

Dear Coyotes and Colleagues,

Governor Gavin Newsom has issued proclamations each year since 2019 to celebrate Indigenous People's Day in place of Columbus Day in California. In 2021, for the first time, President Biden recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day from the White House.

As President Biden stated in his declaration, "Today, we also acknowledge the painful history of wrongs and atrocities that many European explorers inflicted on Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities. It is a measure of our greatness as a Nation that we do not seek to bury these shameful episodes of our past — that we face them honestly, we bring them to the light, and we do all we can to address them.

It is important for our nation to face its history and recognize the impact that this history continues to have on the lives of First Nations peoples living today. This starts with the very land on which Cal State San Bernardino sits. We formally acknowledge this fact in the following Land Acknowledgement:

"We recognize that California State University, San Bernardino sits on the territory and ancestral land of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (Yuhaaviatam). We recognize that every member of the California State University, San Bernardino community has benefitted and continues to benefit from the use and occupation of this land since the institution's founding in 1965.

"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 California State University, San Bernardino more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples."

As an anchor institution here in the Inland Empire, we are committed to supporting our local communities and promoting the values of diversity, equity and inclusion here on campus and throughout the region. We also remain committed to returning, to their rightful owners, any artifacts held by CSUSB belonging to the First Peoples of our region (our university does not hold any human remains). We are therefore grateful to, and appreciative of, California State Assemblymember James Ramos' efforts to ensure that this redress finally and definitively occurs. And we firmly support his [Feather Alert system](#) (AB 1314), now in place throughout California, to address violence against the Indigenous Peoples of our state.

On this Indigenous Peoples' Day 2023, we reflect on the need to be informed as to our history and current conditions so that we can seek to address and prevent future harm to all who live here in our IE home.

In community,

Tomás D. Morales
President