



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Associated Students, SJSU, Board of Directors' Resolution 18/19-01 Native/Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

Whereas, It is the mission of Associated Students (A.S) of San José State University to support and represent the students of San José State University by continuing the organization's legacy of student advocacy and leadership; to enhance SJSU students' education through high quality programs and services; and to prepare students as they move towards a thoughtful and purposeful life after graduation; and

Whereas, San José State University has had instances of discrimination and appropriation of Native communities¹; and

Whereas, Many Native American students at San José State University seek a sense of belonging within the institution and Native land acknowledgement contributes to the sense of belonging they seek; and

Whereas, San José State University's leadership has shown a commitment to social justice^{2 3}; and

Whereas, Land acknowledgment is a practice of opening events and gatherings⁴ through a "formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories"⁵; and

Whereas, Land acknowledgment creates broader public awareness of the history of colonization, honors Native communities, and encourages reconciliation efforts; and

¹ Women dressed in native American costume at San Jose State College
<https://calisphere.org/item/ark:/13030/kt0b69p95q/>

² 2018 Fall Welcome Address President Mary A. Papazian
<http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/2018%20Fall%20Welcome%20Address%20FINAL.pdf>

³ The Chronicle of Higher Education: Bringing Stability to a Campus Weary of Turnover
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Bringing-Stability-to-a-Campus/239972>

⁴ U.S. Department of Arts and Culture-Honor Native Land <https://usdac.us/nativeland>

⁵ Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group, Ontario, Canada <http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland/>



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Whereas, The enrollment headcount by ethnicity at San José State University for fall 2018 reveals that the Native student population made up 0.1 percent of the students enrolled⁶ and Native students have been classified under other racial/ethnic groups; and

Whereas, the San José State University Office of the Provost reported that the six-year graduation rate for underrepresented “minority” (URM) students, which includes Native American students, was at 44 percent in the spring of 2015 but was 17 percent lower than the rate for non-URM students⁷; and

Whereas, The “Why Do Students Leave? A study of student departure from San Jose State University” was conducted to identify the reasons why URM students left the university; and

Whereas, 12.9 percent of the 214 students that participated in the study identified as “American Indian”; and

Whereas, Student participants in the study shared that they left San José State University with the impression that the university “did not care” and that they “didn’t belong in college”; and

Whereas, Four reoccurring themes resulted from the student surveys and focus groups, in which “feeling a connection with the campus” was one of the four themes and reasons of why a student departed from the university⁸; and

⁶ SJSU Office of Institutional Analytics Enrollment Headcount by Ethnicity Fall 2018
<http://www.iea.sjsu.edu/Students/QuickFacts/default.cfm?version=graphic>

⁷ Office of the Provost-FAQ: Graduation Rates
http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/academic_plan/fourpillarsarchive/faq/index.html

⁸ “Why Do Students Leave? A study of student departure from San José State University”
http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/docs/SJSUactionresearch_Final_Reportnov2015.pdf



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Whereas, In 1980, Native American students at San José State University created the Native American Student Organization (NASO), which promotes the well-being, academic success, and community engagement of American Indian, Alaskan Native, and native students on campus⁹; and

Whereas, The land San José State University resides on is the territory of the Muwekma Ohlone tribe; and

Whereas, The City of San José honors the Tamien Ohlone peoples through the naming a station and park after them¹⁰; and

Whereas, Land acknowledgment aligns with the symbolic commitment of social justice at San José State University^{11 12 13}; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a land acknowledgement statement be read during the meetings of the Associated Students Board of Directors; and further be it

⁹ Spartan Daily-SJSU Native American Organization Reborn

http://www.sjsunews.com/spartan_daily/news/article_55193d66-cb07-11e7-858f-3701df6409bf.html

¹⁰ The Mercury News-Tamien Park opens after 22 years of planning

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/06/21/tamien-park-opens-after-22-years-of-planning/>

¹¹ The Spartan Daily-The Cesar E. Chavez Monument Unveiled 2008

<https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=10489&context=spartandaily>

¹² The New York Times-Black Power Statue <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/29/us/29bcintel.html>

¹³ Blogs SJSU-San José State University Nursing Student Unveils Peace Pole

<http://blogs.sjsu.edu/chhs/2015/10/14/san-jose-state-university-nursing-student-unveils-peace-pole/>



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Resolved, That a land acknowledgement statement be part of the opening remarks of all A.S. retreat spaces, in which the respective Native community from the space the retreat is taking place at is acknowledged; and further be it

Resolved, That all San José State University entities acknowledge the Native land of the Muwekma Ohlone tribe by conducting a land acknowledgement statement at university events. Examples include but are not limited to President's Welcome, orientation, welcomes, commencement, public events, conferences, convocations, etc.; and further be it

Resolved, That San José State University entities will reach out to elders of the Muwekma Ohlone tribe or student members from NASO to invite them to conduct the land acknowledgement when available; and further be it

Resolved, That San José State University maintain ongoing conversations with the Native community in order to create efforts and initiatives that aim to improve the experience for Native students on campus; and further be it

Resolved, That Associated Students will make this document public and will forward this resolution to the following parties, including: Muwekma Ohlone Chairwoman, President Papazian, members of the President's Cabinet, Mayor Sam Liccardo, Assemblymember Ash Kalra, State Senator Jim Beall, Representative Zoe Lofgren, Mercury News, The Spartan Daily.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ariadna Manzo, A.S. President & Chief Executive Officer

Cheyenne Rooker, Native American Student Organization Lead Council Member

Supported by:

Passed and Adopted by the Associated Students of San José State University



**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY**

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Native/Indigenous Land Acknowledgment**

**Board of Directors at a regular meeting held May 8, 2019 by a vote of
14-Yea 0-Nay 0-Abstention 1-Absent**

Oladotun Hospidales, Vice President and Chair
Associated Students, SJSU

5/13/19

Date