

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Guidelines and Protocols for Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of People and Country ¹

Introduction:

The University campus is located on Indigenous land, and it is important that staff, students, and faculty understand the significance of observing protocols in recognizing the traditional custodians of the land at university events and ceremonies. It demonstrates the respect the university has for the Chumash people, the history and culture of the community, and all Native Americans as America's First Peoples.

Definitions:

Option 1:

Welcome to Country: A Welcome to Country is a formal welcome onto Indigenous land given by an Elder or person of that land. It should be the first item on the order of proceedings for the event and may comprise of a single speech given by an Elder with or without an accompanying performance, such as a song or ceremony.

- Should this not be possible to organize, there is **Option 2:**

Acknowledgment of People and Country: An Acknowledgement of People and Country is a statement of recognition of the traditional owners of the land, and it can be given by any person – Indigenous or non-Indigenous. It is the responsibility of the chair of the meeting or host or master of ceremonies of the event to ensure that the Acknowledgment of People and Country takes place in an appropriate manner.

Examples for Acknowledgment of Country:

1. Before I commence I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this place and all land upon which the University is located, and pay my respects to the Chumash Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, and the culture of this area, which has become a place of learning for people from all over the world.

¹ Vetted and approved by Mia Lopez, Chairperson of Coastal Band of the Chumash Nations

2. I would like to pay my respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which this (meeting/ ceremony/ event/ etc.) takes place – the Chumash people. We understand the importance of recognizing this area's rich history and culture, both past and present, as well as the significance of **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA**

Native American peoples' place in the learning and research activities of this university.

3. I would like to acknowledge the Chumash people, who are the traditional custodians of this land. I would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present, as well as other Indigenous people present.