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San Marcos Helps CSU Reach Out To American Indian Students

By [Kyla Calvert](#) / Education Reporter

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This story was published more than 11 years ago.



American Indians have some of the lowest high school and college graduation rates of any ethnic group in the United States. One local university is hoping to reach more American Indian students in San Diego County.

Each year, California State University San Marcos honors its American Indian graduates in a small ceremony outside the school's California Indian Culture and Sovereignty

Marcos American Indian students and conducts research and builds relationships with San Diego County tribes.

At the center's graduation ceremony this year, the school also got to unveil Cal State's newest How to Access College brochure, the first translated into one of California's indigenous languages.

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The brochure outlines what students have to do to be eligible for Cal State in [Luiseño](#), the language of the tribe indigenous to the San Marcos area. Joely Proudfit heads the center and worked with Cal State on the brochure.

"It really tells the world that we're still here, our culture is still here," she said. "The pictures are contemporary pictures of K-12 and current college students and alumni."

CSU San Marcos offers classes in Luiseño, which Proudfit said has experienced a resurgence in the past 20 years.

Education



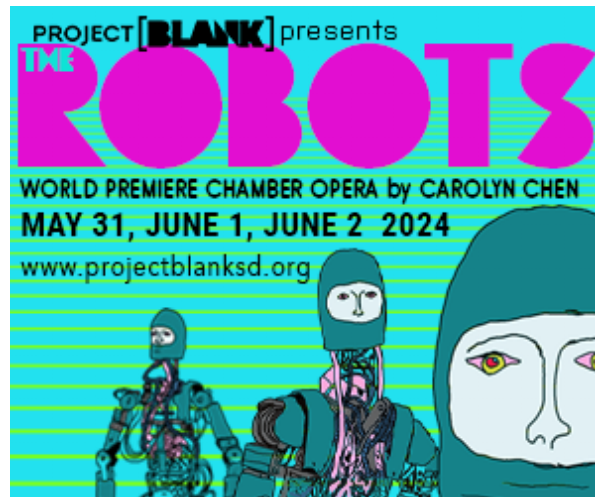
Kyla Calvert



Kyla Calvert is the education reporter for KPBS, producing multimedia content for radio, television and the Web. Kyla began producing web content while working in marketing in San Francisco. She decided to change careers and received a master's degree in journalism with a concentration in digital media from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 2009. While in school she freelanced for City Hall and The Capitol newspapers covering New York City and state politics and policy. After completing her degree, she worked as a fellow for Hearst Newspapers on "Dead By Mistake" a nationwide investigative project about medical error. The project received the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award. Kyla



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