

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION**

CORPORATE POLICY

SUBJECT: Land Acknowledgement

REFERENCES: Land Acknowledgement and Statement AS-3396-19/FA (Rev)

In 2019, the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) released AS-3396-19/FA encouraging campuses to adopt land acknowledgement statements. As noted in the statement, "ASCSU and the California State University (CSU) should acknowledge and honor the five hundred and seventy-three (573) federally recognized Native tribes in addition to all terminated and unrecognized tribes." California State University, Northridge is situated in the ancestral and unceded land base of the village of Sesevenga whose descendants are the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. In 2021, California State University, Northridge (CSUN) Associated Students (A.S.) passed Resolution Senate Bill 2020-21-011: Senate Meeting Native Land Acknowledgement, making it "[P]ertinent to acknowledge and understand the longstanding ancestral history of the land and the lineage of those original communities who are still present. Land acknowledgments are to recognize the original peoples of the land in the present tense and being mindful of their presence and space."

DEFINITION/S: A land acknowledgement is a statement to recognize the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who called the land home before the arrival of settlers and in many cases the descendants recognize the land as their home today. The following is the land acknowledgement adopted and presented by the USU:

California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and the University Student Union (USU) recognize and acknowledge the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, the First People of this ancestral and unceded land base of the village of Sesevenga that is occupied by our institution. We honor their Elders, past, present, and future. We recognize that the Fernandeano Tataviam are still here, and we are committed to uplifting their stories, culture, and community. Upholding CSUN's value to respect all people and by our alliances with local communities, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the university's relationship with Tribes. By offering this Land Acknowledgement,

we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold the campus community accountable to the needs of American Indian peoples in the region.

POLICY:

The University Student Union will use Land Acknowledgements in forms such as, but not limited to, oral and written statements at USU formal meetings, programs, USU websites, electronic mail signatures, and on commemorative plaques or physical facilities.

Recommended by the Diversity & Inclusion Committee on: June 2, 2023.

Approved by the University Student Union, Board of Directors on September 11, 2023.

Land Acknowledgment Procedures

What:

- a. A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of a particular place and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional lands.
- b. A Land Acknowledgment should be used in forms such as, but not limited to, oral statement and ceremonial introductions at campus events, written statements on university webpages, written statement on college departmental, or programmatic websites, or on commemorative plaques.
- c. The Land Acknowledgment should be recognized as a significant and internal acknowledgement of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians as a wholehearted part of California State University, Northridge and the University Student Union and shall not be viewed as a trend.
- d. There is an order of who gives the Land Acknowledgement on campus.

Who: When possible, the preference for who delivers the Land Acknowledgement on campus is:

- a. An FTBMI Elder, Leader or designated representative
- b. A USU representative at the event who will deliver the sample Land Acknowledgement

FTBMI Elders, Leaders or, designated representatives that are invited to provide the acknowledgement, should be compensated appropriately for their time and participation.

Land Acknowledgement Statement if delivered by a USU representative:

“California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and the University Student Union (USU) recognize and acknowledge the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, the First People of this ancestral and unceded land base of the village of Sesevenga that is occupied by our institution. We honor their Elders, past, present, and future. We recognize that the Fernandeño Tataviam are still here, and are committed to uplifting their stories, culture, and community. Upholding CSUN’s value to respect all people and by our alliances with local communities, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the University’s relationship with the Tribe. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm their sovereignty and will work to hold the campus community accountable to the needs of American Indian peoples in the region.”

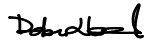
When: The Land Acknowledgement shall be delivered at the beginning of formal USU meetings or events. This includes, but is not limited to, USU BOD and committee meetings, USU staff and departmental meetings, trainings, retreats, small and large programs and events, and ceremonial or groundbreaking events. It is also recommended that departments engage in discussions quarterly about the land acknowledgement and how we can honor the land and continue to strengthen our relationship with the FTBMI.

The Land Acknowledgement can be incorporated in USU websites or signature line as an additional form of acknowledgement of the region's Indigenous communities. Following salutations and sender information, the following can be added to an email signature line:

CSUN recognizes the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians as the original inhabitants and caretakers of Sesevenga in the northern San Fernando Valley. We recognize that the Fernandeano Tataviam are still here and are committed to uplifting their stories, culture, and community.

How:

- a. The Land Acknowledgement will be presented orally. If presented through visual media components (audio or video) these presentations must be approved by the FTBMI before use.
- b. The Land Acknowledgement can be incorporated in written form on meeting agendas as a standing commitment to honoring the stewards of the land in which we reside. The statement within the agenda will be read out loud at the beginning of the meeting or event.
- c. When planning programs and events, delivery of the Land Acknowledgement must be determined by the host or programmer.



Debra L. Hammond, Executive Director
University Student Union

Dated: September 11, 2023