

To Whom It May Concern,

The Pride Alliance supports and advocates for the establishment of a structure to serve as a permanent Land Acknowledgement on campus at the University of North Texas. A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement, and in this case, a structure, that recognizes and respects Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous peoples who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long existing history that has brought us to reside on the land, and to seek to understand UNT's place within that history. Land Acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol.

It is imperative that we acknowledge that the land on which UNT is built and on which we gather is the occupied/unceded/seized territory of the Wichita and Caddo Affiliated Tribes. These tribes have stewarded this land throughout the generations and the establishment of a structural Land Acknowledgment would serve to pay our respects to elders, both past and present. It also serves to recognize our understanding that UNT did not come to exist on this land through peaceful means. Wichita and Caddo Affiliated Tribes, like other tribes in North America, were forced from their land through acts of violent colonialism.

Native and Indigenous people are asking for UNT to acknowledge the land and the ways in which our institution came to exist on this land. Creating a symbol of recognition and honor for the Native and Indigenous people at UNT and of the North Texas area is the very least that we could do as university. Native and Indigenous voices and history have been silenced throughout the world. We have benefitted from the violence, death, and theft of land from the Wichita and Caddo Affiliated Tribes and they deserve for UNT to publicly acknowledge that history.

It is a value of this office to routinely acknowledge the land, and therefore we fiercely and without reservation, advocate for the establishment of a structural Land Acknowledgement at the University of North Texas. Please visit <https://ied.unt.edu/land-acknowledgement> to learn more about the Land Acknowledgement Statement used by the Pride Alliance, and feel free to contact me directly for any further discussion of support.

In Solidarity,

Kathleen E. Hobson

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