

Actions For Consideration

Hartnell College

Native Peoples' Land Acknowledgement

PURPOSE

To implement new activities and recognition for the indigenous cultures that formerly inhabited the land of Hartnell Community College District.

PROPOSAL

1. Adopt a narrative for a land acknowledgement with input of Ethnic Studies and History faculty and tribal representatives.
2. Circulate the acknowledgement for input and support through constituent groups.
3. Recommend adoption to the Board of Trustees.
4. Form a Land acknowledgement work group to determine the various ways that a land acknowledgement can be used. Some possible steps to be completed by this workgroup:
 - a. Develop a "tool kit" to inform faculty, staff and students about what the land acknowledgement is and where to post it or when to read it
 - b. Provide professional development about Hartnell's connection to these indigenous cultures
 - c. Provide pedagogical focus for faculty to connect their course material to elements of indigenous culture
 - d. Create a visible acknowledgement – outdoor art, commemorative plaque, mural to recognize the former presence of indigenous peoples
 - e. Include the land acknowledgement on letterhead, publications, web page banners or footers, printed programs for events, etc.
 - f. Schedule an annual commemoration / recognition of the heritage of Ohlone Tribes of [Amah Mutsun](#), [Costanoan Rumsen](#), Esselen, and Chalon

Sample: One-paragraph Land Acknowledgement

The land where we find our Hartnell Campus sites was once called [Popeloutchom](#) and occupied by the Ohlone Tribes of [Amah Mutsun](#), [Costanoan Rumsen](#), Esselen, and Chalon, the indigenous people of the Central California Coastal area. These peoples existed peacefully in this region in at least nineteen documented villages for thousands of years before Spanish missionaries arrived in the 1760's. The ancestral lands ranged from San Francisco Bay to Big Sur, and through the Salinas River Valley, numbering at least 15,000 inhabitants before European contact.

According to Mutsun culture, the Creator, in his infinite wisdom, placed the Mutsun in the lands of Popeloutchum, their homeland, as the protectors and stewards of the lands, waters, plants, and other creatures of this place. The Creator blessed the Amah Mutsun with these magnificent lands. They were given a mild climate, bountiful foods from the land and sea, and a landscape that – even today – is considered among the most beautiful in the world.

Today the Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation and the Amah Mutsun Tribe each have over 600 members. They are emerging to reclaim and protect their cultural practice, language, and ancestral lands, while letting others know of their continued existence, concern for the environment, and desire for unity amongst all peoples.

Hartnell Community College District is grateful for the stewardship of the indigenous peoples over this beautiful land and we encourage everyone to honor these peoples and learn more about their traditions.

Recommended use:

- As part of the history of Hartnell college
- Published on the history page of the web site [About Hartnell](#)
- Included in other publications relating the history of Hartnell

Sample: One-sentence Land Acknowledgement

VERSION - BRIEF

Hartnell Community College District is located on the unceded ancestral territories of the Ohlone Tribes of Amah Mutsun, Costanoan Rumsen, and Esselen peoples

Recommended use:

- Business cards
- Email signatures

VERSION - DETAILED

Campus sites of Hartnell Community College District are located on the unceded ancestral territories of the indigenous Ohlone Tribes of Amah Mutsun, Costanoan Rumsen, and Esselen peoples.

Recommended use:

- Web page and stationery footers
- A line on a syllabus or meeting agenda

For reference:

[Research from California College of the Arts](#) - A model implementation of land acknowledgement

[CICSC/AIS Land Acknowledgement Toolkit](#) – Tool Kit developed by Palomar College

[Amah Mutsun Tribal Band](#)

[Chalon Indian Nation](#)

[Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation](#)