

California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center Newsletter



...ATION 3000
...OMS 3010, 3012, &



...
SSSF
ON RE
C



All Our Relatives

An evocative collection of paintings that intimately captures the hands of American Indian People in cultural richness that expresses their kinship.

March 14, 2024

What was this exhibit about?

The art exhibit at CSUSM's University Library showcased paintings by alumna Monica Zavala (Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, Acjachemen), featuring American Indians in traditional and ceremonial activities like basket weaving and beadwork. Zavala, now a Project Specialist at CICSC, infused each piece with stories from her life. The opening included performances by bird singers and dancers, including AISA members, CSUSM alumni, and their families.



What does it mean to you to be a part of Monica's exhibit?

Our very own AISA President Virginia Aguilar is one of many students whose hands are featured in Monica's work. We asked Virginia what this exhibit and experience meant to her, "It's a great honor to represent my people, as well as our cultural heritage and to be able to be proud of my Native identity here on campus, and to be proud of where I come from."



Landa Lakes: Two-Spirit Storytelling

The CICISC partnered with CSUSM Arts
& Lectures and CSUSM Dance Studies

March 7, 2024



Landa Lakes, a Two-Spirit Chickasaw performer from Oklahoma, shared her journey with us in a captivating hour-long discussion hosted by the CICISC, American Indian Studies staff, faculty, and the American Indian Student Alliance. Following the talk, we attended her powerful performance, which opened with the short film "The Roof," exploring Two-Spirit identity.



44th Annual California Conference on American Indian Education in Sacramento, CA

March 17-19, 2024

From March 17th to 19th, our AISA students and AIS faculty participated in the Annual California Conference on American Indian Education in Sacramento, where they presented on ways to indigenize the CSUSM campus and enhance Native perspectives through art and language.

Dr. Eric Tippeconnic highlighted ILEAD (Indigenous Leaders Empowerment and Development Program) through Monica Zavala's mentorship journey, culminating in her first solo art exhibit. The event also provided a valuable networking opportunity, connecting our students with community members across various educational levels from diverse Tribal communities in California.



At the conference, Canaan Tubby captivated attendees with his reflections on the powwow dancing workshop, sharing how it enriched his sense of identity and honed his leadership skills. His engaging presentation underscored the significance of embracing Indigenous identity, leaving a lasting impact on his audience.

EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS VOICES: RE-IMAGINING THE CAMPUS THROUGH ART AND LANGUAGE

44TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION
SACRAMENTO, CA | MARCH 18, 2024



Presented by
Eric Tippeconnic, PhD
American Indian Studies Department, CSUSM
Monica Zavala Project Coordinator Specialist, Isaiah Chantaca,
Kiara Love Flores, Cheyenne Smith,
Canaan Tubby, Aiden Valverde
Student Research Assistants, CICSC, CSUSM



Save the Dates

May 17th - American
Indian Graduate
Honoring Ceremony
@ 11am at the
SBSB Courtyard



November 8th -
California Indian College
Motivation Day @ 1pm
at CSUSM



CICSC Instagram:
@cicsc



CICSC Facebook:
@cicsc.csusm



AISA Instagram:
@csusm_aisa



AISA TikTok:
@csusm_aisa