



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

March 27, 2025

## **New Board Policy R252, *Institutional Statements Acknowledging Relationships with Tribes and Ancestral Lands***

The Commissioner recommends that the Board approve *Board Policy R252, Institutional Statements Acknowledging Relationships with Tribes and Ancestral Lands* and the companion template statement.

A few months ago, the Board directed a working group to study land acknowledgment statements as well as practices for agreements with tribes across the Utah System of Higher Education.

The working group met several times and developed a proposed policy and template statement. The Commissioner's Office sought feedback from and met with the Division of Indian Affairs and tribal leaders across the state and sought feedback from institution presidents and general counsels. Where possible, feedback from the above groups has been incorporated in the proposed policy and template statement.

### **New Board Policy R252:**

- Outlines the conditions an institution must meet to share a statement acknowledging a relationship with a tribe and ancestral lands.
- Provides the events and circumstances in which an institution may make a statement.
- Outlines what a statement should include.
- Encourages institutions to establish meaningful partnerships with tribes focusing on supporting tribal members' access to and success in higher education.
- To ensure institutional accountability, requires a USHE institution that has an agreement with a tribe to report to the Board annually on the agreement as well as the steps the institution is taking to meet its commitments under the agreement.

### **Commissioner's Recommendation**

The Commissioner recommends the Board approve new Board Policy R252, *Institutional Statements Acknowledging Relationships with Tribes and Ancestral Lands* and the companion template statement.

**Attachments**

- New Board Policy R252, *Institutional Statements Acknowledging Relationships with Tribes and Ancestral Lands*
- Template Institutional Statement Acknowledging a Relationship with a Tribe and Ancestral Land