

# California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center *Newsletter*



# California Indian Day

For California Indian Day, we kicked off the festivities earlier in the week to ensure all students could participate, especially those heading to the California Capitol on Friday. This special celebration saw a wonderful collaboration between our students and Sherman Indian High School. Together, we had the opportunity to introduce the health benefits of our Indigenous cuisine to the students of Cal State San Marcos.



The American Indian Student Alliance setting up their table of acorn bites and chia lemonade

During the event, our culinary exchange featured a diversity of dishes. We shared our traditional acorn bites, courtesy of our friends at the California Indian Museum Cultural Center (CIMCC), and refreshing chia lemonade, offering a taste to everyone present. Sherman Indian High School contributed to the feast by presenting three flavors of chia pudding: blueberry, horchata, and cold brew, showcasing the diversity and creativity within Indigenous culinary traditions.



Sherman Indian High School Culinary Class presenting their chia pudding dishes



AI/AN students, alumni, and guests Jesus Jimenez, Blue Eagle Vigil, and Jamie LaBrake

Following the culinary tasting, our students participated in traditional birdsinging and bird dancing. Guided and exhibited by our cultural guest, Blue Eagle Vigil, and Sycuan council member Jamie Labrake, the event also featured our alumni and current student dancers.



AISA President Virginia Aguilar and AISA member Kiara Love Flores bird dancing

# California Indian Day at the State Capitol

On September 22, 2023, a group of our American Indian students and faculty embarked on a impactful journey to the California State Capitol in Sacramento.



AISA students, alumni, and Faculty Dr Joely Proudfit and Dr. Eric Tippeconnic

The Capitol grounds came alive with a striking display of flags representing every federally recognized tribe in California, a powerful visual testament of our California Indigenous communities. The event featured tribal and state leaders such as Jamul Chairwoman Erica Pinto, CICSC advisory board member, and the esteemed Assembly Member James Ramos, whose words inspired all in attendance.



Assembly Member James Ramos and Chairwoman Erica Pinto of Jamul

Our students took center stage, proudly representing the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC), the Department of American Indian Studies, and the American Indian Student Alliance. Students and faculty were enthusiastic in sharing their experiences and learning opportunities with everyone.



AISA students displaying resources for the CICSC, AIS, and AISA

## Take Back the Day Week

Indigenous Peoples' Day is a U.S. holiday that honors Native American cultures and history. It takes place on the second Monday of October and is observed in many cities and states. It was established as an alternative to Columbus Day, criticized for its connection to colonization and violence. The day aims to acknowledge and respect Native American peoples.



AISA Members tabling show off a cultural display

The highlight of the second day was a Pow Wow Dance Exhibition held on October 8th. The performance featured the remarkable talents of Kiara Love Flores, AISA Culture Ambassador, and her dedicated dance student, Ciara Leyva, a seventh-grader who participated in Kiara's Pow Wow dance workshop.



Kiara Love Flores and Ciara Leyva

Their dance routines brought tradition and artistry to campus, leaving a lasting impression on all those in attendance.



Ciara Leyva dancing Fancy Shawl

Our students, faculty, and both spectators, joined in a community round dance during our event.



Kiara gathering the spectators for a community round dance

On the final day of our Indigenous Peoples' week celebration, our students showcased their talent and creativity through a sale of their handmade beaded jewelry.



AISA set up for their beading sale

By selling their beadwork, students raised funds to support the AISA organization, contributing to its ongoing efforts in empowering and uplifting our American Indian community.



A student buying Lanise's designed beadwork

# Ribbon Skirt and Shirt Workshop



Mejaumi Rosales showing a student the basic sewing skills

The CICSC organized a three-day workshop on ribbon skirts and shirts, led by alumni Mejaumi Rosales (Torres-Martinez). During the workshop, students delved into the fundamentals of sewing and received expert guidance on creating impeccably crafted ribbon skirts and shirts. ship.



Isaiah Chantaca showing off the start to his Ribbon Shirt

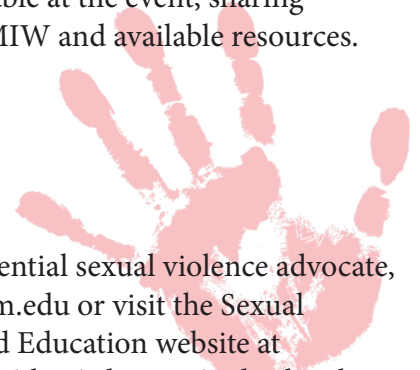
Mejaumi not only imparted essential sewing skills but also inspired students to produce intricate and beautifully tailored garments.

# Domestic Violence Speak Out and Vigil



Our AISA Students with their MMIW display

The Domestic Violence Speak Out and Vigil took place on Thursday, Oct. 19, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Forum Plaza. We started off with our land acknowledgment and then students listened for an engaging discussion on resources for survivors of dating violence, sexual assault, harassment, and stalking. Title IX Coordinator Bridget Blanshan, Chief of Police Jesus Flores, and Gricelda Alva Brito, a sexual violence educator and advocate in Student Health & Counseling Services were some of those speaking. They'll also answer audience questions, raising awareness about university services for survivors. Our AISA students had a table at the event, sharing information about MMIW and available resources.



To speak with a confidential sexual violence advocate, email [advocates@csusm.edu](mailto:advocates@csusm.edu) or visit the Sexual Violence Advocacy and Education website at <https://www.csusm.edu/shcs/advocate/index.html>.

# Native American Heritage Month Kick Off!

CSUSM - USU BALLROOM  
333 S TWIN OAKS VALLEY RD  
SAN MARCOS, CA 92096

FREE SCREENING & PARKING  
REGISTRATION & INFO AT:  
WWW.CAIIFF.COM

PREMIERE SCREENING OF  
PBS NATIVE AMERICA SEASON 2:  
EPISODE 3 - WOMEN RULE  
NOVEMBER 1ST @ 6PM

Q&A w/ Arigon Starr (Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma),  
Betty Osceola (Miccosukee Tribe), Jennifer Johns (Dine),  
Paige Bethmann (Mohawk/Oneida)

CSUSM  
AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES  
"Our resistance is our resistance"

PBS  
ANNE RAY  
FOUNDATION  
A COMMITMENT TO CULTURAL PRESERVATION

CICSC

PROVIDENCE PICTURES

CPB  
Corporation  
for Public  
Broadcasting

kpbs

CSUSM  
OFFICE OF AMERICAN INDIAN  
STUDENT SUCCESS

We started Native American heritage month off with a larger event. This year, the CICSC, AIS, AISA, PBS, & KPBS and the Office of AISS proudly collaborated with California's American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival to present an exclusive, complimentary screening of Native America Season 2: Episode 3 - "Women Rule." This extraordinary event unfolded on November 1st at 6 pm in the CSUSM USU Ballroom. Attendees were

treated to a captivating Q&A featuring some of the women profiled in the episode such as Arigon Starr (Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma), Betty Osceola (Miccosukee Tribe), Jennifer Johns (Dine), and Paige Bethmann (Mohawk/Oneida).

After the event there was a reception. This post-event offered an array of culinary delights including drinks from Sacred Bev, a Native owned business, Also there were opportunities for book signings from Arigon Starr.



Introducing our panelist



Our attendees and panelist wearing their Jamie Okuma fashion

Jamie Okuma, distinguish artist and fashion designer(Luiseno and Shoshone), was featured in the "Women Rule" episode. Although regrettably unable to attend due to her forthcoming fashion release. Jamie is from the La Jolla Reservation and has garnered widespread acclaim for her groundbreaking fusion of traditional Native American artistry and cutting-edge fashion.

Her absence at the event did not diminish the impact of her artistic influence, as the audience was immersed in the allure of Jamie Okuma's collection, characterized by a captivating blend of cultural patterns and contemporary style.

# Story Telling with Dr. Stan Rodriguez



Dr. Stan Rodriguez Telling the story of coyote and the quail

On the evening of November 7th, students, staff, and faculty came together for a captivating night of storytelling with Dr. Stan Rodriguez. Dr. Rodriguez told an arrangement of coyote tales, each narrative unveiling its moral at the story's conclusion. The atmosphere was alive with the shared warmth of blankets and stories that left a lasting imprint on all those fortunate enough to gather around.



Group photo of our attendees of the story telling event

# Kumeyaay Bingo with Miss Kumeyaay



Group photo of some attendees and Miss Kumeyaay

On the 9th, we had the pleasure of hosting a Kumeyaay Bingo Night featuring the current Miss Kumeyaay, Harmony Sweetgrass. This event blended entertainment with education, centering the Kumeyaay language—a fun activity brought to life by the collaborative efforts of Harmony and her mother.

Throughout the evening, students delved into the pronunciation and meanings of the words being called out, transforming a casual game of bingo into a linguistic learning journey. The event included prizes up for grabs, such as beadwork design CSUSM sweaters, stylish hats, gift cards and more. It was a celebration that not only engaged participants but also left them with a deeper appreciation for the cultural and linguistic heritage of the Kumeyaay people.



Miss Kumeyaay giving an introduction before we start the game of bingo

# Celebrating Our AISA Students and Leaders



Virginia Aguilar  
AISA President

Pauma Band of Luiseño and Agua Caliente  
Band of Cahuilla Indians

As the president of AISA, I am thrilled to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every student who contributes to the growth of the AISA family. In commemorating Native American Heritage Month, it is important to recognize the dedication and resilience displayed by our remarkable hard working students.

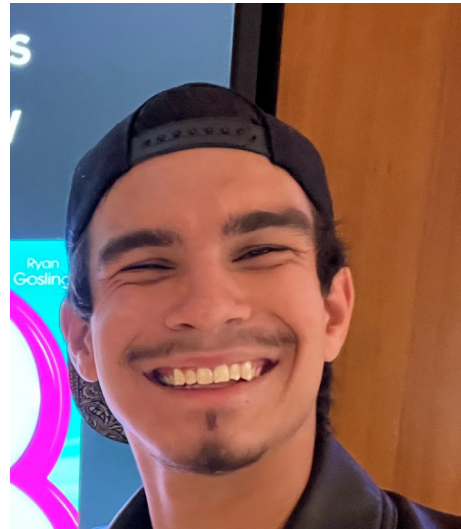
In the face of numerous challenges, AISA consistently rises above adversities, breaking down barriers and exemplifying resilience. AISA's collective commitment to our shared mission is truly commendable, and I am honored to lead such a dedicated group of individuals.

Thank you for your tireless efforts and invaluable contributions to the American Indian Student Alliance. Together, we continue to make a meaningful impact, bringing understanding and appreciation for our American Indian community.

Virginia Aguilar  
AISA President



Alexandra Valle  
AISA Vice President  
Kumeyaay



Aiden Valverde  
AISA Secretary  
Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel



Lanise Luna  
AISA Social Media  
KuupangaxwicheM/ Cupeño



Justin Litterdeer  
AISA Treasurer  
Cherokee



Jaylee Martin  
AISA  
Morongo Band of Cahuilla Indians



Kiara Love Flores  
AISA Culture Ambassador  
KuupangaxwicheM/ Cupeño and Northern  
Ute



# Celebrating Our AISA Students and Leaders



Isaiah Chantaca  
AISA  
Chiricahua Apache



Aaron Cazarez  
AISA



Ethan Wolfe  
AISA  
Luiŕeño, Kumeyaay, Oglala Lakota, Navajo



Canaan Tubby  
AISA  
Mississippi Choctaw



Destiny Taylor  
AISA



Alden Redhouse  
AISA  
Navajo



Cheyenne Smith  
AISA  
Lakota



Walker Yorba  
AISA  
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians



True Allard  
AISA  
Oglala Lakota