



Academic Senate

26/AS/19/SEC

Land Acknowledgement and Recognition

WHEREAS, the California State University Stanislaus (Stanislaus State) Academic Senate acknowledges and honors the traditional lands of the Yokuts Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus State campus rests on the native land of the Yokuts people who have been its caretakers for time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Yokuts 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, Stanislaus County and Stanislaus State carry the name of Lacquisemne Yokuts Chief Cucunuchi—later renamed by the Spanish “Estanislao” after the Polish saint, Stanislaus—who led serious rebellions against the California mission system, and defended this area from multiple attacks by Spanish forces and Mexican authorities based in what is now southern San Joaquin County in the early nineteenth century; and

WHEREAS, the Yokuts population was vastly reduced through genocide, disease, and environmental disruption brought upon it by non-indigenous settlers; and

WHEREAS, Stanislaus State is an institution of higher learning dedicated to evidence-based history and research; and

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

WHEREAS, Stanislaus State is committed to better understand its local Indigenous roots, and seeks to forge stronger alliances and relationships with its local Indigenous tribal governments and partners; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies Professor Dr. Cueponcaxochitl Sandoval, Associate Dean Sari Miller-Antonio and the Indigenous Students in Activism Club worked with Nototomne [Northern Yokuts Nation Tribe] Elders and Stanislaus State President Ellen Junn to compose a culturally appropriate land acknowledgement specifically for Stanislaus State; and

WHEREAS, the Land Acknowledgment statement was accepted by the Northern Valley Nototomne Yokuts Tribal Elder; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate adopt the Land Acknowledgment statement that recognizes Yokuts traditional residence on and stewardship of the land on which Stanislaus State currently resides; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the attached Land Acknowledgement 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.

Approved unanimously by the Academic Senate on 11/12/19
Approved by President Ellen Junn on 12/12/19

Attachment: *Yokuts Land Acknowledgment Statement*

“We want to formally and with great respect acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Yokuts Nation. Our campus, Stanislaus State, is built on the unceded ancestral lands of these indigenous tribes. Thank you for letting us honor them and give our thanks to their ancestors and descendants for their constant and careful stewardship of this land.”