

# WINTER NEWSLETTER



# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE NIGHT THE CSUSM BASKETBALL GAMES



This year we have two California Indian Students Virginia Aguilar and Alexandria Valle, who made this years cheer team. As President and Vice President of the American Indian Student Alliance, The two cheerleaders thought it would be a great idea to end Native American Heritage Month by hold a special basketball game half time show. In this show we had bird singers Angel Jimenez (Kumeyaay), Jesus Jimenez(Kumeyaay), and Naswet(Torres Martinez band of Cahuilla Indians). For the bird dancers we had Alexandria Valle(Kumeyaay), Virginia Aguilar( Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians and Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians), Jaylee Martin( Morongo Band of Cahuilla Indians), Mejaumi Franco-Rosales( Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians), and Salish Brown ( Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians).



Virginia, comes from the Pàawma Band of Luiseno Indians and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. She is a third-year student at CSUSM, where she currently holds the position of president in the American Indian Student Alliance. Virginia is pursuing a major in American Indian Studies. Additionally, she is a

member of the CSUSM cheer team, making history as the first American Indian to be a part of the squad. This achievement holds special significance for her, as it underscores the resilience of Native individuals not only in academia at a four-year university but also in the realm of athletics.



Alexandra is currently in her third year of college and is working on gaining a B.S. in Kinesiology. She is studying kinesiology in hopes to pursue a career in physical therapy, or to become a sports physician. She currently works as a research assistant for the American Indian Studies Department at CSU San Marcos.

Alexandra is majorly involved within her community both in and outside of her academic life. She is also heavily involved In the American Indian Student Alliance with her role as Vice president of the club. Alexandra is also a student-athlete at CSUSM. This is her first year back into cheer after high school, and she's excited to re-open this exciting chapter in her life. For Alexandra, cheer is a "stress-reliever" and a sport that she is so passionate about. She loves that she is able to show the youth, that Native American students can make it to college and be involved. One of Alexandra's goals within her time here at CSUSM is to persuade more native youth to attend college and to help mentor them in becoming more engaged in their culture.

## CSUSM GIVING DAY



On November 28, 2023, CSUSM hosted our annual giving day where the school collectively was able to raise \$472,603 with 2,453 donors who participated. This year the CICSC wanted to raise money for CICSC student researchers and Ambassador support, empowering AIAN students on their educational journey.

The CICSC was able to reach the amount of \$3,166 to go to our cause. \$1,000 of that amount was due to a challenge the CICSC won. Thank you to all 18 of the wonderful donors who supported the CICSC and made a positive impact on our center and on our students.



## Meet the Tribal Project Specialist



Mejaumi Franco is the Tribal Project Specialist at CSUSM. She is an enrolled tribal member from Torres Martinez and an alumnus from CSUSM who has an in-depth knowledge of Southern California Indian history and culture. She is a devoted community advocate with a strong commitment to tribal communities and has an outstanding record of fostering meaningful relationships between tribal communities and academic institutions. Within this role, she takes on special projects related to outreach, events, activities, and support services related to the goals of the Office of Tribal Engagement to serve as a communication connection between tribal communities and the university. She is also expected to be actively involved at the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC), where she will be a familiar presence, working alongside the American Indian Studies department, the students, and the broader community. Mejaumi Franco-Rosales began her journey as a community advocate when she was still an undergraduate student at CSUSM. That is where she found her passion for education and tribal communities.

# DR. ERIC TIPPECONNIC ART EXHIBIT AT THE SASSE MUSEUM OF ART

## SUSTAINED RESILIENCE



Artwork by Dr. Eric Tippeconnic



Artwork by Monica Zavala



Artwork by Karma Henry

Nov 10th - Dec 23rd, 2023

Artist's Talk & Reception November 18th 2-4pm

Artists: Dr. Eric Tippeconnic - Comanche Nation | Monica Zavala - Tongva & Acjachemen  
Karma Henry - Paiute/Italian/Portuguese

Bird Dancers: Virginia Aguilar - Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians & Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians  
Alexandra Valle-Kumeyaay | Kiara Love Flores-Kuupangaxwicheh - Northern Ute  
Mejaumi Rosales - Torres Martinez - Desert Cahuilla

Bird Singers: Angel Jimenez-Kumeyaay | Jesus Jimenez-Kumeyaay



sasse  
MUSEUM of ART

300 South Thomas Street, Pomona, CA 91766  
sasseartmuseum.org | Fri-Sun 1-4pm



Throughout the month of November to the end of December, The Sasse Museum spotlighted Dr. Eric Tippeconnic as the featured artist. Dr. Eric Tippeconnic's vision for this exhibit expanded beyond just his artwork but also highlighted two other artists to participate in the exhibit with him, Monica Zavala and Karma Henry. On November 18th the Sasse Museum hosted an Artist talk and Reception where Eric and Monica both shared a little bit about themselves and the background about their art. The opening of the exhibit showcased bird singers, Angel Jimenez and Jesus Jimenez, and bird dancers, Virginia Aguilar, Alexandra Valle, Kiara Love Flores, and Mejaumi Rosales, who are also subjects to many of the featured artworks displayed at the museum. The turnout of the exhibit resulted in a full house, filling every seat.

