

**Objective:**

These protocols are intended to establish recommendations for the State University of New York at Oswego employees and student organizations about pertinent and consistent recognition and acknowledgement of the Indigenous inhabitants of New York State as the stewards of the lands on which SUNY-Oswego is situated. The theme of IGE for the upcoming (20-21) school year is “United First Nations”. As such there are a plethora of speakers, art installations, and breakout sessions currently being planned that focus on Indigenous bodies, Indigenous epistemologies, Indigenous storytelling, and Indigenous rights. The land acknowledgement should serve as a way to ground these events (both academic and co-curricular) in local Indigenous communities – or, as my Haudenosaunee friends would say “to bring our minds together as one”.

**Scope:**

The land acknowledgement statement can be performed by anyone and is a respectful public acknowledgement of the traditional occupants of the land. The land acknowledgement should to be read by the host or master of ceremonies of the event or gathering, unless a specific person has been requested to share the acknowledgement. Regardless of the length the acknowledgement, the acknowledgement is read aloud as the first order of business or at the opening of an event by the first speaker or host. Events where it is appropriate for the land acknowledgement statement to be shared include FA/SA meetings, graduation, annual freshman convocation, athletic events, speaker series, and critical conversations.

**Statement:**

The State University of New York at Oswego would like to recognize with respect the Onondaga Nation, the “people of the hills”, or central firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands SUNY-Oswego now stands. Please join me in acknowledging the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora Nations, their elders both past and present, as well as the future seven generations yet to come. Consistent with the University’s values of diversity and equity, inclusion and social justice this acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to cultivating relationships with Native American communities through academic collaborations, partnerships, historical recognitions, and community service in order to dismantle the legacies of conquest and colonization.