**The University of Texas at El Paso**

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**Announcement October 11, 2021 Indigenous Peoples Day**

**Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Statement approved by University**

After several years effort by student organizations such as ARISE and a campus Ad-hoc Committee, the UTEP Faculty Senate and Administration have officially approved an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement. As an R-I University and a Carnegie Engaged Institution, UTEP respects the history and contemporary presence of Indigenous Peoples in Texas and the Paso del Norte region. Land Acknowledgement Statements like this, adopted by universities, municipalities, and organizations across the world, foreground that we are on the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples. Land Acknowledgements are an expression of gratitude and appreciation to the Indigenous Peoples, the traditional caretakers of the land, for the use of their lands on which we work, study, and learn. The Acknowledgements also help establish institutional frameworks for community outreach and engagement, they facilitate policies of recruitment and retention, and they pave the way for ethical protocols of research in consultation with Native nations. In this spirit, we invite faculty, staff, students, and administrators to consider opening public events with this Land Acknowledgement, include the statement in materials associated with your events, add it to your website, and include it in course syllabi.

**The UTEP Land Acknowledgement Statement**

As members of the University of Texas at El Paso community, we acknowledge that we are meeting on unceded Indigenous land. We would like to recognize and pay our respects to the Indigenous people with long ties to the immediate region: the Lipan, Mescalero, and Chiricahua Apache; Piro; Manso; Suma; Jumano; Ysleta del Sur Pueblo; Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe; and Tortugas Pueblo. We also acknowledge the nations whose territories include present day Texas: the Carrizo & Comecrudo, Miakan-Garza Band, Caddo, Tonkawa, Comanche, Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo, and the peoples of Chihuahua and northern Mexico from whom many of our students descend, such as the Rarámuri, Tepehuan, Wixarrika and Nahuatlaca peoples. Finally, we recognize all of the Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories here in the Paso del Norte region. The University of Texas at El Paso honors your history and cultures and we seek greater awareness of the many ways in which your legacy can guide us in fruitful partnerships and mutually fulfilling relationships.

**UTEP Ad-Hoc Land Acknowledgement Committee**

Dr. Jeffrey P. Shepherd, Professor and Chair, Department of History

Dr. Yolanda Chavez Leyva, Department of History, and Director of the Institute of Oral History (Rarámuri)

Dr. Denis O’Hearn, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Sociology

Dr. Rebecca Reid, Department of Political Science

Dr. Howard Campbell, Chair, Department of Anthropology/Sociology

Dr. José de Piérola, Creative Writing

Dr. David Carmichael, Anthropology

Eric Murillo, Instructor, Department of Anthropology/Sociology, (Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe)

Dr. Robert Gunn, Associate Professor of English

Dr. Gina Nunez Mchiri, Sociology, Director of the Women and Gender Studies, and Faculty Senate President

Veronica Cruz, ABD in Rhetoric and Writing Studies, President of ARISE