

March 17, 2020

**University Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Memorandum**

RE: Land Acknowledgement Statement

Whereas, *Western Oregon University in Monmouth, OR is located within the traditional homelands of the Luckiamute Band of Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 (Kalapuya etc. Treaty), Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to reservations in Western Oregon. Today, living descendants of these people are a part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (<https://www.grandronde.org>) and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians (<https://ctsi.nsn.us>).*

Whereas, a land acknowledgement statement (as written above) is a “formal statement that recognizes and respects indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between indigenous peoples and their traditional territories¹

Whereas, two faculty members Dr. Kenneth Carano (COE) and Dr. Kim Jensen (CLAS), gained support of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (1/30/20) to pursue the use of a land acknowledgement statement at Western Oregon University, and the faculty senate executive committee recommended that further direction be taken by the University Diversity Inclusion and Advisory Committee

Whereas, major public universities in the state of Oregon have adopted land acknowledgement statements and this is a growing trend in higher education²

And

Whereas, the formal adoption of a land acknowledgement statement is an affirmative step toward demonstrating university values toward justice, equity, diversity and inclusion

The University Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee advises the office of the President to:

1. Use the land acknowledgement statement at the beginning of official WOU ceremonies
2. Add the land acknowledgement statement to all print and digital communications (e.g. WOU brochures, welcome packets for students, websites etc.)
3. Post the land acknowledgement statement at prominent places on campus (i.e. plaques near the entrance of all buildings)
4. Display, in a prominent place, the 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon’s flags on campus
5. Each college and department should develop an implementation plan to include placement of a land acknowledgement statement on syllabi, email signatures, and other communication materials, as well as seeking information about how to honor and show respect to tribal history in community events and activities.

The University Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee will provide oversight and support to ensure implementation of these plans across campus.

¹ <https://www.insightintodiversity.com/acknowledging-native-land-is-a-step-against-indigenous-erasure/>

² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330505687_Land_Acknowledgement_A_Trend_in_Higher_Education_and_Nonprofit_Organizations

