



**University of Washington
House of Knowledge
Land Blessing Ceremony**

**Friday, April 10, 2009
10:30 AM-12:00 PM**

Agenda

10:30 am Registration & Check-In

11:00 am Welcome

Delbert Miller – Master of Ceremonies

Ceremony*

Isadore Tom, Jr. - Lead

Donna Starr - Shaker Representative

Father Pat Twohy - Catholic Representative

Albert Redstar - Waa'shat Representative

Isadore Tom, Jr. - Smokehouse Representative

Remarks

University of Washington President Mark Emmert

12:00 pm Closing Remarks

Delbert Miller

A brief history of Land Blessings can be found on the reverse side of this page.

*Ceremony Witnesses: Emma Noyes, Charlotte Coté, Ron Allen, and Sheila Edwards Lange



Blessing Ceremonies History

The Indigenous Peoples of this land believe that relationships with the land go far beyond paper documents that demonstrate ownership. Acquiring land puts one in a spiritual relationship to that land which can never be broken. It is up to us that the community work toward making that relationship a healthy one.

In the traditions of Indigenous Peoples, Land Blessing Ceremonies are performed for a variety of reasons. They are done to give thanks, help resolve conflict, in celebration, and in penance. These ceremonies recognize the indigenous people whose land we walk on. They thank and honor their ancestors for allowing us on this land. Blessings cleanse the land as we request guidance from the Creator and the ancestors for the work that will be conducted on the land. A Land Blessing facilitates change. Land is often given a blessing ceremony after a change in ownership, or use type. There are also many different ways to perform these ceremonies, depending on the needs of the situation.

In some ways, a land or house blessing is similar to a marriage ceremony. The responsibilities of the various parties are spelled out, and the people who are brought together promise to cherish and protect this union. This is their responsibility as participants in the blessing. Witnesses also have important responsibilities to carry on the stories or legacy of the land for the future generations.

The University of Washington House of Knowledge Land Blessing ceremony acknowledges the living history and future stories of this building.

-Source: Interpreted from spoken word of the University of Washington House of Knowledge Elder's Committee

