

**SENATE BILL 2024-25-26**

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| Date Presented: February 28, 2025 | **CU Denver SGA Land and Labor Acknowledgement** |
| Authorship: | Jackson Elliott, Civics Committee  |
| Sponsorship: | Cesar Rodriguez, Chair of Civics CommitteeJalissa Vega, Vice Chair of Civics Committee |

WHEREAS, the University of Colorado Denver Student Government Association (SGA) is committed to representing and uplifting marginalized communities, and;

WHEREAS, a formal land acknowledgement is one strategy to recognize and pay respect to the Indigenous peoples and other marginalized communities who have lived on and cared for a specific land. Land acknowledgements recognize the specific sovereign tribal nations who have ties to the specific land and the impacts of colonization which resulted in displacement of Indigenous peoples, and;

WHEREAS, the purpose of a formal land acknowledgment is to remind readers of the history and ongoing relationship that Indigenous peoples have with the land we congregate on. Acknowledgements also encourage dialogue and collaboration between communities with the intention to create actions that better serve Indigenous peoples and other marginalized communities, and;

WHEREAS, at present, our Student Government Association does not include a formal land acknowledgment and incorporating one would be a valuable step in fostering greater awareness and respect for Indigenous and other marginalized communities, and;

WHEREAS, a labor acknowledgement is a formal recognition of the historical exploitation of enslaved people and their descendants, primarily through the context of forced labor. It is a recognition of the significant role that enslaved labor played in shaping our society and institutions, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED, that during sessions of senate, after the roll call has been conducted, the Vice President, or another member of SGA acting as Chairperson, will announce the formal land acknowledgement. It reads as follows:

“The CU Denver Student Government Association, and the Auraria Campus as a whole, is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the sovereign tribal nations: Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute Nations. This land was also the site of trade, healing, hunting, and gathering for other Indigenous Nations. SGA recognizes that Indigenous peoples are the original stewards of this land. Our Association recognizes the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory and pay our respect to the diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

SGA also recognizes that the establishment of the Auraria campus was made possible by the forced removal of residents and destruction of the Auraria neighborhood, where families lived, worked, and worshiped together.

We also acknowledge that the foundations of the United States, the State of Colorado and other institutions were laid on the exploitation of enslaved Africans and their descendants. These enslaved individuals were uprooted from their homes, stripped of their fundamental rights, and were forced to perform hard labor.

May this acknowledgement allow you to reflect on your duties as a member of SGA and how we can best serve the Indigenous peoples of our community.”

FINALLY, BE IT ENACTED, that the acknowledgement will be displayed on the SGA website alongside various resources that viewers can explore such as tribal nation web pages and scholarship opportunities.

Ratified by the Senate: [Date of Ratification]

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| Savannah Brooks, *President* | Mitchell Mauro, *Vice President* |