



Board of Directors 2023-2024
Resolution on Land Acknowledgement and Recognition

Authored by Yahir Flores, ASI President/CEO

Approved: TBD

WHEREAS, Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) is the recognized voice of nearly 25,000 students; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) of California State University Los Angeles (Cal State LA) acknowledges and honors the 574 federally recognized Native Nations, in addition to all terminated and unrecognized Nations;¹ and

WHEREAS, California is home to 110 federally recognized Native Nations, with nearly 81 seeking recognition;² and

WHEREAS, the Cal State LA campus is located on the traditional land of the Tongva people as the traditional caretakers of Tovaangar (TOE-von-gar) – the Tongva world.

WHEREAS, Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) of Cal State LA acknowledges and honors the Tongva people as the ongoing caretakers of these lands; and

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

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Academic Senate of the California State University also released a Land Acknowledgement statement that encourages other campuses to adopt “acknowledgment 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, it is the mission of the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors to advocate, provide responsible and effective leadership, and represent the student demographic in various capacities; and

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

¹ <https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory#:~:text=There%20are%20currently%20574%20Federally,of%2001%2F28%2F2022>.

² <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/TribalFAQs.pdf>



WHEREAS, The California State University (CSU) is committed to fully implementing the spirit as well as the legal requirements of both the Federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA), which were enacted to acknowledge the fundamental human right of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians to their ancestral Human Remains and Cultural Items.³

WHEREAS, the Land Acknowledgment statement was Prepared by Dr. Kimberly Robertson (Mvskoke) and Tongva Elder Julia Bogany, 2020; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) of Cal State LA adopt the Land Acknowledgment Statement that recognizes the Tongva people as the ongoing caretakers of these lands; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the attached Land Acknowledgement Statement be implemented throughout all Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) forms such as, but not limited to, oral statements and ceremonial introductions at campus events, written statements on the organization webpage, and be read during the commencement of all meetings including the following meetings; Board of Directors; Executive Cabinet, Personnel Committee; Finance Committee; Shared Governance Committee; Cabinet of Academic Senators; Legislative Affairs Committee; Cabinet of College Representatives; Community Engagement & Outreach Committee; Environmental Policy Committee

³ <https://nagpra.calstate.edu>



Land Acknowledgement Statement:

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.