

El Camino College - Land Acknowledgement Toolkit: Recognition of Connection Between People and Place

Purpose:

The purpose of the land acknowledgement toolkit is to be a resource and beacon to the El Camino College (ECC) community in acknowledging the original nations on whose lands we reside, learn, and work. This toolkit recognizes and affirms the rights of the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe and all Indigenous peoples to equal access in education and academic advancement. We show reverence to the history we stand on and endeavor to increase trust going forward in building a respectful relationship with our Native American, Indigenous peoples, and First Nations.

Tribal Consultation and Community Collaboration:

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Standing Committee of the Academic Senate through the Land Acknowledgment Taskforce created this toolkit. Consultation was made with members of the Gabrielino-Tongva tribe, the Inter-Club Council, Student Equity Advisory Council, the Association of Student Organizations of ECC and other Academic Senates of Southern California colleges who have already approved and formalized their respective toolkits.

What is Land Acknowledgement?

It is a statement that recognizes and respects the Indigenous peoples as traditional caretakers of the land. It gives those who benefit from the land they occupy, an opportunity to honor the original stewards of that land and give consideration to that historical connection.

Why Do We Recognize the Land?

To pay tribute to the Indigenous peoples who have been stewards of the land. Acknowledgment is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose land you live on/occupy and is a way of honoring them. It is a protocol/tradition for Indigenous peoples that dates to time immemorial.

How Do We Recognize the Land?

Statements

- **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

El Camino College stands on the ancestral homeland of the Gabrielino-Tongva people, the traditional caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles Basin and Southern Channel Islands). We recognize that this institution benefits from the

violent displacement and disenfranchisement of those who inhabited and stewarded this land for generations. We pay our respect to the Gabrielino-Tongva people, past and present, and their connection to this space.

We are also aware of the racially discriminatory condemnation of the Gordon Manor tract, a Black residential development project proposed for this land in 1926. As a disseminator of truth in education, we acknowledge a history of involuntary sacrifice that allowed for the establishment and continued existence of El Camino College.

- **Email Signature Line (placed under the El Camino address)**

Located on the ancestral homeland of the Gabrielino-Tongva people, the traditional caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles Basin and Southern Channel Islands).

- **Syllabus**

Our class convenes on the ancestral land of the Gabrielino-Tongva people, the traditional caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, So. Channel Islands). The El Camino College community benefits from the violent displacement and disenfranchisement of those who lived on this land for generations. We pay our respect to the Gabrielino-Tongva people, past and present, and their connection to this space. We are also aware of the racially discriminatory condemnation of the Gordon Manor tract, a Black residential development project proposed for this land in 1926. We acknowledge a history of involuntary sacrifice that allowed for the establishment and continued existence of El Camino College.

- **Graduation or Other College-Affiliated Event**

On this day, we give homage to the Gabrielino-Tongva people, the traditional caretakers of this land, Tovaangar on which the El Camino campus resides. We recognize that this institution benefits from the violent displacement and disenfranchisement of those who inhabited and stewarded this land for generations. We pay our respect to the Gabrielino-Tongva people, past and present, and their connection to this space. We are also aware of the racially discriminatory condemnation of the Gordon Manor tract, a Black residential development project proposed for this land in 1926. We acknowledge a history of involuntary sacrifice that allowed for the establishment and continued existence of El Camino College.

Resolution: A formal statement that affirms as decision or action by campus administrators, faculty, staff, students, and trustees.

Resolution recognizing the traditional homeland of the Gabrielino-Tongva people, the caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles Basin and Southern Channel Islands).

WHEREAS, the El Camino College Academic Senate acknowledges that there are over 370,000,000 Indigenous Peoples around the world and spread across more than 90 countries, and who belong to more than 5,000 different indigenous groups and speak more than 4,000 different indigenous languages; and

WHEREAS, the El Camino College Academic Senate acknowledges there are more than 5,000,000 Indigenous Peoples living in the United States, and the State of California has over 700,000 Native American and California Indians and the Los Angeles County is home to over 150,000 people who identify as Native Americans or California Indian; and

WHEREAS, the El Camino College Academic Senate acknowledges that our institution serves a diverse student body that includes Native Americans, California Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians or Kanaka Maoli otherwise known as First Nations People; and

WHEREAS, the El Camino College acknowledges and celebrates the Los Angeles County's May 1st, 2018 adoption that established the 2nd Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day, and this institution further acknowledges and celebrates the whole month of November as Native American and Indigenous Heritage month and recognizes that every day we should celebrate all the lives of both our Native American and Indigenous students, as well as all of our student population; and

WHEREAS, the El Camino College Academic Senate acknowledges the institution is on the unceded territory of the Gabrielino-Tongva Indian Tribe who are recognized by the State of California, and whose leaders are recognized by the California Native American Heritage Commission, and the institution also recognizes the other tribes not federally recognized and who are traditionally part of the Indigenous Peoples that steward the lands known today as El Camino College; and

WHEREAS, the El Camino College Academic Senate acknowledges that a second forcible dispossession of the land El Camino College now occupies occurred in the 1920s when the proposed Gordon Manor residential development project owned by Dr. Wilbur C. Gordon and Black Realtors, a project that would have created more than 1,000 homes specifically for African Americans was condemned by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, further entrenching residential segregation; and

WHEREAS, the El Camino College Academic Senate maintains that education institutions should work toward greater justice and acknowledge the role that educational institutions have played in the genocide and oppression of Indigenous Peoples, from the brutality of the residential schools to the sanitization of the mission system in the curriculum, names, and icons used by California's public schools; and

WHEREAS, the El Camino College Academic Senate upholds the ideals of human rights for all our students, and that these rights include the rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, the El Camino College Academic Senate acknowledges the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as passed by the United Nations General Assembly on the 13th of September in the year 2007, that this acknowledgement is recommendatory and not binding; and

WHEREAS, we express solidarity with all Indigenous Peoples around the world and particularly the Indigenous Peoples attending the El Camino College and their pursuit of higher education; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the El Camino College Academic Senate declares that the lives of our Indigenous students matter; and affirms the rights of Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and administrators to be treated with respect and dignity within schools and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the El Camino College Academic Senate encourages faculty across disciplines and content areas to specifically include in their curricula materials that represent topics of inclusion and diversity that support indigenous ways of learning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that El Camino College Academic Senate invites faculty across disciplines and content areas to acknowledge and use the Land Acknowledgement Toolkit and its resources that represent all our Indigenous Peoples and learners to continuously enrich instruction.

Adopted unanimously this 16th day of November, 2021 by the El Camino College Academic Senate.

The United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Article 1

Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 4 and international human rights law.

Article 2

Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 3

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 6

Every indigenous individual has the right to a nationality.

Article 7

1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.

2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 8

1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.

2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:

(a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;

(b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;

(c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;

(d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;

(e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

Article 9

Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

Article 10

Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

Article 11

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and

future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

2. States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

Article 12

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.

2. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 13

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.

Article 14

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.

2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination. 3. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

Article 15

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.

2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

Article 16

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity.

Article 17

1. Indigenous individuals and peoples have the right to enjoy fully all rights established under applicable international and domestic labour law.

2. States shall in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment.

3. Indigenous individuals have the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour and, inter alia, employment or salary.

Article 18

Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

Article 19

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them. Article 20

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

2. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.

Article 21

1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

Article 22

1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.

2. States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Article 23

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

Article 24

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

2. Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

Article 25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

Article 26

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 27

States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

Article 28

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

Article 29

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

Article 30

1. Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.

2. States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.

Article 31

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

Article 32

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the

development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

Article 33

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

Article 34

Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards. Article 35 Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities.

Article 36

1. Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.

2. States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.

Article 37

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

2. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

Article 38

States in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration.

Article 39

Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

Article 40

Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

Article 41

The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.

Article 42

The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.

Article 43

The rights recognized herein constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.

Article 44

All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.

Article 45

Nothing in this Declaration may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights indigenous peoples have now or may acquire in the future.

Article 46

1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.

2. In the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all shall be respected. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law and in accordance with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and strictly necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.

3. The provisions set forth in this Declaration shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith.

Notes:

1. How/Why we are using Tongva versus Kizh

Glossary - **Move definition to bottom with the following**

Tovaangar: (To-VAA-ngar, three syllables, the accent falling on the second and the ng pronounced as in “singer,” not “finger.”) **move to glossary/highlighted words in red in doc are to be placed in glossary**

- **California Indians:**
- **Native Americans**
- **Indigenous**
- **First Nations**
- Interconnectivity –
- Reciprocity -
- Reverence -
- Stewardship –

References

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Add link to sources throughout this record where and when needed