

Sample Land Acknowledgement Statement

“We want to acknowledge that we gather as the California Faculty Association on the traditional land of the Indigenous People past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long standing history that has brought us to reside on the land, and to seek to understand our place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. Acknowledging the land is an important Indigenous protocol that we are honoring here today.”

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- The person giving the acknowledgement should be the host of the event or meeting themselves
- Include a formal thank you to the host nation whenever making a presentation or holding a meeting, whether or not Indigenous individuals are part of the meeting or gathering
- If you do not know the name of the Nation on whose territory or treaty land the building sits, ask around; Native Land Map, Native American Student Center, Friendship Centers, Indigenous Student Centers, local Band Offices are always a good source of information
- Ask the Native American Student Center on your campus or Indigenous Tribal Elders for help with the pronunciation.
- If that is not possible, call the band office of the Nation after hours and listen to the recording
- Practice saying the name of the host nation out loud

- A land acknowledgment is not something you “just do” before an event. Rather it is a reflection process in which you build mindfulness and intention walking into whatever gathering you are having. It should be rooted in the Indigenous Peoples whose land you are honored to stand on and should guide how you move forward in both conversations and actions.

MOVING BEYOND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Although it is important to acknowledge the land, it is only a first step. We are all treaty signers, and are thus responsible and accountable for the violence that Indigenous people face. Allyship is a continuous process; it is not a designation that one can earn and hold forever. It is also not a label one can give themselves, but one you earn from your actions and commitment to standing in solidarity.

Allies must continually engage in self-reflection, and must consistently work at being an ally (through learning, acting in a de-colonial manner, and sustaining relationships with Indigenous Peoples, etc.)

Here are some simple ways you can begin the ongoing and continual process of acting in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples:

- **Learn:** About oppression and privilege. About the history of colonization. About Indigenous peoples and cultures. About the land you live on. To listen. There are many books, blogs, documentaries, Independent media sites, plays, and songs that Indigenous people have written and performed that are great places to start learning.
- **Build relationships:** Building relationships is a very important aspect of standing in solidarity. Get to know the Native American faculty and students on your campuses. Consult and build a relationship with local Indigenous tribes. Host a Native American lunch or event once a month that is open to everyone to build community and strengthen relationships. In addition, many other events take place throughout the year. Follow them on Facebook or visit in person to see what they have going on!

- **Act:** Be accountable towards Indigenous people and communities by affirming the importance of what they're saying, aligning oneself with the struggle, and speaking up when something problematic is said or done.