

**Proposition:** 6-19/20

**Title:** Memorial in support of NMSU's Land Acknowledgement Statement

**Date Submitted:** 11/4/2019, Amended 1/14/2020

**Sponsor(s):** B. Corran (DACC), J. Parra (EDU), Dr. Donald D. Pepion (ANTH), Dr. Jeanette Haynes Writer (TPAL), Dr. Manal Hamzeh (GSS), Dr. Dulcinea Lara (CJ), Erik Lehnhoff (ACES), Nichole Hamilton (THTR)

**Proposed Committee:** Emergency Legislation

**Assigned Committee:** Scholastic Affairs

**Prior Approvals:**

**Proposal Type** (please check one):

- Memorial
- Proposition to change policy (please include ARP/RPM reference(s) from <https://arp.nmsu.edu/>)
- Proposition for curriculum addition/change (please include all curriculum change forms and signature pages as outlined here: <https://provost.nmsu.edu/forms/>)
- Other (please describe below)

**Proposal:**

Whereas, NMSU is committed to establishing a Land Acknowledgement Statement, and

Whereas, decolonization is an ongoing process and NMSU recognizes this memorial as a living document that may be amended in the future in order to add our recognition of tribes and seek guidance to repair relationships with Native communities and the land, and

Whereas, in committing to the process of decolonization, we urge the NMSU system to expand support for Indigenous students, staff and faculty through sustained investment in academic programs and student services for Native Americans, as well as authentic participation in decision-making processes, and

Therefore, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020, the NMSU Faculty Senate formally requests that NMSU post this memorial with the following Land Acknowledgement Statement on the About Us and History pages on the NMSU website, posted at Corbett Center, and that the Land Acknowledgement Statement is read aloud before special events such as Commencement, Indigenous Peoples Day, athletic and artistic events.

*New Mexico State University honors Native American knowledges and worldviews based on intimate relationships to the natural world. The genesis of the Southwest Indigenous Peoples, including the Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache, established their guardianship of the lands now occupied by New Mexico State University. As the*

*state's Land-Grant University, we acknowledge and respect the sovereign Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples. We pledge to have a meaningful and respectful relationship with the sovereign Indian Nations, Indigenous communities, and Native American Peoples within the institution.*

**Rationale:** A Land Acknowledgement Statement is a formal statement that recognizes the significance of Indigenous Peoples to their campus communities. These statements are often part of formal university events, and many universities have adopted statements in recent years.