



# CICSC Newsletter

RESPONSIBILITY    RECIPROCITY    RESPECT    RELATIONSHIPS

Issue No. 12/August 2015

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR!



The Dog Days of Summer are upon us-but the CICSC is in full swing preparing to welcome our new cohort of incoming American Indian freshman and our returning students back to school for Fall 2015. We look forward to seeing new faces and reconnecting with familiar ones. Campus and community activities are quickly filling up my fall calendar-we are planning our welcome reception for students with the Office of the Tribal Liaison and will send out details in the next few weeks, we are actively recruiting volunteers and support for the 3rd Annual San Diego American Indian Film Festival, and we are preparing to launch our inaugural year of the newly formed

American Indian Studies Department. A strategic planning process will begin in the Fall to chart our course for the new Department and the implementation of an American Indian Studies Major. I encourage all CSUSM students in the meantime to enroll in our American Indian Studies Minor. We need your support to make these changes happen! You can drop by the CICSC once the semester begins and I can help you fill out the paperwork. Enjoy the final month of summer break and I will see you soon!

*Joely Proudfit, Ph.D. (Luiseño)*  
Director, CICSC

## CICSC Profiles

### California Native American Research Centers for Health Student Development Program

The California Native American Research Centers for Health Student Development Program (CA-NARCH SDP) is here to help. NARCH programs are a collaboration between Indian Health Service and the National Institute of General Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. The NARCH

ATTN: CSUSM  
AMERICAN  
INDIAN/ALASKA  
NATIVE ALUMNI

Profiles Needed for  
Education Report!



NOW ACCEPTING  
FILM SUBMISSIONS  
FOR THE 2015  
SAN DIEGO  
AMERICAN INDIAN  
FILM FESTIVAL!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!



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initiative supports partnerships between tribes and academic level research. Locally, CA-NARCH is a partnership between Indian Health Council, which serves 13 local tribes, CSUSM, SDSU, Palomar and UC San Diego. While at CSUSM Geneva Lofton-Fitzsimmons (Luiseno), the Student Program Coordinator is housed at the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC) where she meets with American Indian/Alaska native (AI/AN) students every Monday during the school year between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.



### Student Development Program

The overall goal of the CA-NARCH SDP is to increase the enrollment and retention of AI/AN students in Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Engineering Fields (STEM), but what they provide is much more than typical mentoring. "What is unique about our program is that we follow students through all levels

of their education and provide both personal and professional mentorship", said Ms. Lofton-Fitzsimmons. "Our goal is to address the unique issues AI/AN students face when seeking higher education." The number of AI/AN students in the sciences is low, but they are the best suited to address health issues within their own tribal communities. CA-NARCH particularly encourages their students to go on to graduate school after completing their bachelor's degree. While AI/AN make up 1.2% of the population, they represent only 0.3% of those who have received a doctorate degree, a number that has actually decreased in the last 20 years. AI/AN students also face unique challenges when seeking a graduate education, which includes both cultural and social isolation, and a lack of mentors that understand these challenges. That is where CA-NARCH SDP steps in to create a network of AI/AN students in STEM fields in a welcoming and supportive environment that fosters their development.

Ms. Lofton-Fitzsimmons and the rest of the student development team work one on one with students to address their unique issues and guide them through their education. CA-NARCH holds biannual student events where students from all campuses come together to celebrate each others accomplishments. "Our students



really have a sense of belonging" said Ms. Lofton-Fitzsimmons, "at the events students from all campuses are able to discuss their own career path, research, and cultural background. This provides a network of other AI/AN students who are experiencing similar challenges and successes during their education." CA-NARCH SDP also assists students in gaining research experience, whether that is through working in a lab, attending a national or

international research conference, or through working on research projects at the Indian Health Council. "We have found that the earlier students gain research experience and work with mentors who understand their background, the more successful they are moving forward" said Ms. Lofton-Fitzsimmons. For additional information about the CA-NARCH SDP and how you can get involved contact Geneva at [gfitzsimmons@ucsd.edu](mailto:gfitzsimmons@ucsd.edu) - mobile 858-775-7072 - [www.indianhealth.com/narch.htm](http://www.indianhealth.com/narch.htm)

*Richard Armenta*  
*NARCH Research Coordinator*

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## **Deborah Morton, PhD**

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Dr. Deborah J. Morton is currently affiliated faculty with CICSC and a Lecturer at CSUSM in Kinesiology and American Indian Studies. She is also Associate Professor Emeritus (Epidemiology) from the UCSD Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Division of Epidemiology, and Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health, National University.



As an Epidemiologist, Dr. Morton has a long history of varied research experience in many areas of Public Health/Medicine such as diabetes, osteoporosis, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, obesity and tobacco use primarily in ethnic and sexual minority populations, and has authored or co-authored over 69 publications in scientific journals.

Dr. Morton's best and most rewarding collaboration has been with a tribal/reservation based American Indian Health Clinic in San Diego County which led her to serve as Founder and current Chair of the clinic's own tribally-based Institutional Review Board (IRB) created in 2004. This tribal IRB has reviewed and supported many research projects whose results have had direct benefits for the Indian clinic and their tribal community patient population. This tribally-based IRB has established a positive bridge between tribal people and academic researchers, not an easy task due to many historical abuses in Indian Country by unethical scientists and health researchers.

Through CICSC, Dr. Morton teaches the American Indian Health and Wellness course offered in the Spring semester, and various other courses in statistics, research methods and public health in the Kinesiology Department. In collaboration with CICSC and a reservation Charter School, Dr. Morton will be submitting a revised NIH proposal for a project entitled "Mindfulness, Violence, Physical Activity and Blood Pressure in American Indian Youth". This project is in collaboration with faculty from the CSUSM Human Development Department and the School of Nursing.

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# Student Highlight

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## Nicholas Lozano

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Nicholas Lozano is a member of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians. Nicholas is currently fulfilling his general education requirements and is a Councilman in the American Indian Student Alliance at CSUSM. Friends and family describe him as quiet, funny, and nice. In his spare time, Nicholas enjoys daydreaming, drawing and writing. His mom, dad, and elders are his role models and have had a positive influence on his life. Nicholas' future plans are to become a writer or designer. Nicholas thinks it's important for young people to know more of their culture so they have some identity. His advice to students is "try not to give up so quickly."



*Megan Doughty*  
*CICSC Creative Director*

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## Events

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### InterTribal Youth Enrichment Program Visit

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*Thursday, July 2nd, 2015*



The CICSC and CSUSM Office of the Tribal Liaison hosted the InterTribal Youth Summer Tour, which made a stop at the CSUSM campus on Thursday, July 2nd. CICSC staff and AISA students provided a detailed tour of both the campus and CICSC. ITY students were given the opportunity to chat with current CSUSM American Indian students and hear their stories of how they got to college. The group was provided lunch sponsored by the Office of the Tribal Liaison before departing for their next college visit.

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### PL-280 Course at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

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*June 15th-16th, 2015*

Another 2-day course, *Understanding Jurisdiction on Tribal Lands: A User-friendly PL-280 Course*, was presented in July. This time it was hosted by the Tule River Reservation at their newly constructed Tribal Justice Center. This class had the largest number of participants than any other class we have held so far. There were fifty-seven individuals, representing a diverse combination of tribal and state public safety and service provider entities, from various locations throughout California. This diversity allowed for participants to gain much from each other. Many in the class commented on how they learned a lot from the experience of others in the class, which added value to the whole presentation.



There was no lack of interaction and engagement between this lively group during the breakout groups and during the scenarios. Although Professor Joely Proudfit was not able to attend the class in person, she was able to teleconference in and greet the class and thank our gracious sponsors, Tule River. Many from the Tule River Tribal Council were able to carve out time for the 2-day class, and all from their appointed Tule River Public Safety Committee were in attendance. Also, as many as possible, from their Public Safety Department, attended the class. Others participants were from the Picayune Rancheria, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, Tulare County District Attorney's Office, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, and Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

Participants left feeling inspired to move forward in their individual work. Many expressed appreciation for the training's user-friendly format and having a resource guide (included in the tuition) for a ready reference. All attendees received a Certificate of Completion from the California Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center (CICSC), and those from California agencies that are eligible. For more information or to host the PL 280 course, visit our [website](#).

*Cindy Pierce*  
*CICSC Program Instructor*

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## 2015 ESRI User Conference

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*July 20-24, 2015*

The CICSC GIS map titled "Cultural Appropriation in California Public K-12 Schools" Tribal Mascots and Stereotypes" was on display at the annual ESRI User Conference in San Diego, CA. The ESRI User Conference is an annual



event dedicated to geographic information system(GIS) technology.

The project to create the GIS map was led by the CICSC in collaboration with CSUSM American Indian Studies Courses, CSUSM Sociology Courses and CICSC student researchers. In 2012 Dr. Theresa Suarez (Sociology) worked with the CICSC to develop a GIS research project that her Spring 2013 SOC 361 Qualitative Methods in Sociology class could mascot code. The Sociology class coded and identified 68 of 1500 California public high schools with American Indian mascots.

In Spring 2015, Dr. Joely Proudfit directed the GIS project to mascot code 7,169 California Public K-8 schools. Dr. Proudfit's American Indian Studies/Sociology course AIS 350/SOC 350: Imagining Indians: American Indians, Media, Film and Society course of 35 students, 6 American Indian Student/CICSC student researchers and two students from Dr. Marisol Clark-Ibanez SOC 403 Children's Human Rights in a Global Society and one Graduate MASP student helped supervise the students on this project. The group analyzed 7,169 California Public K-8 schools and identified 78 mascots for a statewide total of 146 public schools with American Indian mascots. CICSC will continue to work on GIS projects with the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center's Tribal Ambassadors Through Technology program. CSUSM IITS GIS Specialist, Allen Risley, served as the technical GIS Specialist for the project.

## Upcoming Events

### 2015 San Diego American Indian Film Festival

2015  
SAN DIEGO  
AMERICAN INDIAN  
FILM FESTIVAL

NOV. 19-20<sup>TH</sup> AT CAL STATE  
SAN MARCOS

NOV. 21<sup>ST</sup> AT PECHANGA  
RESORT & CASINO

(760)750-3535 WWW.SDAIFF.COM

CICSC  
California State University  
SAN MARCOS

STEVEN PAUL JUDD 2015

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