Lighting a Path Forward:
UC Land Grants, Public Memory, and Tovaangar

October 15, 2019
UCLA James West Alumni Center
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Coffee and Bagels

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM Welcome
- Mishuana Goeman (Tonawanda Band of Seneca)
- Emily A. Carter, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
- Shannon Speed (Chickasaw)

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM Keynote: Where You Stand: 50 Site-Specific Years in Retrospect
Cindi Alvitre (Gabrieleno/Tongva), T’iat Society, NAGPRA Coordinator & Faculty at CSULB American Indian Studies
Cindi Alvitre will reflect on the Tongva relationship with UCLA American Indian Studies. This year marks the 50th anniversary of American Indian Studies at UCLA. For the local tribes, it was a parallel universe, one that existed as a liminal state, invisible but present and more frequently—unacknowledged. As time has passed, the metaphoric rivers have converged, and the Tongva, Tatavium and Chumash have a genuine seat at the table. The journey has been long and difficult and from it a genuine collaboration has emerged from one of the most prestigious academic institutions in our collective country. As a new cultural confidence has emerged, we look forward to a continued relationship that will endure seven generations into the future.

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM PAST: Histories of the Land, UCs, and Land-Grant Institutions
This roundtable will explore the establishment of Western educational institutions in California and their essential role to the state's development as an economic, political and educational leader in the region. Most importantly, we will focus on what that ascension has meant to California Indians who have conducted their own tribal educational systems since before contact with white settlers.

Moderator: Mishuana Goeman (Tonawanda Band of Seneca), UCLA
- Carole Goldberg, Distinguished Professor Emeritus Law School, UCLA
- Craig Torres (Gabrieleno/Tongva)
- Laura Miranda (Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians)
- Rudy Ortega Jr. (Tribal President, Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians)

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Lunch Break

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Keynote: From Tovaangar to UCLA
Theresa Stewart Ambo (Gabrieleno/Tongva, Luiseño), Assistant Professor of Education, UCSD
Several US colleges and universities have publicly acknowledged and atoned for the role that chattel slavery played in the establishment of their institutions; however, postsecondary institutions continue to resist recognizing their role in the colonization and dispossession of Indigenous communities. In this presentation, Dr. Ambo will provide a documented link between the original inhabitants of Tovaangar and UCLA, tracing the illegal seizure of land by Spanish missionaries to construct Mission San Gabriel Arcángel in 1771, privatization of land into rancheros under Mexican governance in 1833, and subsequent subdivision and sale of property by private landowners under the US
after 1950. Lighting a path forward, this history underscores the responsibility of land-grant institutions—in this case the UC system and UCLA—to fortify institutional relationships with and reconsider accountability to Indigenous nations and communities.

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM PRESENT: Current Tribal Relationships in the California Education System
This roundtable will examine the current state of American Indian education in California and current work between tribal communities and institutions. What is working, what is not, and what can we learn from current projects that bring tribal communities and education together?

   Moderator: Ananda Marin (Choctaw), UCLA
   • Joely Proudfit (Luiseno), CSUSM
   • Joyce Perry (Acjachemen), UCI
   • Beth Rose Middleton (African-Caribbean and European), UC Davis
   • Mia Lopez (Chumash), UCSB Tribal Liaison for the Coastal Chumash

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM Break

2:30 PM – 3:50 PM FUTURE: Lighting a Path Forward—Beyond Collecting Indians
The history of Indian education has been painful and problematic, from the collecting of ancestors for “scientific” study to forced assimilation and miseducation that have led to erasure and exclusion. This roundtable will lay the groundwork of Indigenous futurities, discussing how not only to come to terms with the past, but move forward with educational practices that enable our communities to thrive.

   Moderator: Nancy Marie Mithlo (Chiricahua Apache), UCLA
   • Robin Maria DeLugan (Lenape/Cherokee), UCM
   • Randall Akee (Native Hawaiian), UCLA
   • Ricardo Torres (Wintu), CSU Sacramento
   • Keri Bradford (Choctaw), UCSB

4:00 PM – 5:20 PM California Indian Tribal Listening Session

   Moderator: Angela R. Riley (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), UCLA
   • Cindi Alvitre (Gabrieleno/Tongva), Mia Lopez (Chumash)
   • Julia Bogany (Cultural Advisor, Gabrieleno/Tongva)
   • Desiree Martinez (Gabrieleno/Tongva)
   • Laura Miranda (Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians)
   • Joyce Perry (Acjachemen)
   • Joely Proudfit (Luiseño)
   • Rudy Ortega Jr. (Tribal President, Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians)
   • Craig Torres (Gabrieleno/Tongva)
   • Ricardo Torres (Wintu)

5:20 PM – 5:30 PM Closing

   • Julia Bogany (Cultural Advisor, Gabrieleno/Tongva)

Background image: “Diseños : maps and plans of ranchos of Southern California, mostly within Los Angeles and Orange counties, Bound Manuscripts Collection (Collection 170, Item 368). Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.”
**Randall Akee (Native Hawaiian)**

Randall Akee is an Associate Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles in the Department of Public Policy and American Indian Studies. He is currently on leave as a David M. Rubenstein Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. He completed his PhD at Harvard University in June 2006. Prior to his doctoral studies, Dr. Akee earned a Master’s degree in International and Development Economics at Yale University. He also spent several years working for the State of Hawaii Office of Hawaiian Affairs Economic Development Division. Dr. Akee is a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) in Labor Studies and the Children’s Groups. He is also a research fellow at the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), a faculty affiliate at the UCLA California Center for Population Research (CCPR) at UCLA and a faculty affiliate at UC Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA). His main research interests are Labor Economics, Economic Development and Migration.

**Cindi Alvitre (Gabrieleno/Tongva)**

Cindi Alvitre is a mother and grandmother and has been an educator and artist activist for over three decades. She is a descendant of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles and Orange Counties and served as the first woman chair of the Gabrieleno/Tongva Tribal Council. In 1985 she and Lorene Sisquoc co-founded Mother Earth Clan, a collective of Indian women who created a model for cultural and environmental education, with a particular focus on traditional art. In the late 1980s, she co-founded Ti’at Society sharing in the renewal of their ancient maritime practices of the coastal/island Tongva. Cindi is currently NAGPRA Coordinator and Faculty at CSULB American Indian Studies Program. As a cultural curator, her work extends beyond the physical manifestation of museum exhibition and into ceremonial performativity, a genre of expression that engages participants into native landscapes as a dimensional “refocusing of our cultural lens.”

**Theresa Stewart Ambo (Luiseño/Tongva/Tohono O’odham)**

Theresa Jean Ambo is an Assistant Professor at the University of California, San Diego in the Department of Education Studies. She graduated from UCLA with a PhD in Education in 2017 and was a UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellow at UC San Diego from 2017–2019. Theresa’s research focuses on issues related to American Indian educational equity and inclusion, including student retention, completion, outcomes, and campus-community partnerships. Her current research examines the relationality of public universities and local tribal nations in California. Using a multiple illustrative case-study design, she offers institutionally transferable insight on “tribal-university relationships”—the current state of relations, institutional responsibilities articulated by tribal and campus leaders, and postsecondary educational needs of Native nations. Theresa’s current book project, *California Tribes and the University: Decolonizing Institutional Relationships and Responsibility*, provides policy recommendations for improving tribal-university relations.
Julia Bogany (Gabrieleno/Tongva)

Julia Bogany is a member of the Gabrieleno Tongva Tribe. She is a mother, grand- and great-grandmother. She is also a highly respected Elder of the tribe. She was a preschool Director, middle school Coordinator and instructed child development for home day care. She also has training in child development, Indian child welfare and Native American Studies. She is also Vice President of the Keepers of Indigenous Way (KIW). She constantly, incessantly and voluntarily enjoys teaching and helping her tribe and has worked for over twenty years for the American Indian community. She has provided cultural, FASD, and ICWA training and workshops in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside areas and Sacramento. She teaches Tongva language, basket weaving and cultural classes. All the work she’s done is for her great-grandchildren’s future and for the future of her tribe.

Keri Bradford (Choctaw)

Keri Bradford (Choctaw) is the American Indian Student Services Coordinator at UC Santa Barbara, on occupied Chumash territory. She is a passionate Student Affairs practitioner and a doctoral candidate at the UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, where she is exploring Native students’ sense of belonging on campus. She also has experience in Indian health care, Tribal law, communication, technology, and journalism. She can be reached at keri@ucsb.edu.

Robin Maria DeLugan (Lenape/Cherokee)

Robin Maria DeLugan (Cherokee, Lenape and European heritage) is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Merced. She received her doctoral degree in sociocultural anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley in 2004. With a specialization in political anthropology, DeLugan studies nation-state formation and ongoing processes of nation-building with attention to dynamics of race, ethnicity and nation. She is the author of Reimagining National Belonging in Post-Civil War El Salvador (University of Arizona, Press 2012) and numerous articles and book chapters about museums and memory, memories of state violence in El Salvador, indigeneity, and migration and transnationalism. She is faculty director of UC Merced’s Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship with goals of linking campus research mission to community collaborative research.
PARTICIPANTS

Viki Eagle *(Sicangu Lakota)*

Viki identifies as half Japanese and half Sicangu Lakota and grew up in Denver, Colorado. She recently came from UCLA working as the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions as the Native American Recruiter. Her position was created from the result of the University of Denver Native American Task Force for Inclusivity following the John Evans Report in 2014. She was responsible for student success for Native American students, continuing community and tribal partnerships within the Denver Native American Community and creating new programs and recruitment efforts for the campus. Viki is currently a PhD student at UCLA.

Marcella Ernest *(Ojibwe)*

Marcella Ernest is a Lecturer at the UCLA American Indian Studies Interdepartmental Program. She is an Ojibwe interdisciplinary artist and scholar. She creates video art and soundscapes using poetic imagery and abstract narratives. Her award-winning pieces have screened and exhibited worldwide in numerous fine art galleries and film festivals, including at the Museum of Modern Art and Design, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, The Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, during the Venice Biennale, the Los Angeles Film Forum, the Autry Museum, and many more.

Mishuana Goeman *(Tonawanda Band of Seneca)*

Carole Goldberg

Carole Goldberg is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus Law School at UCLA. She has taught Civil Procedure, Federal Indian Law, Tribal Legal Systems, the Tribal Legal Development Clinic, and the Tribal Appellate Court Clinic. The two clinics have rendered legal services to Indian tribes and Indian judicial systems. In 2006, she served as the Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School, and in 2007 she was appointed a Justice of the Hualapai Court of Appeals. In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed her to the Indian Law and Order Commission, which investigated issues of safety and justice in tribal communities and in 2013 issued a Final Report recommending ways to improve Indian country criminal justice. Also in 2013, the Indian Law Section of the Federal Bar Association conferred upon her its prestigious Lawrence F. Baca Lifetime Achievement Award. Following law school, Professor Goldberg clerked for Judge Robert F. Peckham, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. She has twice served as Associate Dean for the School of Law, from 1984 to 1989 and from 1991 to 1992. She has also served as Chair of the Academic Senate in 1993–1994. From 2011 to 2016, she served as Vice Chancellor, Academic Personnel, for the UCLA campus.

Mia Lopez (Chumash)

Mia Lopez, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation’s Cultural Resources and Education Coordinator, a member of the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, and representative and former Tribal Chair, has served her community with environmental issues that affected our lands and coast. She has acted as liaison for the Tribe and the City of Santa Barbara, UCSB, SBCC, County Parks, and many local schools lecturing on contemporary and historical Chumash culture and bringing people together to acknowledge the land and people throughout Chumash territory. Her work with the Chumash Maritime Association and American Indian Health & Services, reflects a connection of health through culture, and community.

Ananda Marin (Choctaw)

Ananda Marin is an Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. Dr. Marin is a learning scientist and received her doctoral degree from Northwestern University. She explores questions about the socio-cultural dimensions of learning and development in everyday and intergenerational contexts. In one line of work she examines the practices that children and families use to reason and build knowledge about the natural world. She is particularly interested in (1) how families coordinate attention and observation while participating in science activities, (2) how mobility and place structure activity, and (3) cultural variability in sensemaking practices such as question-asking and explaining. She also investigates Native American participation in STEM and cultural models of self as related to senses of capability and competence. Across her scholarship, she takes a participatory approach and employs a variety of research designs and methods including: community-based design research, cognitive tasks, studies of everyday practices, content analysis, discourse analysis, interaction analysis and video-ethnography. Through her work she aims to answer basic research questions about development, innovate methods, and design teaching and learning tools that contribute to the goals and well-being of Indigenous and non-dominant communities.
PARTICIPANTS

Desiree Martinez (Gabrieleno/Tongva)

Desiree Martinez is a Gabrielino (Tongva) tribal community member and Vice President and Principal Archaeologist of Cogstone Resource Management. She received her MA (Anthropology) from Harvard University and her BA (Anthropology) from the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Martinez has participated in the conservation and protection of Native American collections as museum staff, a community advocate, and adviser to other Native American communities.

Teresa McCarty

Teresa L. McCarty is an educational anthropologist whose work focuses on Indigenous education and language education policy. She is the George F. Kneller Chair in Education and Anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Alice Wiley Snell Professor Emerita of Education Policy Studies at Arizona State University. A Fellow of the American Educational Research Association, Society for Applied Anthropology, and International Centre for Language Revitalisation, she has also been the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the School for Advanced Research. She served as editor of American Educational Research Journal and Anthropology and Education Quarterly, and she coedit the Journal of American Indian Education. Her books include A Place To Be Navajo—Rough Rock and the Struggle for Self-Determination in Indigenous Schooling, “To Remain an Indian”—Lessons in Democracy from a Century of Native American Education (with K.T. Lomawaima), Ethnography and Language Policy, Language Planning and Policy in Native America, Indigenous Language Revitalization in the Americas (with S. Coronel-Molina), The Anthropology of Education Policy (with A.E. Castagno), and A World of Indigenous Languages (with S.E. Nicholas and G. Wigglesworth).

In 2010 she received the George and Louise Spindler Award from the Council on Anthropology and Education for distinguished and inspirational contributions to educational anthropology. In 2015 she presented the American Educational Research Association’s 12th Annual Brown Lecture, “So That Any Child May Succeed—Indigenous Pathways Toward Justice and the Promise of Brown.” She is currently Principal Investigator of a U.S.-wide study of Indigenous-language immersion schooling funded by the Spencer Foundation.

Beth Rose Middleton (African-Caribbean and European)

Dr. Beth Rose Middleton Manning (Afro-Caribbean, Eastern European) is Associate Professor of Native American Studies at UC Davis. Beth Rose’s research centers on Native environmental policy and Native activism for site protection using conservation tools. Her broader research interests include intergenerational trauma and healing, rural environmental justice, indigenous analysis of climate change, Afro-indigeneity, and qualitative GIS. Beth Rose received her BA in Nature and Culture from UC Davis, and her PhD in Environmental Science, Policy, and Man-
Laura Miranda (Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians)

Laura Miranda is a tribal attorney specializing in environmental and tribal advocacy focusing on tribal cultural resources protection. She is a member of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, has a BA in philosophy from UCLA and a JD from Cornell Law School. Miranda has served on the State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) since 2007 and is currently Vice-Chair of the NAHC. She is also a member of the UCLA Repatriation Committee.

Over the past 20 years of advocating for tribal governments, Miranda has held the positions of Directing Attorney with California Indian Legal Services, Deputy General Counsel with the Pechanga Tribal Government and Adjunct Faculty at UCLA Law School. Her notable accomplishments include legislative work on a number of cultural resources protection laws, including AB 2641 (2006) sponsored by Assemblymember Coto which focused on Native American human remains and multiple human remains, both bills sponsored by Senator Burton to protect sacred sites—SB 1828 (2002) and SB 18 (2003)—and AB 978 (2001) California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (Cal-NAGPRA) sponsored by Assemblyman Steinberg.

Miranda's most notable accomplishment is the protection of her tribe's creation area, Pu'éska Mountain, through an extended arduous legal and political battle (2005–2010). This experience exposed deficiencies in sacred sites protection laws for tribes. This led Miranda and Pechanga to push for changes in the law and eventually the passage of AB 52 (2014), sponsored by Assemblymember Gatto, which added Native American Tribes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). She served as one of the main technical advisors to the Assembly member. Miranda believes in creative problem solving, the opportunities conflicts can present, and active-listening conflict resolution. With this as her road map she has been successful in negotiating numerous agreements and settlements on behalf of tribes with land developers and other government agencies.

Miranda presently resides in Los Angeles where she enjoys yoga, meditation, and dancing. She is also involved with issues of cultural trauma and has been actively engaged over the last eight years with her personal healing as well.
PARTICIPANTS

Nancy Marie Mithlo (Chiricahua Apache)

Nancy Marie Mithlo is a Professor of Gender Studies and serves on the Faculty Advisory Committee for American Indian Studies. She earned her doctorate in cultural anthropology from Stanford University in 1993 writing on the negotiated role of contemporary American Indian artists. Her publications include “Our Indian Princess”: Subverting the Stereotype (School for Advanced Research Press, 2009) and senior editorship of For a Love of His People: The Photography of Horace Poolaw (Yale University Press, 2014), American Indian Curatorial Practice (Wicazo-Sa Review, 2012) and Manifestations: New Native Art Criticism (Museum of Contemporary Native Arts and DAP, 2011). Mithlo’s curatorial work has resulted in nine exhibits at the Venice Biennale. Her forthcoming titles include Senior Editor, American Indian Art 101 (University of New Mexico Press, 2020), Knowing Native Arts (University of Nebraska Press) and A/Part of This World: Indigenous Curation at the Venice Biennale (State University of New York Press). In 2017, she was a Visiting Scholar, UCLA Institute of American Cultures, American Indian Studies Center, a George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation Fellow, Brown University and a Getty Research Institute Guest Researcher.

Rudy Ortega Jr. (Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians)

Rudy Ortega, Jr. is the Tribal President of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, a Native sovereign nation of northern Los Angeles County. He is a member of Siutcabit, the lineage of present-day Encino, CA. His ancestors come from the lineages that originated in the geographical areas of Santa Clarita Valley, Simi Valley, and San Fernando Valley—including Ta’apu, Chaguayanga, and Tochonanga. His great-grandfather Antonio Maria Ortega, from whom he receives his role as tomiar, traditional leader, fought in Los Angeles Superior Court in the 19th century to preserve traditional lands and protect the tribe’s title to Mexican land grants from encroaching Anglo-settlers. His father, the late Rudy Ortega Sr., served as the previous leader of the tribe for over fifty years and was elected to the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LACCAAIC) in 1977. Following his father’s leadership, Ortega Jr. was appointed to the LACCAAIC by Mayor James Hahn in 2004 and currently serves as Commissioner. From 2004–2018, Ortega Jr. served as the Executive Director of Pukúu Cultural Community Services. Currently, he is a member of the Los Angeles River Master Plan Steering Committee, the Edison Consumer Advisory Panel Board, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Joyce Perry (Acjachemen)

Joyce Stanfield Perry is an Acjachemen tribal scholar, serves as President of Payomkawichum Kaamalam, an American Indian non-profit organization, Cultural Resource Director for the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation and former Board Member of the Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum/Acjachemen Cultural Center.

As an American Indian consultant for archaeological projects, she has negotiated with landowners for repatriation and reburial of ancestors and their belongings. She has been instrumental in developing and educating Native and non-Native personnel in forming policies for cultural and historical preservation. Joyce was a member of the Laguna Canyon Foundation
Interpretive Exhibit Design Team for the James and Rosemary Nix Nature Center, member of the Putideum Park Project, and is very active in the Acjachemen Language Revitalization Project.

**Joely Proudfit (Luiseño)**

Joely Proudfit has been tenured three times in the California State University system. In fall 2008, she joined the faculty at CSU San Marcos as Program Coordinator for Native Studies. She now serves as Professor and Department Chair of the newly established American Indian Studies Department, and as the Director of the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC) at CSUSM. She is also the founder and Executive Director of the California American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival, which is annually presented by the CICSC every November. As the Director of the American Indian Studies Department, she will play a leadership role in the development of an American Indian Studies minor and major.

**Angela R. Riley (Citizen Potawatomi Nation)**

Angela R. Riley is Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law and Director of UCLA’s Native Nations Law and Policy Center. She directs the JD/MA joint degree program in Law and American Indian Studies and is the UCLA campus representative on issues related to repatriation under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Angela’s research focuses on indigenous peoples’ rights, with a particular emphasis on cultural property and Native governance. Her work has been published in the *Yale Law Journal*, *Stanford Law Review*, *Columbia Law Review*, *California Law Review*, *Georgetown Law Journal* and numerous others. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Oklahoma and her law degree from Harvard Law School.

**Shannon Speed (Chickasaw)**

Shannon Speed, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, is Director of the American Indian Studies Center (AISC) and Professor of Gender Studies and Anthropology at UCLA. Dr. Speed has worked for the last two decades in Mexico and in the United States on issues of indigenous autonomy, sovereignty, gender, neoliberalism, violence, migration, social justice, and activist research. She has published numerous journal articles and book chapters in English and Spanish, as well as published six books and edited volumes, including her most recent, *Incarcerated Stories: Indigenous Women Migrants in the Settler Capitalist State*. Dr. Speed currently serves as the President of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA).
PARTICIPANTS

Shalom Staub

Shalom Staub is the Director of UCLA Center for Community Learning. Prior to UCLA, Staub served as Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Civic Engagement at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he spearheaded the college’s community engagement initiatives across multiple divisions and coordinated the college’s broader civic learning and community engagement programs. While at Dickinson, Staub was also a contributing faculty member to the departments of Sociology, Religion, Judaic Studies, Middle East Studies, and Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship. An accomplished mediator, he also led Dickinson’s Conflict Resolution Resource Services. Staub holds BA and MA degrees in anthropology from Wesleyan University and a PhD in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. His training as an ethnographic researcher has grounded his work across a diverse range of institutional and community contexts. Most recently, Staub’s research has focused on the design of civic and community engagement pedagogies in undergraduate education.

Wendy Teeter

Wendy Teeter is Curator of Archaeology for the Fowler Museum at UCLA and on the Register of Professional Archaeologists. As a California archaeologist, she co-directs the Pimu Catalina Island Archaeology Project along with Desiree Martinez (Tongva) and Karimah Kennedy-Richardson, which focuses on the history of Catalina and its relationships with other islands and the mainland. They run a yearly field school that has been awarded scholarships through the Register for Professional Archaeologists and American Anthropology Association as well as the Society for American Archaeology for 2012 and 2013. In June 2011 she co-curated, “Launching A Dream: Reviving Tongva Maritime Traditions,” at Fowler Museum at UCLA with Cindi Alvitre (Director, Ti’at Society). Outside of her professional focus, Dr. Teeter is an Officer on the Ocean Charter School Board of Trustees, a Los Angeles County Waldorf-informed charter school.

Craig Torres (Gabrieleno/Tongva)

Craig Torres is descended from the indigenous communities of the Yaavetam (Los Angeles) and Komiikravetam (Santa Monica Canyon) that existed in the Los Angeles Basin. The descendants are more commonly known today, collectively, as the Tongva or Gabrieleno Indians of San Gabriel Mission. He is also descended from three of the founding families of Los Angeles pueblo in 1781.

Craig is a member of Traditional Council of Pimu (one of several Tongva communities in the Los Angeles Basin) and involved with Ti’at Society, an organization focused on the revival of the traditional maritime culture of the Southern California coastal region and Southern Channel Islands. In the early 1990s, the community built the first traditional plank canoe, called a ti’at, which had disappeared for many decades.

Craig has been active all of his adult life engaged as a Tongva cultural educator, presenter and consultant to many schools, culture and nature centers, museums as well as city, state and government agencies acting as a consultant on Tongva history, culture and contemporary issues.
PARTICIPANTS

Heather Torres *(San Ildefonso Pueblo, Navajo)*

Heather Torres serves as a Tribal Justice Specialist. She is a graduate of UCLA School of Law’s Critical Race Studies program, where she focused her courses and research on Federal Indian law and the racialization of American Indian identity. During law school, Heather served as the President of the Native American Law Students Association, Executive Editor of the Indigenous Peoples’ Journal of Law, Culture & Resistance, and Senior Editor of the Chican@/Latin@ Law Review. Her legal work experience includes serving as a Udall Foundation intern for the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs, extern with the Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles ICWA Court, Native American Summer Associate at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP, student tribal code drafter in the Tribal Legal Development Clinic, and a UC Public Service Law Fellow with the Tribal Law & Policy Institute 2017–2018. For the past year, she served as Director of Native Student Programs at the University of Redlands. Heather is licensed in the State of California and rejoined TLPI as a Tribal Justice Specialist.

Ricardo Torres *(Wintu)*

Ricardo Torres is a Professor Emeritus from California State University, Sacramento. His professional and community interests are centered on his involvement in the Native American community. For the past 45 years, Ricardo has successfully fulfilled his role as a Counseling Faculty member at CSU Sacramento where he received tenure and promotion to full professor rank. He is an enrolled member of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe in California. As part of his community service for tenure and promotional reviews, Ricardo established access and retention programs for Native Youth, participated in national conferencing efforts and became a member of a national American Indian speaker’s network in support of his goal to improve educational access to the community, improve retention and graduation rates of Native students and support community wellness efforts.

In addition, his 19-year role with the University of Oklahoma’s Health Promotions Program’s planning circle; his role as Chair of the California State University American Indian Advisory Committee and Native American Initiative; Chair of the Native Delegation for the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE); Member of the State of California American Indian Health Advisory Panel; Chairman of the Board of the Sacramento Native American Health Center; Member of the American Indian Counselors and Recruiter’s Association; Member of the National Coalition For the Advancement of Natives in Higher Education; and more recently, Member of the University of California’s Native American Advisory Committee, have all collectively served to support his goals.
Thank you to all of our generous sponsors who made this event happen!

This event is part of the Special Advisor to the Chancellor to Native American and Indigenous Affairs programming.

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