



California Faculty Association
Resolution on Land Acknowledgment and Recognition

WHEREAS, the California Faculty Association acknowledges and honors the five hundred and seventy-three (573) federally recognized Native tribes in addition to all terminated and unrecognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, the first Governor of the State of California explicitly called for the extermination of Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, there are eighteen (18) unratified treaties with California tribes that the federal and state governments refused to honor; and

WHEREAS, the California State University (CSU) system is built upon unceded and taken land of California tribes, and is where Native American/Indigenous and other students live, learn, and dream; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that each and every one of the twenty-three (23) campuses of the California State University, its satellite campuses, and the Chancellor's Office is situated and was built on Native land, and as such contributed to the history of erasure, displacement, dispossession, and the attempted eradication of all original and tribal peoples on this land; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans experience among the highest rates of teen suicide, unemployment, diabetes, poverty, and police violence, and some of the lowest rates of high school graduation and life expectancy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are significantly more cases of rape, sexual abuse, stalking, and domestic violence of Native American women than any other group in this country^{10, 11}; and

WHEREAS, there are more missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW), at ten (10) times the national average, leaving families with no closure or justice^{10, 11}; and

WHEREAS, federal Indian reservations, Rancherias, and Pueblos comprise only two (2) percent of U.S. land area, and seventy-one (71) percent of Native Americans reside in urban areas, with the largest urban Indian population residing in the State of California^{1, 2}; and

WHEREAS, only seventeen (17) percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives age twenty-five (25) and over, have at least a bachelor's degree, in comparison to thirty-three (33) percent of non-Hispanic Whites and only six (6) percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have at least an advanced graduate degree, as compared to twelve (12) percent of the non-Hispanic White population^{1, 2}; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that historical traumas, cultural and university norms, practices and policies, such as the retention and refusal to remove offensive mascots, have created environments that further perpetuate the inequities and impede opportunities of American Indian and Alaskan Native students, staff, faculty and the communities in which they serve; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the California State University system-wide land acknowledgement is just the first step needed in acknowledging and honoring the land, culture, language, traditions and contributions of California Tribal Nations and all Indigenous nations throughout the United States; be it also

RESOLVED, that the California Faculty Association:

1. calls upon CSU Chancellor Timothy White and the CSU Board of Trustees to immediately adopt and begin the process of developing a respectful and meaningful system-wide policy of land acknowledgment in consultation and with consent of local area California tribes to create recognition language to be used at the opening of every CSU Board of Trustees meeting, convocation, graduation, cultural event and use the best practices outlined below as a guideline;^{4,7}
2. calls upon the CSU Chancellor and the CSU Board of Trustees to include in this policy that the CSU, as a beneficiary of taken California Tribal land, has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of these lands, as well as the historical dispossession that has allowed for the growth of the CSU system, and develop on-going respectful relationships with local area tribes;⁷
3. calls upon the CSU Chancellor and the CSU Board of Trustees to direct the CSU Campus Presidents to form a local area land acknowledgement task force which includes AI/AN faculty, students, staff, and local tribal representatives as well as the CFA to develop a thoughtful, authentic land acknowledgment statement and policy with consent and consultation of local area tribes;
4. calls upon the CSU Chancellor, CSU Board of Trustees, and CSU Campus Presidents to be good stewards of the land and develop long-range planning on campuses with care and attention to historical and present day Indigenous homelands.

Unanimously Adopted by the CFA Assembly
April 14, 2019

*Best Practices. Land acknowledgements should be conducted at the start of all formal university business such as:

- Convocation
- Graduations
- Board of Trustees Meetings
- Building Openings
- University and Foundation based/sponsored cultural, fundraising or other events
- College and Department Meetings
- Academic Senate meeting
- Symposia, forums, discussion panels, workshops (optional)
- Small events and receptions (optional)

Resources

1. [National Congress of American Indians; Land Acknowledgement; www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)
2. [U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Services
https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=3&lvlid=62](https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=3&lvlid=62)
3. [Guidance on Traditional Land Acknowledgement statements; Association of Municipalities of Ontario, March 15 2018](#)
4. [Guidance to Indigenous Land and Territorial Acknowledgments for Cultural Institutions: Felicia Garcia \(Chumash\) M.A. Museum Studies, New York University, 2018 www.landacknowledgments.org](http://www.landacknowledgments.org)
5. [USDAC #HonorNativeLand Guide: https://usdac.us/nativeland](https://usdac.us/nativeland)
6. [Lenape Center, American Indian Community House, Rick Chavolla, Emily Johnson and the New Red Order \(NRO\)](#)
7. [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Office of the Chancellor, Land Acknowledgment Statement July 26, 2018. https://chancellor.illinois.edu/land_acknowledgement.html](https://chancellor.illinois.edu/land_acknowledgement.html)
8. [Guide to Acknowledging First Peoples and Traditional Territories, Canadian Association of University Teachers, September 2017 https://www.caut.ca/sites/default/files/caut-guide-to-acknowledging-first-peoples-and-traditional-territory-2017-09.pdf](https://www.caut.ca/sites/default/files/caut-guide-to-acknowledging-first-peoples-and-traditional-territory-2017-09.pdf)
9. [California Federation of Teachers, Convention 2017, Resolution Committee Reports, Resolution 17 Honor Native American treaties and rights. Resolution 18 Oppose the Dakota Pipeline. https://www.cft.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2017_cft-convention-resolutions-committee-report.pdf](https://www.cft.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2017_cft-convention-resolutions-committee-report.pdf)
10. <https://nij.gov/journals/277/pages/violence-against-american-indians-alaska-natives.aspx>
11. <http://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf>