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on June 17, 2021, Juneteenth was designated as a federal holiday to commemorate the emancipation of African American slaves. America's "second Independence Day" honors the history, perseverance and achievements of the African American community. It is also a forthright reminder of the brutality and hardship suffered by enslaved peoples and an enduring tribute to all those who fought for the obtainment of equality, the right to vote and other cherished civil rights.

As the Adirondack Park Agency marks the 50th anniversary of the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan, we join all New Yorkers to celebrate the less known but truly remarkable Adirondack history of the diverse people who contributed to the greatness of the Adirondack Park and its communities. History teaches profound lessons.

The Adirondack Park Agency expresses its appreciation to Professor Curt Stager for the opportunity to learn from his meaningful research on the history of African American settlements in the Adirondacks and the substantial impacts to the park, the great state of New York and the Nation. Professor Stager's commitment to searching out truth and his exceptional ability to communicate facts contributes to the betterment of our society.

Presented this 15th day of June 2023 in Ray Brook, New York.

John Ernst
Chair

Barbara Rice
Executive Director