

Land, Air, Sky and Water, and Labor Acknowledgement

On behalf of Seattle Colleges, we respectfully acknowledge we occupy the traditional ancestral lands, air, sky, and water from which we benefit today as the traditional ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, the traditional home of all tribes and bands within the Duwamish, Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations, a people that are still here, continuing to honor and bring to light their ancient heritage. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Native communities that continue to demonstrate resistance in the face of efforts to separate them from their land, their culture, and each other. May our time together be spent in recognition and support of our Native brothers and sisters.

Without them, we would not have access to this gathering and to this dialogue. We ask that we take this opportunity to thank the original caretakers of these lands, air, sky, and water who are still here and may even be in this room.

Today in this Present Moment, we honor the survival, the adaptations, the forced assimilation, and the resilience and creativity of Native peoples – past, present, and future.

We encourage participants to consider their responsibilities to the people and land, both here and elsewhere, and to stand in solidarity with Native, Indigenous, and First Nations People, and their sovereignty, cultural heritage, and lives.

We also pause to recognize and acknowledge the labor upon which our country, state, and institutions are built.

We remember that our country is built on the labor of enslaved people who were kidnapped and brought to the US from the African continent and recognize the continued contribution of their survivors. We also acknowledge all immigrant labor including voluntary, involuntary, trafficked, forced, and undocumented peoples who contributed to the building of the country and continue to serve within our labor force. We acknowledge all unpaid care-giving labor.

Finally, we acknowledge that our institution relies on hourly, student, contingent, and unpaid labor and we recognize those contributions.

To the people who contributed this immeasurable work and their descendants, we acknowledge our/their indelible mark on the space in which we gather today.

It is our collective responsibility to critically interrogate these histories, to repair harm, and to honor, protect, and sustain this land.

Thank you.