

Educator of the Year

*Dr. Joely Proudfit*



Joely Proudfit (Luiseño) is a descendant of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians. Her maternal grandmothers are Lupe Grijalva Guerrero, Refugia Flores Grijalva Zuniga, Candelaria Flores, and Juana Hapish, and she is of the Ngeesikat clan.

Dr. Proudfit is the owner of Naqmayam Communications, an independent, full-service, California Indian-owned and -operated public relations agency. An associate professor, Dr. Proudfit has been tenured three times in the California State University (CSU) system. In fall 2008, she joined the faculty at CSU San Marcos, and is currently the Director of the newly established California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center. Prior to coming to CSU San Marcos, she served as a tenured associate professor of public administration and the director of the Tribal

Government, Management and Leadership Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. She has published numerous essays and articles including: "In the Trenches: A Critical Look at the Isolation of American Indian Political Practices

in a Non-Empirical Social Science" in the book *Indigenizing the Academy*, "Native American Gaming in California" in the book *Native Americans* (part of the American Political History Series published by the Congressional Quarterly Press) and "From Activism to Academics: The Evolution of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State 1968-2001" in the *Indigenous Nations Studies Journal*. She is the author of a forthcoming book on American Indian political power

in the new millennium (published by the University of Texas Press). She also served as the department chair of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University. She has taught a wide range of both graduate and undergraduate courses.

Dr. Proudfit is the recipient of numerous accolades for her work and community service such as: the California Teachers Association (CTA)'s Salute to Friends of Education Award, the Opportunities Unlimited 2002 Award in recognition of dedication and leadership by Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano and the CTA, and the John F. Kennedy, Jr. Award for Outstanding Public Service. She holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science with emphasis in public policy and American Indian studies from Northern Arizona University and a B.A. in political science with emphasis in public law from California State University, Long Beach. As the first member of her family to complete a high school diploma, she serves as a role model for native youth and encourages self-determination through knowledge and education.