

UWS Land Acknowledgement DEI Committee

Context:

UWS recognizes that we are at the beginning of our journey to address our role in the occupation of the land in which the campus exists. As part of this process, campus groups, committees, departments and events have created a land acknowledgement practice. We recognize that this a starting point, not the end, of the university's commitment to increasing educational access, improving community health, and building partnerships with Native communities.

The following land acknowledgement was developed by the DEI Committee in consultation with a local Native American Historian. Faculty, staff, students and departments are invited to use this acknowledgement, adapt it, or to continue to use and adapt their own. We welcome feedback and critique. We recognize that this acknowledgement will grow and change over time, especially as we build reciprocal relationships with Native and Indigenous leaders, organizations and tribes over time.

UWS Land Acknowledgement, updated 11.18.21

University of Western States (UWS) is located in Portland, Oregon in Multnomah County. We respectfully acknowledge and honor the Indigenous people whose traditional and ancestral homelands we stand on, the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Tumwater, Watlala bands of the Chinook, the Tualatin Kalapuya and many other Indigenous nations of the Columbia River.

Despite attempts of removal and erasure, Indigenous communities, groups and individuals remain a strong and vital part of our region and many regions across and the world. We recognize that this acknowledgement is a small step in affirming the ongoing presence and contributions of Native and Indigenous communities in our region and beyond. We commit to engaging with these communities by expanding access to our university, supporting current and future students and employees, building partnerships with local tribes and Native organizations, and improving access to quality health care.