Support The CICSC
“Rooted in Culture, Rising in Knowledge”

San Manuel Donation
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians give nearly half a million dollars to the CICSC

American Indian & Alaskan Native Education Report
The CICSC unveils the first State of American Indian and Alaskan Native Education Report
# The California Indian Culture And Sovereignty Center

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Happy New Year and welcome to the inaugural issue of the newsletter of the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC).

California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) is an exciting place for American Indian students. CICSC staff and Native Studies faculty are busy conducting cutting-edge research with, for, and about the contemporary issues and challenges facing American Indians, with particular focus on California Indians.

The CICSC works with tribal governments and scholars as well as departments, and schools campus-wide to conduct research and teaching. Some areas of focus include American Indian political and economic development, education, health and wellness, media and film, language preservation and natural resource management.

In addition, CICSC graduate and undergraduate students actively research contemporary issues. The CICSC integrates this diverse research and presents it to a broader audience. Toward this end, the CICSC newsletter will be primarily distributed electronically and feature news, current events, research, publications and grant information.

Joely Proudfit, Ph.D. (Luiseño)
Director, CICSC
The California Indian Culture And Sovereignty Center

A Year In Review

Steering Committee

The CICSC Steering Committee comprises 14 individuals, including:

- The Center Director
- The Tribal Liaison
- Two members of the President’s Native Advisory Council
- The American Indian Student Alliance (AISA) president
- One representative from Student Life and Engagement
- Two faculty members from the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences (CHABSS)
- One member each from the College of Education, Health and Human Services (CoEHHS), College of Business Administration (CoBA) and the library
- Two tribal community members

The Steering Committee meets regularly to assess the progress of the center and to seek out opportunities for continued gathering of input from local tribal communities regarding center activities.

Affiliated Faculty

The CICSC is proud to have distinguished affiliated faculty. Members include:

- Dan Calac, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Indian Health Council
- Bryan Endress, Ph.D., Director of Applied Plant Conservation at the Institute for Conservation Research, San Diego Zoo Global Ecology, community-based conservation
- Dr. Deborah Morton, Epidemiologist and Chair/Founder of the Institutional Review Board for Indian Health Council, Inc., as affiliated faculty. Dr. Morton is working with the CICSC on American Indian health and wellness research and teaching projects. In addition, the CICSC aims to offer tribal government workshops and trainings to assist tribal governments in establishing their own internal tribal Institutional Review Boards (IRBs).  

Office of the Tribal Liaison

The CICSC is pleased to welcome Tribal Liaison Tishmall Turner (Rincon). As of September 2012, Tishmall is now located in a new office within the CICSC.
The CICSC was approved in May 2009 and opened its doors on November 17, 2011. The opening of the center was celebrated with bird singers and a blessing by former Pauma Chairman, Chris Devers. American Indian community members throughout the state showed their support by attending the grand opening and reception in the CICSC courtyard.

“We acknowledge the elders who are here with us today,” Devers said. “For it is within them comes the knowledge and history of us as a people. We always remember those yet to be born, for it is for them that these facilities will be around when it is their time — when they seek education.”

The CICSC is the first of its kind in the state of California. The center focuses on serving the unique needs of American Indian students by conducting original research and preserving the cultural heritage and languages of tribal communities. The CICSC facilitates a sense of community and belonging among the Native population both on and off campus. It prepares students to give back to their tribal communities upon graduation.

“The center represents an important, positive development in the history of CSUSM’s work with American Indian students and communities,” said CICSC Director Dr. Joely Proudfit. “It serves California Indian communities throughout the state and enriches the campus community by increasing the visibility of American Indian culture and programs.”
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Give Nearly Half a Million Dollars to the CICSC

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has graciously donated nearly half a million dollars to the CICSC. This grant funds a full-time grant writer, full-time research assistantships and six graduate/undergraduate assistants each year for three years. More recently, the grant has funded the writing of the first American Indian Education Report in California. San Manuel has pledged up to another half a million dollars to establish an endowment contingent upon the CICSC securing a dollar-for-dollar match in cash donations over the next three years.

“San Manuel is proud to support the efforts of the CICSC,” said Chairman James Ramos. “This effort is important and can be significant but will require the support of Indian tribes and others who are committed to the mission of the center.”

The center is committed to a collaborative partnership with tribes as well as culturally relevant and responsible research. Dedication to preparing and supporting the recruitment and retention of American Indian students is vital to the CICSC. This is promoted in multiple ways: through CICSC student programs; supporting student-initiated research; student assistantships; and increasing research engagement opportunities, events and conferences. We could not meet our obligation without community support.

The CICSC is especially thankful for the generosity of our sponsors, community collaborators, grantors, supporters and contributors. We express our deepest thanks for this support. Contributors make it possible for us to provide opportunities for our students and research to our communities throughout the state.

In Photo: Dr. Proudfoot, James Ramos, Michael Murphy, Neil Hoss, Mark Calac, Tishmall Turner, Dr. Karen Haynes, Carla Rodriguez, and Jamie Barron
The California Indian Culture And Sovereignty Center

A Year In Review

Positions Supported by
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Gift

SAN MANUEL
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

Grant Writer

CICSC welcomes our new grant writer, Lee Vasquez-Ilaoa, Ph.D. With an extensive background in American Indian curriculum, food sovereignty and social justice projects, Dr. Vasquez-Ilaoa will play a critical role in the support and growth of the CICSC mission.

Graduate and Undergraduate Assistantships

The CICSC offers employment for current CSUSM students. These part-time positions engage students in center research and ongoing projects and activities within American Indian communities.

Employment with the CICSC gives students an opportunity to be a part of the work that is accomplished there. CICSC student employees have expressed appreciation and excitement about the ability to work on campus and be engaged in meaningful and culturally relevant research and activities.

“The CICSC provides the students a nice quiet area for them to work on their homework and focus on their studies,” says Michael Murphy, Chairman of the American Indian Student Alliance (AISA). “It also gives many students a home-like feeling, a home away from home.”

Research Assistant

The CICSC’s full-time researcher is Seth San Juan. His work for the center has focused on The State of American Indian and Alaskan Native Education Report. The report contains a collection of publicly available data and offers outlined recommendations to improve the success of Native students at all levels of public education.

Seth is currently working with CICSC Director Dr. Joely Proudfit to develop a cultural competency certificate in American Indian education for California educators and associated stakeholders.

In the future, Seth will be working closely with Dr. Proudfit and the California Indian Education Working Group to conduct research that will benefit tribal communities, students and the center.
The CICSC works to promote ethically responsible research that produces beneficial outcomes for American Indian tribal nations, communities and peoples. We are fully committed to supporting Indian culture with culturally relevant education and can do this successfully with support from donors like you, this is an exciting and powerful time to help our students and the CICSC, who will get a double return on your investment. The San Manuel Tribe has generously offered a matching fund opportunity when the CICSC raises $500,000.

The center is also proud to announce the beginning of our new education fundraising initiative, “Rooted in Culture, Rising in Knowledge.”

We hope this new initiative will generate the revenue necessary to help our students successfully move through our programs and out into tribal communities.

The initiative can be viewed at: www.csusm.edu/air/giving
Increasing Knowledge About Native Peoples Through Education

Dr. Proudfit and affiliated faculty offer unique perspectives on education and sovereignty issues that are faced by California tribes. Topics discussed throughout the semester include land rights, sovereignty, stereotypes, economic development and federal policies that impact tribe sovereignty.

CSUSM students also gain knowledge through field courses that allow them to visit local Native communities and around the world. The CICSC is currently involved in developing cultural competency certificates in education, health and wellness, natural resources, government and business, and media and film. Additionally, the CICSC will be offering training and workshops to tribal governments interested in establishing their own IRBs.

Native Studies Courses & Certificates Offered at CSUSM

Courses:
Currently, the CICSC at CSUSM retains the Native Studies Minor. This minor is in the process of being restructured but the following is a list of Native Studies courses offered at CSUSM.

1) NATV 468/SOC 468/PSCI 418: American Indian Political and Economic Development
2) NATV 348/SOC 348: American Indian Communities
3) NATV 400/SOC 400: Contemporary American Indian Health and Wellness
4) NATV 350/SOC 350: Imagining Indians: American Indians, Mass Media and Society
5) NATV 370/SOC 370: American Indian Women and Activism

Certificates:
With input from the Steering Committee and through the requests of our tribal partners, the CICSC will be offering several certificates in the following areas:

- Tribal Leadership, Government, and Economic Development
- American Indian Education
- Contemporary American Indian Health and Wellness
- Natural Resources Management
- Understanding American Indian Communities
- Law Enforcement and Indian Country
AISA was created to increase awareness and acceptance of American Indian culture, and to promote the educational experience of American Indians on campus by fostering positive multicultural interaction both in and out of the classroom. AISA strives to educate students about Native culture and facilitates leadership opportunities for American Indian students on and off campus.

Each semester, AISA students volunteer within the American Indian community. Some organizations AISA members are involved with include Inter Tribal Sports (ITS) and the American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Jr. Program. AISA students also mentor/tutor at various tribal education departments. Several students help coach various teams for different age groups in the ITS program. At the All Tribes Charter School, located on the Rincon Indian Reservation, several students spend up to 15 hours a week working one-on-one with the youth.

Former AISA Chairman Tommy Cooper and AISA Vice Chairman Mark Calac volunteered more than 100 hours each at All Tribes during the spring 2012 semester. This built relationships with the students and led to their involvement in the AIR Jr. Program. “It has been extremely rewarding working with youths at All Tribes Charter School and seeing the difference my time has made,” said Calac.

AISA members also coordinated the Dream the Impossible Native Youth Conference. Each semester, AISA conducts various outreach programs where the students go out to communities and speak to younger people about topics such as how to get to college, what college is like and what kind of support is available on campus at CSUSM. While attending the Native American Caucus, AISA met with several tribal, state and local political leaders including California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom. AISA is constantly being asked to participate in student panels at various universities, as well as to have booths at various college fairs. AISA students look forward to engaging with Native youths and enjoy giving back to the Native community.
Leading By Good Example: Promoting Higher Education for Tribal Youth 2013 Calendar

In the spring of 2013, the SOC 489 American Indian Communities course worked with the CICSC and AISA to develop a Community Service Learning project to promote role models and the values of positive decision making and goal setting to American Indian students.

The CICSC and Native Studies program is pleased to present a 2013 calendar featuring 12 CSUSM American Indian students who represent tribal nations in California and beyond. SOC 348 students interviewed individual CSUSM American Indian students featured in this calendar, while Professor Deborah Small’s VSAR 440 Advanced Digital Arts course assisted by taking some of the featured students' pictures.

The goal of this publication is to illustrate how American Indian youths create their own paths to success by working hard, staying in school, setting positive goals and following their dreams.

NOW ON SALE!

The 2013 calendars are available for purchase. Please contact us at (760) 750-3535 or cisc@csusm.edu to purchase your calendar today by mail or visit our online web store at: www.freewebstore.org/the-cicsc-store

AISA Outreaches Through American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Program

The AIR program was established through San Diego State University (SDSU) in 1993. AIR primarily targets American Indian youths in high school. With great success rates, the program expanded its outreach to include an AIR Jr. Program for younger students. While the target audience of the AIR Jr. Program is middle school students, those who attend the program range from third through eighth grades. In the spring of 2012, AISA participated in the development of the AIR Jr. Program.

The AIR Jr. Program is led by Christy Garcia. A CSUSM and AISA alumni, She continues to facilitate the pursuit of educational attainment for tribal youth. SDSU is the home of the primary AIR program, Christy was looking for somewhere for AIR Jr. to call home for the spring semester. She found that in CSUSM, where she knew she could rely on the established AISA to help get the program up and running. AISA students mentored youths on a weekly basis, discussing health and establishing familiarity with the college campus atmosphere.
Outreach & Events

The CICSC believes in the transformative power of knowledge and sharing, as it helps our American Indian community grow. We have been fortunate enough to work with many people from different California tribes. Here are some of the exciting things that have been shared with the center this past year:

Upcoming Center Events

- The Southern California Language Preservation Conference
  - The CICSC will be sponsoring the Southern California Language Preservation Conference. Working with southern California tribal nations, the CICSC explores ways to collaboratively preserve and promote native languages.

- May 2013 — The Annual American Indian Graduation Honoring Ceremony

Football Indian Style - The Carlisle Story

Sports are an area of interest almost everyone can relate to, but many people are unfamiliar with Native American influence in sports history. Following the opening of the CICSC, Nicole Myers-Lim, J.D.,(Pomo) Staff Attorney at the National Indian Justice Center discussed the little-known American Indian football history at the Clarke building at CSUSM. Myers-Lim highlighted the important contributions legendary players like Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School football team made in changing football and federal Indian policy for Indian people.

The Carlisle Indian School football team was comprised of American Indian athletes who overcame great odds to compete with and beat college powerhouses. The team’s coach, Glenn Scobey “Pop” Warner, utilized the players’ skills to get the best out of their abilities. Olympic champion Jim Thorpe and other team members modernized what was then a brutal “ground and pound” form of football. Their unique style of play transformed the way in which the sport was played.
Native Youth Dreaming The Impossible

On April 14, 2012, CSUSM hosted the 6th annual Dream the Impossible Native Youth Conference. This was the second time the conference had been held on campus. More than 500 Native youths from local tribes and urban areas were in attendance. The conference was different from others in upon that all the final decisions were voted on by the youths themselves. Because of this, Dream the Impossible was an interactive way for tribal youths to learn about respect, culture and education.

The conference was free for Native youths between the ages of 13–18, and attendees came from in and out of state. The keynote speaker was Callan Chythlook-Sifsof, an Alaskan Native professional snowboarder who competes in the Olympics and X-Games. Her involvement in the popular sport gave her a unique ability to connect with young people. Chythlook-Sifsof spent several hours at the CICSC mentoring AISA students.

Every year, the conference attempts to touch on some main themes that seem to be prevalent in most tribal communities. Themes of the 2012 conference included: The respect of culture and traditions, appreciating our ancestry, family health, drug awareness, future aspirations, identifying talents, utilizing support programs and building team chemistry. In order to achieve this, the conference consisted of various presentations in which speakers facilitated learning through their own experiences. The workshops that CSUSM provided included: financial knowledge, suicide prevention, healthy relationships/teen violence, sports wellness, culture, education, leadership development, and native dance and music.

The conference was attractive to young people because it was fun. There were booths, games, prizes and workshops. Prizes included plasma TVs, a Nintendo “Wii” and “Beats by Dr. Dre” headphones. Members of AISA spoke about college experiences and ended their presentations with a tour of the CICSC.

The CICSC’s Taste of Native America

The CICSC and AISA hosted “Taste of Native America” on November 28, 2012. The event featured more than 20 different kinds of pre-contact Native foods from tribes throughout the United States including yucca bread, wiiwish, deer and yucca blossom stir-fry, blue corn mush and buffalo stew.
The CICSC proudly hosted the annual American Indian Graduation Honoring Ceremony on May 1, 2012, for our graduating Native students. The event was held in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building courtyard next to the CICSC. An unprecedented 25 American Indian students graduated — the largest group of American Indian students to graduate from CSUSM.

CSUSM American Indian graduates were praised not just because of their academic achievements but also because of their commitment to serve, lead, and inspire those who would follow their paths to higher education. The graduating students had a wide range of degree focuses. Tommy Devers graduated with a Master’s of Arts in Sociological Practice, and Mark Calac graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in the same field. Mark will be following in Tommy’s footsteps next year in the same graduate program. Temet McMichael graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Microbiology, and is currently earning his doctorate in Biochemistry at The Ohio State University.

University President Karen Haynes attended the ceremony and gave some words of advice: “Take joy in your success, celebrate this moment and give thanks to those who have helped you along the way.”

Other attendees were family members of graduating students, members of tribal communities, tribal leaders and tribal youths, including students from Pechanga School and the All Tribes Charter School located at Rincon Reservation.
The 27th Annual California Indian Conference

The 27th Annual California Indian Conference was hosted by the CICSC on the CSUSM campus on October 5–6, 2012, with more than 400 people in attendance. This year’s conference focused on recognizing the strength and progress of California throughout the years while realizing the path to leadership through education, research and community. The goal of the conference was to focus on leadership in the subfields, best practices/programs, and solutions.

The workshops were hosted in an intimate setting and attendees learned about the ongoing unknown facts of tribal histories, and to experience the continued practices of traditional culture and values. Keynote speakers included Cynthia Gomez (Governors Tribal Advisor and Executive Secretary for the Native American Heritage Commission), Tom Torlakson (State Superintendent of Public Instruction), James Ramos, M.B.A. (California State Board of Education Member), Jerry Wong (Information Services Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau), and Dan Calac, M.D. (Chief Medical Officer of the Indian Health Council).

The keynote speakers shared key facts in medicine, data collecting and education trends to aid California Indian peoples. They also addressed the important issues and needs of California Indians including the state of education, state of the state, state of health and state of language and culture.

The conference gave people the opportunity to renew and create new friendships in celebration of life and our commitments to California Indian tribes, and those who value them. A few highlights from the conference included entertainment provided by California Indian entertainers Jacque Nunez, Tracy Nelson, and Cahuilla and Luiseño bird singers, a majestic “Culture Night”, dinner featuring more than 50 singers and dancers, delicious foods representing the region, and more American Indian professionals participating in the conference. The conference was a great success, and attendees had a wonderful experience.
The CICSC Unveils the First-Ever State of American Indian and Alaskan Native Education Report

Authored by the CICSC, this report compiles publicly available data to provide much-needed information about American Indians and Alaska Native (AIAN) people in the K–12, community college, California State University and University of California systems. The data includes enrollment, graduation rates, dropout rates, degrees conferred and personnel by race/ethnicity.

We envision that this report will provide useful knowledge for creating future policy, productive discussions of AIAN educational needs, to makeresearch and education resources a priority to AIAN students in California.

“I believe it is vital for policymakers to understand the [AIAN] educational issues in our state so we can develop policies effective in meeting their diverse and complex needs,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson stated in the preface to the report. “It is also critical for elected officials to understand the achievement gaps that exist within (Indian) populations so we can help those children succeed in the classroom.”

We are grateful to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for their support of the CICSC. This report would not have been possible without their generous support. We are looking forward to next year’s report and coordinating a California Indian Education Working Group through the CICSC.
New Journeys In Collaboration

October 4, 2012 marked the sixth annual New Journeys in Collaboration Conference, hosted by the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC), CSUSM, and the CICSC. The purpose of New Journeys is to establish a place for peer-to-peer mentoring and networking on community-identified topics vital to the successful development of California tribal museums, cultural centers and cultural programming.

Tribal leaders and museum/cultural program representatives gathered at the McMahan House atop the beautiful hills of San Marcos to further develop a network of peers from across the state. Discussions focused on the theme of this year’s conference: the technological integration of native culture, and how technology can benefit tribal museum collections, tribal education programs and native language preservation, and how can this be accomplished in a culturally sensitive way?

CIMCC Developmental Specialist Carol Olivia concluded the conference by highlighting fundraising strategies for technology programs. Since funding agencies currently emphasize topics such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), digital literacy, and the use of technology in education, opportunities abound for acquiring grants related to technology programs and projects. Carol discussed essential components involved in making a compelling case for technology programs or projects using examples from CIMCC multimedia programs. CIMCC hopes to collaborate with the CIMCC on future grants and projects.

CIMCC Executive Director Nicole Myers-Lim noted, “The conference was successful; new lines of communication were opened and new relationships were forged. Working together to ensure the preservation and protection of Native American cultures here in California is the primary goal of this conference. Each time we come together, the synergy becomes more powerful and effective.”

Tribal museums and cultural centers can be effective forces in local and statewide social development. Providing information and instructional resources from a tribal perspective promotes inter-cultural communication, and helps to expand the ways in which school children learn about the diverse histories and cultures of American Indians.

U.S. Department of Education Listens to Tribal Leaders

CICSC Director Dr. Joely Proudfit was asked by the U.S. Department of Education and the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education to help coordinate this listening session with San Diego and Riverside county regions. The consultation served as a venue for both tribal leaders and interested participants to contribute their experiences, expertise, and observation in the area of American Indian and Alaska Native education to senior federal officials.

Dr. Proudfit coordinated and served as facilitator for the listening session held on August 30, 2012 at the Pala Tribal Government Center. This was the most well-attended listening session in the U.S. to date. Highlights included impassioned testimony from American Indian community members and educators throughout California.
On September 28, 2012, CSUSM revealed its newest exhibit in the Kellogg Library. The “More Than Casinos: California Indian Culture, Contributions and Communities” exhibit was displayed throughout the fall 2012 semester. The CICSC, working with Melanie Chu, secured Instructionally Related Activity (IRA) funding to feature contemporary photographs and traditional works of art that helped communicate multiple Native points of view on critical historical and contemporary issues within California Indian communities.

This exhibit was born out of an idea to challenge misconceptions that many people have about today’s California. A recent student survey conducted by Proudfit’s class on campus revealed that stereotypes about American Indians persist and abound. The CICSC worked with internationally recognized California Indian artists Robert Freeman (Luiseno, Hunkpapa Sioux) and Gerald Clarke (Cahuilla), AISA, the Office of the Tribal Liaison, and numerous tribal governments and community partners to produce the exhibit.

The exhibit, which engaged students in a dynamic expression of California Indian history, cultures and contemporary issues, ran through December 14, 2012. Items in the exhibit were collected through a collaborative effort with the idea to represent multiple California tribal nations and cultures. At the opening reception, Dr. Proudfit spoke about the exhibit’s conception and development, and Freeman and Clarke spoke about the process of creating their artwork and the messages behind it. A special thanks goes out to the individuals and tribes who lent items for the purpose of the exhibit.
Native American Professional Development Conference (NAPDC)

The goal of the NAPDC has been to increase the number of Native American staff at important decision-making levels that have an impact on student life, thus strengthening the direction of supportive programs and services for undergraduate, graduate and professional-school students.

The 4th Annual NAPDC was hosted by CSUSM on November 16–19, 2011, which coincided with the grand opening of the CICSC. The conference included messages from keynote speakers: former President of the National Indian Education Association Mary Jane Oatman Wak-Wak and Honorable Chairman James Ramos of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians.

Preserving the Luiseño Language Through Modern Technology

The Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians provided a $50,000 grant to the CICSC and Palomar College’s American Indian Studies Department to create Luiseño language cartridges for the Nintendo DSI. Proudfit and her student workers created the program using the voices of tribal elders and children to teach terms for numbers, colors, animals and other basic vocabulary. The words coincide with uploaded photos, songs, images, prayers, quizzes and stories.

“What we’re hoping to do is preserve the voices of current speakers for future generations and make learning the language fun, easy and accessible for all Luiseño people,” said Dr. Proudfit.

AISA assisted the project and is distributing about 150 cartridges to Pauma tribal members, as well as to the tribal library and after-school program. In the future, the preservation program plans to expand to include participation from the other five Luiseño bands.

Tishmall’s Corner
Tribal Liaison

I began the semester with a move to the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center in the Social Behavioral and Science Building (SBSB 1124). It has been refreshing to have day-to-day contact with students, faculty, and staff dedicated to serving to tribal communities. Some highlights for this past semester include the First Annual Southern California Tribal Community Resource, and College Fairs at Viejas and Pechanga reservations, the President’s appointment of a new Tribal Task Force, and the Second Annual Southern California Tribal Education Summit. Please stop by when you are in the area to see my new home on campus.

The Tribal Liaison is a part of the Community Engagement Division and we are continuously looking for ways to engage our local tribal communities at California State University San Marcos. Please contact me if you would like further information or to discuss ideas for further developments with our campus community.

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