

87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE: LAWMAKING IN A NON-TRADITIONAL REDISTRICTING SESSION

**PRESENTATION BY RAMIRO CANALES, JD, MPAFF
INTRODUCTION BY ANGELA VALENZUELA, PH.D.**

FRIDAY JAN. 29, 2021

12:00 - 1:30 PM CT

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TCEP.EDUCATION.UTEXAS.EDU**

**Committee on Land Acknowledgment Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies
(NAIS)
The University of Texas at Austin**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As the flagship institution in our state university system, it is important that The University of Texas at Austin demonstrate respect for the historic and contemporary presence of Indigenous Peoples in Texas and, particularly, in the greater Austin area. To that end, it is incumbent upon The University of Texas at Austin to recognize that our campus resides on what was historically the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples who were dispossessed of their homelands. Land Acknowledgements are an expression of gratitude and appreciation to the Indigenous Peoples, the traditional caretakers of the land, for the use of their lands on which we work, study, and learn. In this spirit, we encourage all the faculty, staff, students, and guests of The University of Texas at Austin to open public events and gatherings with the following Land Acknowledgment, and/or to include this statement in printed materials associated with your events:

(I) We would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America.

Moreover, (I) We would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to the Carrizo & Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Caddo, Tonkawa, Comanche, Lipan Apache, Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo, Tigua Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas, here on Turtle Island.

Land Engagements and/or Commitments In recognition of the ongoing and cumulative challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in Central Texas and globally, we call upon The University of Texas at Austin:

To repatriate the ancestral remains held by the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory to their Indigenous descendant communities and Native lands.

To commit to the active recruitment and material support of Native American and Indigenous students, who currently comprise fewer than 0.2% of UT Austin's student body.

To support the transition of the Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies into a Center. To establish a protocol of research and study on Tribal or Native lands, and to foster ethics and practice of engaged scholarship, with and for Indigenous peoples and communities, locally and internationally.

Read the NAIS Academic Council Letter to the President in support of a UT Land Acknowledgment, [here](#).

RAMIRO CANALES, JD, MPAFF



Ramiro Canales is a former migrant farmworker from Santa Rosa, Texas in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

After graduating as salutatorian of his class from Santa Rosa High School in 1987, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies degree from Southwestern University, Texas' first university, in 1991. In 1994, he earned a Master of Public Affairs degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT-Austin. In 1998, he earned his law degree from The University of Texas School of Law.

Mr. Canales began volunteering at the Texas Capitol in 1989 as a legislative intern for the late State Representative Irma Rangel, the author of the "Top Ten Percent" law and became her chief of staff in 1995. He has served as a staff attorney for the Texas Association of Community Health Centers; as the assistant executive director for governmental relations at the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA); as an assistant attorney general for Texas Attorneys General John Cornyn and Greg Abbott; and as a lecturer on the Texas legislative process at The University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Canales is an experienced litigator, appellate lawyer, and a "public policy engineer" a/k/a/ lobbyist. He is the founder of the Legislative Boot Camp®, an intensive one-day training program on how things really work at the Texas Legislature.

His proudest achievement is earning his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees without owning a car.

ANGELA VALENZUELA, PH.D



A professor at the University of Texas at Austin, Angela is the author of the award-winning book "Subtractive Schooling: U.S. Mexican Youth and the Politics of Caring" (1999), among others. She is a co-founder/director of Academia Cuauhtli, a partnership based, community-anchored Saturday school with districtwide impacts in Austin, Texas. She is the director of the Texas Center for Education Policy and executive director of the National Latina/o Education Research and Policy Project (NLERAPP). She also founded and operates an education blog titled "Education Equity, Politics, and Policy in Texas."



AGENDA

87th Texas Legislature: Policymaking in a Non-Traditional Redistricting Session

- 12:00-12:10 pm Introduction by Dr. Angela Valenzuela
- 12:10-12:20 pm Land Acknowledgment
- 12:20-1:00 pm Presentation by Ramiro Canales
- 1:00-1:30 pm Q&A session