

# California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center Newsletter





# Indigenous Climate and Environmental Collaborative

## Interview with Professor Dina Gilio Whitaker about ICEC and what it stands for



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### What does ICEC stand for and what is this program about?

Indigenous Climate and Environmental Collaborative (ICEC) is an initiative within CICSC that addresses gaps in climate and environmental research.

Historically rooted in settler colonialism, the environmental movement often ignores Indigenous perspectives and knowledge. Recent shifts highlight the importance of Indigenous involvement in these areas. Alongside increased funding and diversity efforts, ICEC aims to guide researchers and community projects seeking to engage with Indigenous communities, offering clear, tribal-backed guidance.

### Do you have any other comments to add about the program?

We are just in the beginning stages of building ICEC. We will need funding and support from a broad base of interests. This will include support at the levels of the university, the CSU system, tribal communities, and any and everyone who wants to work with Native peoples, especially in California. As we build out the initiative we will create formal processes for student involvement that may potentially include independent study opportunities, internships, and ideally, jobs. Stay tuned for more information as we move forward.

### Who can be a participant of this program?

Because ICEC is housed within CICSC, it will provide real-world training for students interested in policy work that serves tribal communities and intersects with non-tribal entities. This is especially useful for AIS majors who are interested in environmental and climate issues and who see themselves working either for tribes, government, nonprofits, philanthropy, or other related fields. It will be an opportunity to participate in research and learn firsthand how tribes, conservation, environmental, and climate resilience projects come together.

### What is the primary goal of this program?

Our mission is to champion and seamlessly weave Indigenous knowledge into the fabric of climate and environmental research, initiatives, and advocacy, fostering a holistic approach to ecological stewardship across diverse populations. We envision a world where Indigenous knowledge stands at the forefront of climate and environmental solutions, shaping a sustainable, resilient, and harmonious future for all inhabitants of our Earth.

# Noli Indian School Campus Tour

The CICSC gave a campus tour to Noli Indian School with the help from our AISA students



Noli was able to experience where the locations of buildings were, a in-depth presentation of what the CICSC is and stands for, a little bit about AISA, and other student orgs as well! AISA students who were giving the tour also took them to see Monica Zavala's artwork that is up at the CSUSM library. After all that, we fed the guests Pizza Nova and gave them American Indian Studies t-shirts!



## Q&A

**Q:** How did you know what you wanted to do or what you wanted to major in?

**A:** To sum up all of our answers, we all said that we went with what we were most passionate about but if they aren't sure, to come in undeclared or be an AIS major and figure it out from there and we will help navigate them.

**Q:** What kind of sports do you have?

**A:** We have baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, flag football.

**Q:** What kind of AIS classes do you have?

**A:** We have Native art, history behind Native Americans, an introduction to the topic of American Indian Studies, critical thinking, decolonizing your diet, and much more.





# Pow Wow Workshops with Kiara Love Flores

Here at Cal State San Marcos every week from 3:30pm - 6:30pm, we have Pow Wow Practice hosted by the Culture Ambassador Kiara Love Flores



Interview with True Allard (Sichangu Lakota & Muscogee), a CSUSM student and a workshop attendee about how Pow Wow Workshops have affected his life



**How does this practice sustain Indigenous knowlege?**

I would say there is a large Indigenous community that doesn't have or grow up around those spaces where you can just learn about Pow Wow protocol or anything like that. I didn't start learning about Pow Wows until this year and I am 19 and for me this is new knowledge that I would have access if it wasn't for Kiara teaching it.



# Save the Dates

April 19th - 2nd Annual  
Research Symposium  
@ 5pm in  
the McMahan House



April 20th - California  
Indian College  
Motivation Day @ 1pm  
at CSUSM



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