Agenda

- Overview of the CSU
- San Diego State University
- Fresno State University
- Humboldt State University
- Q&A
Goal

• Gain insight on CSU student success efforts
• Highlight specific campus efforts
• Hear from YOU
Importance of Intentional Partnerships & Community Focused Programming
About the CSU

• Largest 4-year university system in the Nation
  • 23 Campuses
  • 485,550 students
  • Nearly ¾ are students of color
  • 50% are Pell Grant recipients
  • 129,000+ degrees granted yearly
  • Nearly 1/3 of undergraduates are 1st generation
  • 89% first year students from public high schools
CSU Native American Initiative

- https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/community/community-partnerships/Pages/native-american-communities.aspx
Peer Mentoring & Native Student Needs

CHRIS MEDELLIN
DIRECTOR, NATIVE RESOURCE CENTER
The Native Resource Center:
Indigenizing SDSU
Outline

- The Mission
- Our Structure
- NRC Event/Program Philosophy
- Elymash Yuuchaap
- Contact
Native Resource Center Mission

The Native Resource Center at San Diego State University, residing on Kumeyaay Land, facilitates the academic and personal success of Native American and Indigenous identified students through: relevant and accessible programming and resources, services to identify and address barriers to academic achievement, community building, on and off-campus partnerships, and advocacy for the inclusion of Native American/Indigenous peoples’ unique histories, cultures, and perspectives in campus programs and curriculum.
Our Team

- Chris Medellin - Director
- Assistant Director - Hiring
- Program Coordinator - Hiring
- Dr. Gabriela Kovats Sanchez - Elymash Yuuchaap Faculty Scholar

NRC Program Assistants
- Support staff needs
- Program support
- Social media

Graduate Assistants
- Operations
- Special initiatives
- Professional Development

EY Mentors:
- Coaching
NRC Event & Program Philosophy

- Decolonization & Sovereignty:
  - Mental Aspect
  - Wisdom & Logic
- Truth, Education & Growth:
  - Spiritual Aspect
  - Illumination & Enlightenment
  - Learning Self
- Indigenous Philosophies & Identity:
  - Emotional Aspect
  - Trust
- Health & Wellness:
  - Physical Aspect
  - Introspection & Insight
In Praxis

- Decolonization & Sovereignty:
  - Kumeyaay Vs the border wall
  - IPDWOA Teach-in
  - Indigenous Hikers

- Truth, Education & Growth:
  - Culture Chats
  - Community Check ins
  - Resumes: Staying Creative

- Indigenous Philosophies & Identity:
  - Kumeyaay New Year
  - CA Native American Day
  - Disrupting “Dia de la Raza”
  - Wake up & Make up

- Health & Wellness:
  - Native Run Club
  - Sexual Health & Stretch
Event Program

Monday, October 12, 2020: Indigenous Peoples’ Day Kickoff Celebration 3-4:30 PM
Zoom ID: 829 9170 2032

Tuesday, October 13, 2020: Community Check-In
Zoom ID: 997 4543 6566
4-5:15 PM

Wednesday, October 14, 2020: Disrupting "Dia de la Raza": Indigenous Oaxacan Transnational Resistance
Zoom ID: 870 3251 1701
4-5:30 PM

Thursday, October 15, 2020: No More Stolen Sisters: Combating an Invisible Epidemic
Zoom ID: 865 2470 5409
3-4:30 PM

Friday, October 16, 2020: Conversations on Kumeyaay Against Border Wall
Time: TBD
Zoom ID: TBD

Conversations on Kumeyaay
Defense Against the Wall

Join the NRC on a discussion centering the Kumeyaay protest against the construction of the border wall. The construction is a violation of tribal sovereignty rights and desecrating sacred land. Members of the Kumeyaay Nation will share their experiences and acts of resistance against the wall. Learn how you can support and be an ally in this informational session centering the voices of Indigenous People.

Friday October 16, 2020, 3:00pm - 4:30pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 857 4823 5471
Elymash Yuuchaap

Mission: To engage, support and promote the cultural, social, academic, and leadership development of students committed to the sovereign identity and progress of Indigenous communities.

Current Cohort:

45, FTF & TRN
The What:

- Provide students at SDSU a forum for establishing a relationship with their peers.
- Expose students to career paths, and professional fields & enhance their personal and professional networks.
- Provide mentor/mentee relationships as a way to build and connect to the Native community at SDSU.
- Retain and graduate students to serve as agents of change in their communities.

The How:

- Each student is paired with an EY mentor to receive individualized support.
- Weekly check-ins with mentor.
- Weekly Friday seminar (1 unit) - includes community building activities, guest speakers, culturally relevant curriculum, and guidance on using campus resources.
- Access to tutoring, meeting spaces, internships, faculty connections, and scholarships.
Contact

Instagram: @SDSUNATIVERC

Facebook: @NRCSDSU

Website: sacd.sdsu.edu/native-resource

Chris Medellin: cmedellin@sdsu.edu
Supporting Native American Student Success

California State University, Fresno
Presenters
Dr. Leece M. Lee-Oliver
Christian Sorondo
Anthony Utterback
The Fresno State campus sits in the midst of the San Joaquin Valley, a valley rich in the traditions and representation of Native American peoples and cultures. We are grateful to be in the traditional homelands of the Yokuts and Mono peoples, whose diverse tribal communities share stewardship over this land.
Introductions

Dr. Leece Lee-Oliver – Blackfeet & Choctaw
  • Director of AIS, Assistant Professor of AIS & WGSS
  • American Indian Law, Wellness, & Environmental Justice

Christian Sorondo – Mescalero Apache & Raramuri
  • Sociology major, AIS minor, COSS Honors student
  • Critical Race Theory, Law, Indigenous Women’s Health

Anthony Utterback – North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians
  • Graduate of Sociology, AIS minor
  • Native American Education Justice Community Organizer
American Indian Studies

• **American Indian Studies interdisciplinary program**: immerses students in understanding the governments, nations, cultures, and social structures of American Indian societies, historically and today.

• **AIS curriculum** is rooted in the tradition of Ethnic Studies, celebrates and teaches from the long cultural-intellectual traditions of American Indian intellectuals and cultural bearers.

• The AIS program is built for American Indian communities and those who aim to work in diverse communities that include, or are exclusively American Indian, tribes, communities, and tribal serving organizations.

• **Internships** are connected to community service, getting students hands-on experience working with a tribe, tribal agency, or tribal-serving institution (including the University) in work that helps the student prepare for their next step.
American Indian Studies

American Indian Ambassadors – an Honors program for American Indian students who demonstrate excellence in academic work and community service.

CSU Network of Diverse Native Scholars – a collective of faculty and students. Provides everyone network and community building opportunities, professional and academic opportunities, and mentors.

American Indian Studies Pipeline: Created in collaboration with students and faculty in American Indian Studies and the Resources for American Indian Needs (RAIN) Program at Fresno City College to provide American Indian students the resources, opportunities, and connections with American Indian students, staff and faculty to increase their successful transition, retention, and graduation of American Indian students at Fresno State.
What services, programs, & experiences helped us?

• American Indian Ambassador Honors Program

• CSU Network of Diverse Native Scholars (NDNS)

• McNair Research Program

CSU NDNS present at the California Indian Conference

CSU Network of Diverse Native Scholars Inauguration
How can a CSU campus support Native students?

- Native American Center
  - Culturally-respective, designated space for Native American students
  - Host community meetings, gatherings, conferences, language and wellness classes
  - Cultural practices: beading, storytelling, drumming, singing, dancing
  - Tribal government-to-government meetings

- Reconceptualization of Native American Student Success
  - Respect and understanding for Native students’ traditional ways of thought and being
  - Ability to do culturally-competent, community-oriented work and research
  - Faculty and administrators who empower Native students
  - Increased visibility on campus
Celebrating 50 Years of:
Embracing Native Cultural Wealth

Adrienne B. Colegrove-Raymond
Indian Tribal and Educational Personnel Program
Coordinator and Director of Elite Scholars, Humboldt State University
EASILY RECOGNIZED WEALTH

- Funds from the 1862 Morrill Act provided funding for 1/3 of land grant colleges in the United States. 32 land-grant universities received a share of California Indian land, raising approximately $3.6 million from over 1.7 million acres. (UC Berkeley created in 1868)

- Over the past decade, California Tribes have donated over $30 million to various CSUs

- Scholarships have been awarded by California Tribes to a multitude of colleges to pay for fees, housing, and other expenses for Native students

- In 2020, Graton Rancheria established a $15 million endowment at UCLA School of Law’s Native Nations Law and Policy Center
Native Invisibility – “Asterisk Nation”

- School curriculum Minimalizes Indigenous History and Focuses on the Colonizers
- Data Collection – IPEDS
- Terminology URM, Minority, Other, Something Else

As a means for achieving equitable educational attainment, institutions must recognize the “unique cultures, political identities, and experiences of Native students.”

– Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Native Cultural Wealth

1. Resiliency – Navigating a colonized/hostile educational system

2. Language, Ceremony, and Traditions – contributing to and strengthening community and the world

3. Family – Tribal and community history, roles, and responsibilities

4. Community – Cultural way of viewing the world and accountability
Embracing Native Cultural Wealth

• Utilize a Strength-Based Approach
• Recognize Unique Status of Sovereign Nations Versus Race/Ethnicity
• Equity-Centered Qualitative Assessment
• Culturally Responsive Advising and Educational Planning (Narrative Approach)
• Relationship Building with Tribal Nations and Professionals
• Internships and Intentional Opportunities for Tribal Nation Building
• Identify Barriers and Advocate for Systemic Change
• Create Space that Welcomes Families and Friends
Strength from generations past
Songs for balance
Prayers for wisdom
Protection of the sacred
Courage for the future
Resilient, Indigenous, Strong
Reading Resources
Q&A

Additional Resources

• Calstate.edu/coronavirus

• Calstate.edu/attend/student-services
Thank You!