

Resolution on Land Acknowledgement and Recognition  
November 2020

WHEREAS, the California State University Los Angeles (Cal State LA) Academic Senate acknowledges and honors the 574 federally recognized Native Nations, in addition to all terminated and unrecognized Nations; and

WHEREAS, California is home to 109 federally recognized Native Nations, with nearly 80 seeking recognition; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County has the largest American Indian and Alaska Native population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Cal State LA campus is located on the traditional land of the Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians who have lived and continue to live here; and

WHEREAS, the Cal State LA Academic Senate acknowledges and honors the Tongva people as the ongoing caretakers of these lands; and

WHEREAS, the Tongva did not cede the land to the U.S. or state government through any ratified treaty and such treaties as were ratified were routinely violated by state and/or federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Tongva population was vastly reduced through genocide, disease, and environmental disruption brought upon it by settlers; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Academic Senate of the California State University also released a Land Acknowledgement statement that encourages other campuses to adopt “acknowledgement statements recognizing the traditional occupants of the land the campuses are on and incorporating those statements into their formal Senate meetings”; and

WHEREAS, Cal State LA is an institution that embraces diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice as vital components of educational quality; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of Native histories, lands, and cultures contribute to the intellectual, social and physical development of our campus community in a manner that contributes to inclusive excellence and the public good; and

WHEREAS, Cal State LA Associate Professor and appointee to the CSU Native American Initiative Dr. Kimberly Robertson (Mvskoke) worked with the Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians tribal council member and cultural consultant Julia Bogany to compose a culturally appropriate land acknowledgement specifically for Cal State LA; and

WHEREAS, the Land Acknowledgment statement was accepted by Tongva Elder Julia Bogany; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate adopt the Land Acknowledgment Statement and Guidelines that recognizes the Tongva people as the ongoing caretakers of these lands; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the attached Land Acknowledgement Statement and Guidelines be promulgated ubiquitously throughout the university in forms such as, but not limited to, oral statements and ceremonial introductions at campus events, written statements on university webpages, written statements on college departmental, or programmatic websites, in course syllabi, or on commemorative plaques.

## Cal State LA Land Acknowledgement Statement and Guidelines

### 1. Guidelines

- a. A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects the Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of a particular land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional lands.
- b. A Land Acknowledgement should be used in forms such as, but not limited to, oral statements and ceremonial introductions at campus events, written statements on university webpages, written statements on college departmental, or programmatic websites, in course syllabi, or on commemorative plaques.
- c. The Land Acknowledgement should be recognized as a significant part of Cal State LA and not seen as “trendy” or “obligatory.”
- d. Whenever possible, there is an order of who gives the Land Acknowledgement on campus.
  - i. A Tongva student, faculty or staff, or invited community member
  - ii. A California Indian student, faculty or staff, or invited community member
  - iii. A North American Native American student, faculty or staff, or invited community member
  - iv. A willing party at the event who will use the sample Land Acknowledgement

2. **Land Acknowledgement Statement:** if delivered by a Tongva student, faculty or staff, or invited community member

**We, the Indian people, the traditional caretakers of this landscape are the direct descendants of the first people who formed our land, our worlds during creation time. We have always been here. Our ancestors prepared and became the landscapes and worlds for the coming humans with order, knowledge and gifts embedded in the landscape. Our ancestors, imbued the responsibility and obligation to our original instructions, guided by protocol and etiquette to be part of, take care of and ensure the welfare of the extended family and community defined in its most inclusive expression, the NATURE and to pass those teachings and responsibilities onto our children, grandchildren and many generations to come. (AND to all those that now live here.).** Written by Tongva Elder Julia Bogany, 2020

3. **Alternate Land Acknowledgement Statement:** if delivered by anyone other than a Tongva student, faculty or staff, or invited community member

**With great respect, Cal State LA acknowledges the Tongva people as the traditional caretakers of Tovaangar (TOE-von-gar) – the Tongva world, including the Los Angeles Basin, South Channel Islands, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, and portions of Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. Cal State LA is located within these lands. As an institution located on unceded Tongva land, we pay our respects to the ancestors, elders, and our relatives/relations, past, present, and emerging.**

**Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the university’s relationship to Native peoples. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Cal State LA more accountable to the needs of American Indian peoples.** Prepared by Dr. Kimberly Robertson (Mvskoke) and Tongva Elder Julia Bogany, 2020

*Approved by the Cal State LA Academic Senate on April 27, 2021*