4th Annual
REPORT TO TRIBAL NATIONS
Thursday, April 9, 2015 - 10 a.m.

Harrah’s Resort Southern California
A Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Owned Enterprise

Karen S. Haynes, Ph.D.
President
California State University San Marcos

INTRODUCTION

This year, Cal State San Marcos – your university – is 25 years old. It is not lost on me that the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians – owners of this fabulous resort – are members of a tribal nation that has called this region home since time immemorial.

What can the youngest public four-year university in our region – and tribal communities descended from the oldest known cultural groups in our region – offer each other? As it turns out, quite a lot.
In this, my fourth annual Report to Tribal Nations as President of Cal State San Marcos, I bring a message of gratitude, encouragement … and excitement:

• **Gratitude** for the tremendous legacy of engagement, collaboration and mutual respect that has grown stronger over the years between Cal State San Marcos and our region’s tribal communities.

• **Encouragement** for us to continue to work together on solutions to some alarming trends that continue to confront Native American students.

• **And excitement** for the stories that inspire … stories of Native American students and faculty at Cal State San Marcos, and our partners in tribal communities like yourselves, who are beating the odds and blazing new paths … so others may do the same.

**GRATITUDE**

First, let’s take stock of what we have to be thankful for. 25 years ago, the founders of Cal State San Marcos set out on a mission to create a new kind of university – one uniquely poised to meet the demands of the 21st century.
They envisioned it as the alma mater of the next generation . . . a place where ideas and passions could be explored, a place that would enrich and reflect its community, and a place that would make the region better because it was there.

We started out small, in a strip mall by Jerome’s Furniture in San Marcos. But with a new hillside location on original land of the Luiseño people, a vision took shape: Of a modern university capable of serving the needs of a growing region.

When I started as President in 2004, our campus had ten buildings, a little over two dozen degree programs … and a student population of 6,000. Now, in our 25th year, we have more than doubled the number of our students, buildings and academic degree programs – not to mention nearly tripling our alumni base to 35,000.

But I have never lost sight of that first commitment I made to this community when I arrived here eleven years ago: That Cal State San Marcos would work to raise the educational attainment rate of our entire region.
In a region as diverse as our own, that meant transforming the university to reflect the diversity our region. So we began creating new pathways to college for student populations who had been left out of the college equation for too long … like American Indian students.

Today, we have the highest per-capita numbers, within the CSU system, of Native American students! We also lead the CSU system in per-capita numbers of Veteran and former foster youth students.

We also have the highest-ever enrollment of Latino students in our history, at nearly forty percent, and we are recognized by the Federal government as both a Hispanic-serving and an Asian/Pacific Islander-serving institution.

Simply put, at Cal State San Marcos, we believe that anyone who has the drive and desire to attain a college degree in our region should have a place at our institution.

These students are not just welcomed at our university – they are succeeding there. Over the last few years, we have closed the achievement gap in one-year continuation rates
between under-represented minority students and majority students. In fact, we are one of the few CSUs to do so.

And it was not by accident, nor by raising admissions standards. Rather, we took a holistic approach, through innovative and rigorous programs that provide support to all first-year students as they make the transition from high school to higher education.

Over the last 25 years, there has been great synergy between Cal State San Marcos and our region – your ancestral homeland. We have literally grown up here, coming of age as we have helped nurture – and were ourselves nurtured by – our region’s businesses, organizations, schools, neighborhoods, cities … and your tribal communities.

Back in 2004 when I first arrived, I acted quickly to honor our campus’s Native American heritage by dramatically strengthening ties to our region’s tribal communities. Representatives from your communities responded in kind. Together, we can be thankful for some remarkable successes:
• Together, we formed my active and spirited Native Advisory Council in 2005. It’s only the second of its kind in the CSU system, with representatives from most neighboring tribes. To members of my Native Advisory Council here today, I salute you and thank you for your ongoing service.

• Also in 2004, I hired a full-time Tribal Liaison, a member of the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. It remains the only position of its kind in the CSU system.

• Together, we opened the California Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center in 2011. Directed by a California Indian, it is still the only center of its kind in the CSU, and a true system-wide resource. It serves as a focal point for important research … for events and programing linking the university more closely to tribal communities and traditions … and as a welcoming environment for our Native students.

• Together, we worked to intentionally increase the recruitment, retention and graduation of American Indian students. As a result, we have the fastest-growing population of American Indian students in the
entire CSU system. In fact we are currently the only CSU experiencing growth in our Native American student population.

- In the Fall 2014 semester, 94 American Indian students applied as first-time Freshmen to Cal State San Marcos. Of these, 75 were admitted.
- For the coming Fall 2015 semester, that number has risen to 128 American Indian applicants applying as first-time Freshmen, with 89 of those being admitted.
- Currently on our campus, some 400 students identify as American Indian—and this academic year, at least 21 of them will become proud graduates of Cal State San Marcos.

- **Together, we reach out to Native American students as early as elementary school.** We do this through our guaranteed admission agreements with ten public school districts, including Valley Center/Pauma and Temecula Valley Unified School Districts, which have large numbers of American Indian students. And we conduct robust outreach to Native American primary
and secondary students with campus visits, native youth conferences and more.

- **Together, we established a Memorandum of Understanding directly with a tribal community** …With the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, also known as the Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueño Indians. This MOU offers targeted outreach and academically-focused support to prepare Iipay students for college. It’s our first partnership of this kind.

- **And together, we take a hard look at the most persistent problems still facing American Indian students**, with such approaches as our Tribal Communities Initiatives Task Force and our annual Tribal Education Summit. Together, we are collaborating on solutions to reverse these negative trends.

**ALARMING TRENDS**

Last October, our California Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center released a major update to its 2012 report on the “State of American Indian and Alaskan Native Education in California.”
The nationally-recognized report acknowledged promising practices aimed at attracting, retaining and graduating American Indian students at community colleges and public universities in California, including the efforts at Cal State San Marcos I just described.

But it revealed that, despite those efforts and increased enrollment rates overall in the CSU, the number of American Indian students entering CSUs and community colleges is declining.

Native American enrollment rates from Fall 2011 to Fall 2012 in the CSU system declined a shocking 61 percent. At community colleges, the decline was 16 percent. Cal State San Marcos, as I said, is proudly bucking this trend – as the only university in the CSU system with a growing Native American student population.

The report also revealed a failure to prepare American Indian students for college: Currently just one out of four graduate from high school able to meet CSU admission requirements.
These trends are dismaying. They represent a grave disservice to Native American students. And they rob all our communities, including your tribal communities, of the college-educated workers and leaders they need to thrive.

ENCOURAGEMENT

But in the face of these trends, we have reasons to be encouraged. First of all, working together we have put measures in place to identify and analyze the underlying issues.

Like the work that came out of the Fourth Annual Southern California Tribal Education Summit we hosted on campus last November. Over 60 tribal and higher-education stakeholders took part in the summit. They looked at these negative trends with a steely determination to reverse them … and agreed on bold actions in four broad areas:

- Further enhancing resources to support current American Indian students in our region;
- Strengthening outreach services at Cal State San Marcos for prospective American Indian students;
• Launching a formal American Indian Studies Major and Department at Cal State San Marcos;
• And expanding admission programs to cover more American Indian students within the Southern California region.

Working with our Tribal Liaison and my Native Advisory Council, we are translating recommendations in each of these areas into action items … which will be implemented in concert with local tribes and regional tribal stakeholders.

There is a lot of work to be done, because we know we are up against some very tough trends. But let us be encouraged by our record of success in working together to make Cal State San Marcos the most vibrant center of Native American learning in the CSU system.

There is something else that should encouraged us. And that is the generosity shown by your tribal communities and other regional partners to support the success of Native American students and research at Cal State San Marcos.
Like the generous matching opportunity offered within the last year by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. They committed to donating $500,000 in matching funds … if our Culture & Sovereignty Center procured an equal amount by the end of this month. Now that is a clever way to encourage others to step up to the plate with support.

And guess what? It worked! Today, I am very pleased to share with you that we have met the match for the San Manuel gift! The Barona and Pala Bands of Mission Indians were essential in helping us to meet the match, and we are truly grateful for your commitment and support.

The first half of this generous gift was an investment in the Sovereignty & Culture Center. It provided crucial funding for:

- Operational support for staff over the past three years;
- Publication of the Native Education Report;
- Production of the annual American Indian Film Festival
- And development of Tribal education programs, such as the certificate in Public Law 280: Understanding
Tribal Jurisdiction, being offered here at Rincon in a couple of weeks.

The second half of the gift provides an endowment supporting the long-term operation of the Cultural & Sovereignty Center.

We are also encouraged by – and so very thankful for – many other contributors to American Indian education at Cal State San Marcos in recent years, including:

- The Pechanga and Rincon Bands of Luiseño Indians;
- The Morongo and Pauma Bands of Mission Indians;
- The Tule River Tribe;
- The Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations;
- The Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association;
- The Native Arts and Culture Foundation;
- Inter Tribal Sports;
- The Verizon Foundation;
• SDG&E;

• and many individual donors from throughout the state.

This generosity directly supports research conducted at the Culture & Sovereignty Center – and the educational activities and achievements of our Native American students – which in turn contribute to the culture and sovereignty of your tribal communities.

Moving forward, our goals are to attract and support a growing number of American Indian students at Cal State San Marcos … and to expand upon the impressive research work of the Culture & Sovereignty Center.

To do so, our university will require additional resources. For example, the San Manuel Grant for the Culture & Sovereignty Center will expire at the end of this semester.

Please consider supporting American Indian students and initiatives at Cal State San Marcos – and asking those you know who have the capacity to provide support. Your investment can mean scholarships for our American Indian
students, funds to enhance student outreach and support services, or backing for vital research important to your communities.

We welcome opportunities to partner with others in our communities to enhance Cal State San Marcos as a welcoming environment and powerful resource for American Indian students and your tribal nations … and as the place where more American Indian culture and history can be shared with our entire campus and community.

**EXCITEMENT**

We should be encouraged – not just encouraged, but excited! – by the remarkable stories of those we are helping … the American Indian students who add so much to the cultural diversity and richness of our campus, the proud tribal communities they come from, and businesses and communities throughout our region.

At Cal State San Marcos, American Indian culture is a cause for celebration and excitement. We celebrate at annual events like our annual American Indian Honoring Ceremony for graduates; Native American Heritage Month;
California Indian Days; and the San Diego American Indian Film Festival, which provides students with research and experience in sharing stories from their communities.

We celebrate and educate with important initiatives like Diversity Awareness Month, which last October featured a keynote speech by Suzan Shown Harjo – the famous Native American writer, curator and activist and 2014 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient.

We were thrilled to invite Suzan to our campus and hear her powerful and inspiring message about cultural appropriation and ways to increase diversity and inclusion in our society.

Upon awarding her the Medal of Freedom, President Obama said that:

“Because of Suzan, more young Native Americans are growing up with pride in their heritage and with faith in their future. And she’s taught all of us that Native values make Americans stronger”
I would add that Native values make Cal State San Marcos stronger as well. We celebrate the strength and pride of young Native Americans through our American Indian Student Alliance, open to all students and dedicated to fostering positive multicultural interactions and learning on our campus.

And we celebrate the remarkable stories of achievement in the lives, experiences, courage and passions of our American Indian students and alumni:

**MAYA GOODBLANKET**

We celebrate students like Maya Goodblanket, a member of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.

Navigating the challenges of pursuing a Psychology major hasn’t stopped Maya from becoming a notable student leader on campus, as a council member for the American Indian Student Alliance.

After earning her degree at Cal State San Marcos, Maya’s goal is to serve as a therapist in the behavioral health department of the Rincon Indian Health Clinic.
Maya is also one of the stars of “Beyond the Stereotype,” a unique poster campaign on display this semester in the university library. It was developed by the California Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center in partnership with our Office of Diversity, Educational Equity and Inclusion.

It is a collection of powerful posters, each featuring a photo of a current student tearing up an offensive stereotypical image. Behind the students are silhouettes of historical figures who have played a significant role in each student’s community and personal identity formation.

The historical role models featured include: Sitting Bull, Maya Angelou, Emiliano Zapata, Senator Daniele Inouye and Tammy Duckworth.

RAFFDAZZEL JON

We celebrate American Indian students like Raffdazzel Jon, an Arts and Technology Major and student researcher in the Culture & Sovereignty Center.
Last October, “Raffie,” as she is known, joined classmates on a team that entered the International Women’s Hackathon, a crowdsourcing event held concurrently at colleges nationwide. Sponsored by Microsoft Research, it seeks to empower young women to become producers of future innovations in technology.

Raffie’s team created a computer game designed to teach young children about climate change. They had two months to work on the project before presenting it to Microsoft – and they were the campus winners! Raffie is looking forward to the next International Women's Hackathon – taking place on our campus in just couple weeks, on April 25.

**TEMET McMICHAEL**

And we celebrate our American Indian alumni like Temet McMichael, an enrolled member of the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians.

Temet was a star student in biotechnology at Cal State San Marcos. Before graduating in 2012, he interned at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, helping on
studies to reduce rehabilitation time for broken bones. He also did research with our own Dr. Jacqueline Trischman on a marine bacterial strain aimed at combating tuberculosis.

Temet is now a graduate student in the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program at Ohio State University. He is studying ways to maximize the activity of proteins that stop viral infections. We can only imagine the good that this bright young man will bring to the world.

In my 12th Annual Report to the Community earlier this year, I said Cal State San Marcos is the place where highly talented individuals come together in the pursuit of answering our society’s most critical issues – identifying problems and working toward real solutions.

Clearly, CSUSM success stories like Maya, Raffie and Temet provide an abundance of evidence showing just how true that is.
EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

I’m happy to report on a very exciting development that could mean an extraordinary opportunity for our American Indian students at Cal State San Marcos.

In 2011, Governor Jerry Brown’s Tribal Advisor, the Honorable Cynthia Gomez, offered to provide competitive internship opportunities in the Governor's office for our American Indian students.

In late January, during the annual CSU Partnership Day in Sacramento, representatives from Cal State San Marcos met with Gomez to update her on our record of collaboration and partnership with tribal communities.

As a result, discussions are currently under way among our Tribal Liaison, Office of Internships, Sovereignty & Culture Center, Native Studies Program and the Governor’s Office to finalize an agreement for this exciting internship opportunity. We hope to send our first Native American student intern to Sacramento this summer!
Another exciting initiative involves Cal State San Marcos business students, who are engaging in a fascinating project with the Rincon Tribal Nursery, just up the road here in Valley Center.

Capitalizing on the nursery’s expertise in using Native American approaches toward drought- and fire-retardant landscaping, the students are working with staff there on a business model to expand markets and increase profitability for the nursery.

Talk about a win:win:win – for a tribal community, for our students, and for our region.

And the timing for this couldn’t be more urgent, given Governor Brown’s declaration last week of the first statewide mandatory water use reductions in California history … and the continual impacts and threats of drought and wildfires in our region.

COMMUNITY

Since day one, I have been committed to assuring that Cal State San Marcos does not just reside in this region …
but rather is deeply embedded in it. That means we don’t just sit on the land of your ancestors and descendants … but also honor and include your communities in the work we do.

A great example of this played out recently at our campus … and 65 miles away at the Noli Indian School in San Jacinto.

Cal State San Marcos faculty and staff, along with members of our American Indian Student Alliance, visited the students at Noli to encourage them to think about college. They told them about a place called Cal State San Marcos that was eager to welcome them.

Just last month, Noli students repaid the favor and took a field trip to our university. A Facebook post from staff at the Culture & Sovereignty Center, with photos from the visit, put it best:

“Thank you Noli Middle & High School students for visiting our campus the last two days. We hope you enjoyed your campus tours, lectures and interaction with faculty, staff and the American Indian Student
Alliance … It’s always a good day when we see future students from tribal communities on campus.”

CONCLUSION

At that Tribal Education Summit many of you attended on our campus last November, participants selected a theme to describe their perception of the current state of American Indian education. The theme chosen? … “Dream the Impossible Dream.”

I often speak of our seemingly “impossible dreams” at Cal State San Marcos … to raise the educational attainment rate of our entire region, to diversify our student population, and to create pathways for traditionally underrepresented student populations … like Native American students.

You know what? These are no longer dreams— they are our reality.

Consider this impressive statistic: For the last two years, 52 percent of our graduating classes – including many of our Native American graduates – were the first in their families to obtain a four-year degree. And when they walk
off that stage with their diplomas – now more than 2,600 each year! – some 85 percent of them *remain here* – in our region.

Equipped with profession-ready skills, creative talents, global awareness and homegrown commitment, they are the workforce and leaders helping your businesses and your tribal communities thrive.

Cal State San Marcos is all about making our students’ dreams come true. So I am confident that we will continue to make progress on realizing your dreams – *our* dreams – for American Indian education.

Faced with the alarming trends I discussed earlier, our work is certainly cut out for us.

- **But I am grateful** for the legacy of collaboration and partnership between Cal State San Marcos and our tribal neighbors.
- **I am encouraged** by the array of resources and programs we have shaped and built together – and the push to do even more – to put more Native
American students on the pathway to and through college.

- **And I am excited** by the growing number American Indian applicants and students at Cal State San Marcos – and by their stories of success … on our campus and beyond.

I am certain, after 11 years of working side-by-side with you, that we **will** continue to set big, audacious goals that start as dreams … and that we **will** remain courageous enough to transform those dreams into realities.

Our students – your sons, daughters, grandchildren, neighbors, employees – are the reasons we cannot do anything less than blaze new pathways, create bold plans … and **achieve** the impossible dream.