

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



EDUCATE
STRENGTHEN
EMPOWER

MISSION & VISION

MISSION

California Indian Nations College (CINC) offers a culturally-responsive academic curriculum rooted in Native American values and provides personalized support to advance the success of Native and non-Native students.

PURPOSE

California Indian Nations College integrates Native American cultures, traditions, and languages in higher education.

VALUES

- Academic Freedom and Integrity
- Community Responsibility and Reciprocity
- Cultural Traditions and Healing
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Holistic Health and Well-Being
- Intellectual Engagement and Growth

VISION

California Indian Nations College empowers students to advance Native American cultures, languages, and sovereignties to promote vibrant Native, local, and global communities.



HONORARY DEGREE

Founder and Visionary, Mrs. Theresa Mike (Lummi) was also presented with an Honorary degree in June 2021. Mrs. Mike serves as a Lifetime Trustee for the College.

"There's the modern world and then there is Indian Country. It's often difficult to mesh the two. So I think we need a safe academic space for tribal students to gather regardless of reservation status. A place where all native students can feel welcomed, challenged and built up to navigate through our modern world and Indian Country...Education is knowledge and our people need knowledge to survive..."

~ Gabriel Espinoza, CINC student

2020-21 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

During the Summer of 2021, CINC was honored to attend and participate in the Woman of the Year award for the 56th District of the Assembly California Legislature. Theresa Mike, Founder and Visionary of the College, was nominated and selected for two consecutive years by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia. Assemblyman Garcia stated that this is the first time in history that someone has been selected two years in a row. Mrs. Mike indicated that creating a Tribal College would provide the much-needed educational opportunities for all students, regardless of age, tribal status, or creed. She was proud to share this award with her husband, Dean Mike, Vice-Chairman of the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, and her family.



Manahuu (Hello)

This 2020-21 Annual Report provides an overview of another extraordinary year at California Indian Nations College. As the world experienced incredible challenges with the disruption of life and services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am proud to report that the CINC staff and faculty were unwavering in their commitment to **student success and the delivery of personalized services**. It is an honor to be part of a team that believes in our mission and believes in our students.

The story of this year is one of resilience when faced with adversity – something our students know all too well. Their ability to adapt to and overcome life-altering circumstances is commendable. Coping with technological needs and the training to go with it, weak broadband and internet capabilities; along with home, family, and job demands became a daily burden. Yet they prevailed. This is a story of student success, CINC celebrated more graduates this year than the first two years combined; and we were able to hold an in-person commencement by the generous support of **Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians**.

Our story continues, CINC is *the emerging tribal college* and a force to be reckoned with. Without the support of federal or state COVID-19 relief funds, we overcame a number of new challenges. Not only did instruction have to change, but so did student services and the various facets of our work environment. Yet, CINC continued to experience rising enrollments while offering educational opportunities and securing a safe learning environment for our students.

All this good work would not be possible without the ongoing and steadfast support of CINC's Chairman Darrell Mike and the **Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians**. We are also thankful to the **College of the Desert (COD)**, for providing necessary training and for utilizing their pandemic relief funds to support the work of CINC.

We are truly excited about the future because of our students, faculty, and staff, and because of our incredible tribal and community partners. Thank you all!

Nashoothui (Blessings)

Celeste R. Townsend, MBA (Gidutikad Band of the Fort Bidwell Paiute Reservation)
President & CEO

"Achema, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians for your support. Thank you for California Indian Nations College, where I did not feel alone...it has been the only place I have felt my culture and my education were aligned but not contradicted with one another...I graduated Spring of 2021 with my grandfather and son watching as I crossed the stage in my beaded cap, beaded necklace, earrings and was blanketed by the staff. My heart felt full and complete to see all my culture displayed and honored but to show it to my son was the best gift. Achema."

~ Rachel Montañez, 2021 Graduate
(Shoshone/Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation)



This year CINC acknowledged and recognized eight (8) graduates. Five (5) graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and three (3) graduates completed courses with CINC and earned degrees with COD. We send a special thank you to Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa for hosting this momentous occasion.



"Uncertainty brings challenge and with challenge comes resilience and I am proud of the resilience of our graduates. With the anxiety and stress, they still got up every day and met the hardships face on, in order to walk across this stage today. You have proven to be unstoppable. Focus on the strengths of your resilience to overcome obstacles and overcome these barriers. When resilience kicks in, doors will open...Your dream begins here; it is no longer a dream anymore."

~ Chairman Tortez (Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians)



The porcelain roses were gifts to the graduates in loving memory of UCR Professor, Pam Clute. They were donated by former California Assemblyman and supporter of CINC, Mr. Steve Clute.

GRADUATES

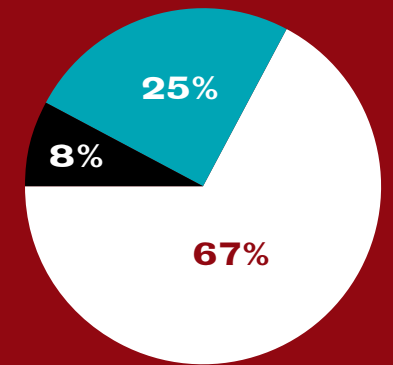
CINC GRADUATES

RANDOLPH Y. AVILA, JR. (Klamath-Modoc Tribes)
RACHEL D. MONTAÑEZ (Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation)
RENA G. SALGADO (Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Nation)
SAVANA R. SAUBEL (Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians)
ELINOR J. THOMAS

COD DEGREE RECIPIENTS

BETTY EVANS BONNER (Torres Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians)
FELICITA R. PAYTON (Torres Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians)
CHRISTINE R. JIMENEZ VALENZUELA (Torres Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians)

GRADUATES' EDUCATIONAL GOALS



● PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
● PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
● CONTINUING OR PURSUING ADVANCED DEGREES



"Thank you to the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians for generously donating to the California Indian Nations College (CINC). Your sponsorship was a priceless gift and has assisted me in continuing my educational endeavors. I am proud to be graduating with an Associates Degree. With this degree, I plan to apply to my tribe's intern program, which will allow me to gain experience within our casinos and tribal government. I have also been accepted to Arizona State University and will be transferring this Fall to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership."

~ Savana Saubel, 2021 Graduate
(Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians)



"It was an awesome experience meeting new people, learning from one another's stories and traditions. Everyone that is signing up for CINC is working towards the same goal: higher education. And with that education, we can apply it to our families and community. I would like to thank the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians for investing in CINC students future for higher education."

~ Randy Avila, CINC Graduate 2021
(Klamath-Modoc Tribes)

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE

California Indian Nations College currently offers an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts in conjunction with College of the Desert. The degree is designed to prepare students for transfer to a wide range of baccalaureate programs or majors (transfer preparation) while providing a solid, well-rounded general education. Graduates are eligible to transfer to any university with their fully accredited coursework.

While additional degrees are being developed, CINC is also crafting Certificate Programs that respond to the needs and requests of the local tribal communities.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

CINC continues to work with high schools and school districts to offer college courses. While the pandemic has caused a challenge for most, the College continues to provide the opportunity to get a head-start on earning college credits.

GED/HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

Native Americans continue to journey with the lowest high school completion rate. CINC continues to offer a *flexible, no-cost* high school equivalency program and to extend the opportunity for those looking to begin anew. Our personalized and flexible program enables the student to accomplish their goals aligned with their schedule and obligations. Successful completion of the GEC/HSE Program will ensure eligibility to enroll into CINC and strive towards a college degree.



"Without CINC, I don't know if it would've been possible for me to be accepted into the doctoral program... Remembering my time at CINC, I feel an urgency to finish my PhD so that I can give back to the Native communities where help is most needed. It is my hope to return to CINC as a professor so that I can help others realize their potential by seeing an academic who looks like them, thereby envisioning themselves in higher education, graduate programs, and beyond."

~ Roseanne Rosenthal, MA
CINC Graduate 2019 (Tewa/Apache)
PhD 2nd Year, UC Riverside;
Chair, Graduate Student Researchers in Areas of Native American Studies Society;
Member, UCR Graduate American Indian Alliance;
Coordinator, Indigenize UCR Project

CHAMP'S CORNER

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!
At California Indian Nations College (CINC), we understand that it takes a village!
Champ's Corner is dedicated to all CINC students as your premier destination for:

- Writing Assistance
- Tutoring
- Workshops
- Mentorship



"CINC has allowed me to reach my longtime goal of getting an education. I would not be attending college if it wasn't for CINC. CINC has given me encouragement and the spark I needed to start my educational journey."

~ Anna Carrillo, CINC Student



CINC is dedicated to student success and offers a variety of services to support students in their educational journey. Enrolled students also have access to Library and Tutoring & Academic services from our partner institution, College of the Desert.

CHAMP'S CORNER

With *student success* as a primary focus, CINC recognizes the need for a strong, reliable, and personalized support system. Students can schedule individual or group tutoring sessions through CHAMP's Corner. Subject-focused writing sessions, individual and group tutoring, and open forums are available and recommended for all students. All students are welcome, including those who recently graduated from CINC to remain connected.

TEXTBOOK & CHROMEBOOK LOAN PROGRAM

The Textbook & Chromebook Loan Program (TCLP) began in Spring of 2020 and is a program available for all CINC students. Textbooks and laptops are the largest out-of-pocket expenses for our students, CINC strives to assist all students in need. Because of the transition to virtual learning due to COVID-19, CINC ensured every student had the materials to be successful. The TCLP is made possible by the continued support of the *Theresa A. Mike Scholarship Foundation*.

"California needs CINC, because it helps get Natives gathered for a common goal. It lets the world know that we are resilient, and we are here. It takes away the stereotypes. What it means to me is that people care, especially people like me. It means I can associate and be a part of something important."

~ Regina Vasquez, CINC Student
(Navajo Nation)

FALL ENROLLMENT
2019 - 45
2020 - 57
27% INCREASE

SPRING ENROLLMENT
2019 - 44
2020 - 48
9% INCREASE



179
 STUDENTS SERVED TO DATE

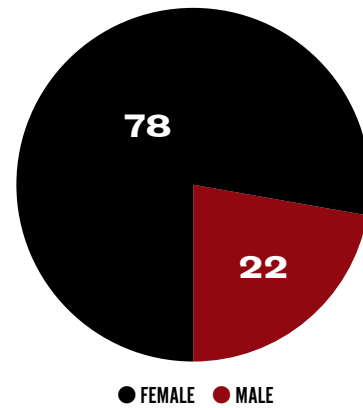


32
 MEDIAN AGE



67%
 TRANSFERRING TO UNIVERSITIES

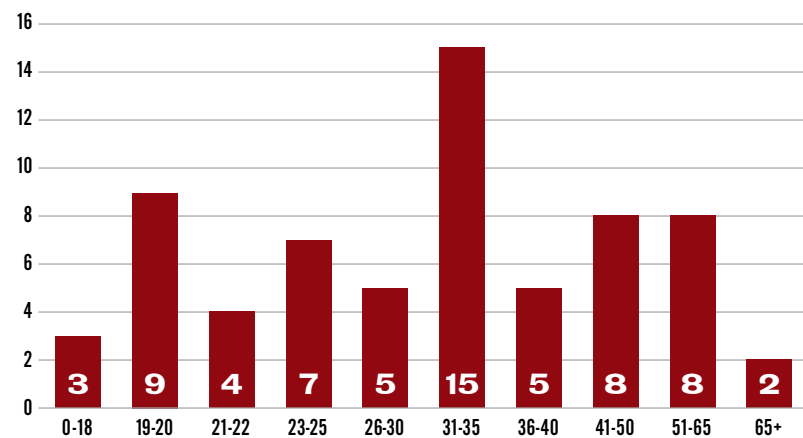
UNDERGRADUATE GENDER DISTRIBUTION



"CINC is more than just an academic vessel. Being a part of the inaugural class to the present has given me more than just a basic educational venue. My classmates have shared their goals and aspirations with me. We have become a family. We continue to rise."

~ Marguerite Pablo
 CINC Graduate 2019
 (Morongo Band of Mission Indians)

2020-2021 AGE DISTRIBUTION



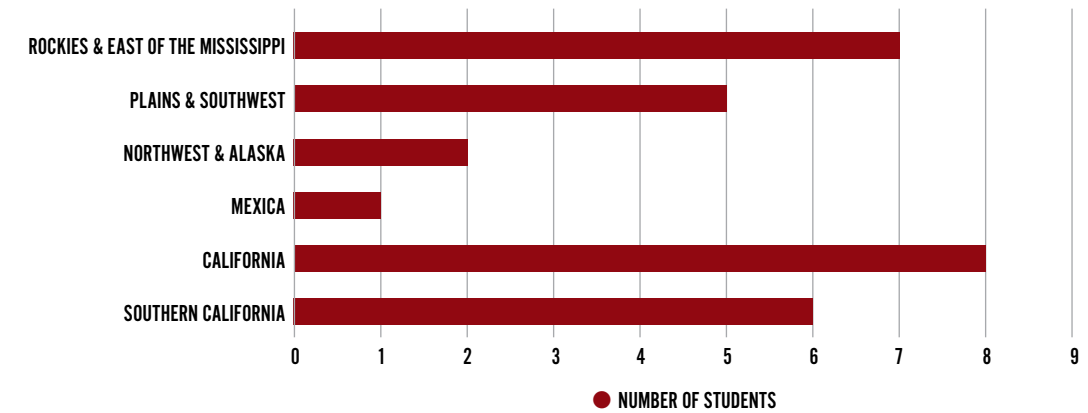
"CINC has helped reignite my drive for education with the support and unique approach to education."

~ Alfonso Taboada
 CINC Student

CINC continues to reach many nations throughout the United States. We have served a student population of over 57 tribes; there are so many others who are affiliated with tribes that are unrecognized by the state or federal governments. ALL are welcomed!

57
 TRIBES SERVED TO DATE

2020-2021 REGIONAL REPRESENTATION



"I enjoy CINC, because it reminds me of what family is. Everyone is so kind, caring of one another, and understanding. CINC is one place where I don't feel out of place, because everyone knows we're all just about the same."

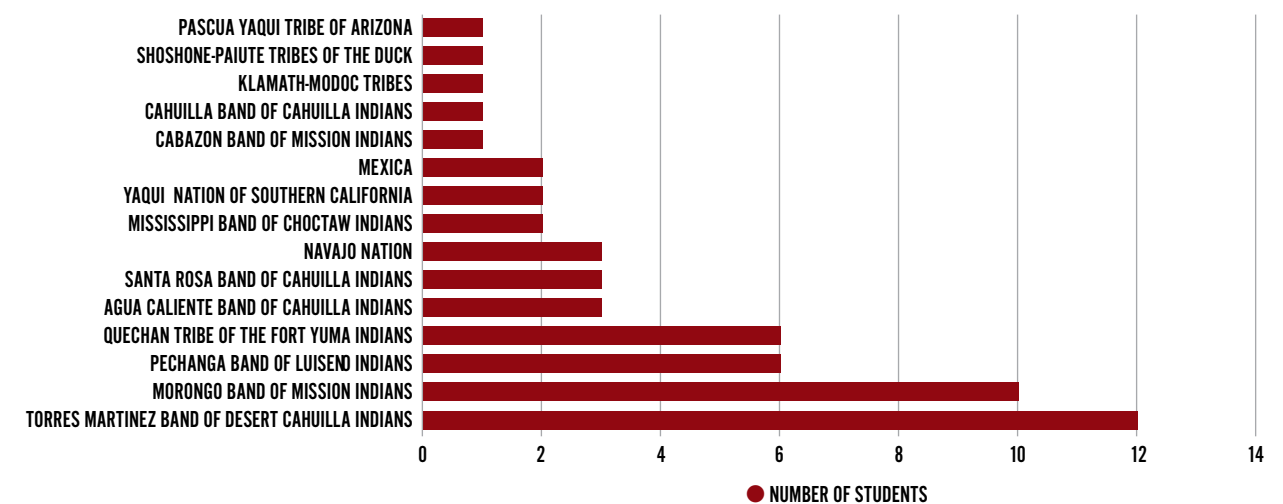
~ Maria Bermudez
 (Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians)




"CINC is a safe place for tribal people to gather and grow academically. We can share our grievances, creativity, passion, uniqueness yet our common ground and share our love to help each other grow. Grow into being professionals and good stewards of our communities."

~ Gabriel Espinoza, CINC Student
 (Texas Band of Yaqui)

2020-2021 STUDENT TRIBAL AFFILIATION



CINC experienced a 27% increase in Fall 2020 enrollment. Even while the shift to virtual learning unveiled challenges for students, faculty, and staff; they all triumphed over challenges that crossed their paths. CINC made sure to incorporate virtual workshops and online events to assist the students to remain engaged and committed to their educational goals.



Champs Corner

Spring 2021

Academic Workshops

February 17th & 18th 3:00-5:00 PM
Writing Foundations
Brush up on your writing skills!
This workshop covers mechanics, style & structure.

March 4th & 5th 3:00-5:00 PM
Formatting & Citations
Learn how to start and complete a search query for any topic.

April 8th 3:00-5:00 PM
How to do Library Research
Learn how to find the best primary & secondary sources for your paper.

April 15th 3:00-5:00 PM
Turning a Paper into a Presentation
Learn to break down your paper and make an effective presentation.

May 6th & 7th 3:00-5:00 PM
Editing & Drafting
Turn a rough draft, class notes, or journal entry into an "A" paper.

Contact Joshua Cardenas (760) 565-3315 or jcardenas@CINCollege.org
and/or Courtney Hampton (760) 834-0946 or hampton@CINCollege.org

California Indian Nations College & California State University, San Bernardino

Spring Virtual College Fair

High School Juniors & Seniors, Transfer Students, Adult Learners & Families
Join us to connect with 2yr and 4yr college & university representatives
Visit CINCollege.org for a list of participating colleges & universities

April 28, 2021
3:00-4:30 PM

- ✓ Programs
- ✓ Admissions Requirements
- ✓ Financial Aid
- ✓ College Life

Click Here <https://tinyurl.com/yrjnr2b> to Register

For more information contact admissions@CINCollege.org
Call 760-834-0584 or visit CINCollege.org





SPRING VIRTUAL FAMILY NIGHT

APRIL 23, 2021
3:00PM - 5:00PM



Music by
DJ Brian Frejo

Games & Prizes
(Knowledge Bowl, Scavenger Hunt, Bingo and more!)

Family Fun!
(Individual or teams of 2 or more)

Click here <https://tinyurl.com/294j4cmz> to RSVP
For more information email info@CINCollege.org or call 760-834-0584




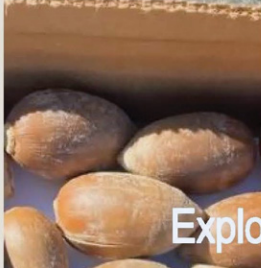

While the global pandemic created many setbacks for outdoor events, CINC was sure to include cultural events, at no cost, for students and anyone who wished to participate.

- Beading with Birdie
- California Indian Day
- Earth Day Celebration
- Family Night (two)
- Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Introduction to Basketry
- Introduction to Mass Media
- Student Orientation
- Virtual College Fair with Cal State SB



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION


Aaron Saubel - Student



Explore Native Plants

California Indian Nations College Presents:

Beading With Birdie



Project: Rope Wrap Wristlet Keychain

Date: March 9th & 30th
Online Virtual via Zoom

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

CONTACT: 760-834-0956

Introduction to Basketry

With Lorene Sisquoc

Join us for a virtual presentation on California basketry as presented by Lorene Sisquoc. This is a one day introductory class on the intricate details of basket making. From gathering materials, to preparing and design, Lorene will explain how she was taught this cultural art. Please register today to reserve your seat.

May 13, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Our faculty are professionals who provide high-quality education. Their commitment to student success was inspirational while they ensured a safe learning environment during this pandemic; they treated students like people, not like numbers.



(l to r) Roger Griffin, MA, MS; Jermaine Cathcart, PhD; Aaron Thomas, MBA

"It is an honor and privilege to work with CINC students who strive to better their lives and, ultimately, endeavor to rebuild their families and communities working to rise above the generational impacts of historical tragedies experienced by California Indians."

~ **Robyn Delfino**

CINC Professor, Business & Finance: Personal Money Management & Planning
(Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians serving as Tribal Treasurer)

"I had distinct honor and privilege during the Spring 2021 Semester to teach Introduction to the Hospitality Industry as part of the dual enrollment program between CINC and College of the Desert. I thoroughly enjoyed the students at CINC. It was one of the most rewarding teaching experiences that I have encountered as an educator. I also enjoyed working with the CINC administrators who demonstrated their commitment to achieving student success."

~ **Gwen Earle**

Assistant Professor of Business, College of the Desert

"Teaching through the pandemic was a challenge, however, it worked to our advantage as we are able to provide courses online/remotely to more students who normally would not be able to attend in person classes."

~ **Faith Morreo**, Cahuilla Language Instructor
(Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians)



Beautiful and loving mother, Christina Morreo, has begun her journey. California Indian Nations College is truly honored and blessed to have had Ms. Morreo dedicate her love and time to the College's Cahuilla Language class and provide her blessings at several College events.

"Ms. Faith Morreo and her wonderful mother [Ms. Christina Morreo] would come to teach us Cahuilla. It was a setting that felt like I was sitting and learning from my elders, like my aunt and my grandma. It was inspiring."

~ **Rachel Montañez**, 2021 Graduate

Descendant of the Gidutikad Paiute Band of Fort Bidwell Indian Community & Descendant of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation

"Teaching at CINC is amazing. I am so grateful to be part of such an extraordinary program that enriches the lives of Native communities through higher education. CINC provides a safe space and learning environment for Indigenous communities to learn about their history, culture, identity, and so much more."

~ **Carol Park**, CINC Professor

FACULTY

Toni Bakal, MFA
Jermaine Cathcart, PhD
Joshua T. Frank Cárdenas, PhD
Daniel Collister, PhD
Veronica Daut, EdD
Robyn Delfino, MBA
Gwendolyn Earle, MBA, DTM
Eric Elliot, PhD
Courtney Hampton, MBA
Roger Griffin, MA, MS
Renda Madrigal, PhD
Christina Morreo
Faith Morreo
Carol Park, MFA
Veronica Roach, MA
Mary Slade, PhD
Aaron Thomas, MBA
Galene Townsend, MS
Leslie Trujillo, MA



"We chartered the College to serve not only our Tribe, but all Tribes in the region that would benefit from access to higher education."

~ **Darrell Mike**, Chairman
(Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians)

"Our chartering tribe, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, along with many Southern California tribes have provided financial support to the College. This support enables CINC to continue the rigorous journey towards accreditation while providing high-quality educational opportunities, at no cost, for all of our students. We are so grateful and honored to have your support; Pesa Muh (Thank You)!"

~ **Celeste R Townsend**, CINC President & CEO
(Gidutikad Band of the Fort Bidwell Paiute Reservation)



THANKFUL AND HONORED FOR YOUR SUPPORT

CINC relies solely on the generous donations and support from our partners. Establishing the first fully accredited Tribal College in the state of California, offering two-year degrees, could not be done without your support. Our tribal partners have secured a safe learning environment with high-quality educational opportunities and culturally responsive curricula, at no cost to the students.



While undergoing the lengthy and rigorous accreditation process, California Indian Nations College continues to offer **fully-accredited** courses through its partnership with the College of the Desert. This dual *enrollment* system provides a unique experience at both colleges while CINC provides course delivery. It is through this matriculation process that CINC students receive the benefit of access to student services from both colleges as well as receiving culturally-responsive academic curriculum rooted in Native American values. Credits or units earned will transfer to four-year institutions including and not limited to: California State Universities, Universities of California and private institutions.



"Establishment of an accredited tribal college in California is key to reversing such negative educational and economic trends for California Native Americans and expanding

higher education opportunities to underserved tribal students. CINC empowers students to positively impact themselves and their families, local communities, and tribes. CINC students take what they learn during their college career back to their communities to advocate for and govern their tribes more effectively. CINC is dedicated to uplifting Native American students, increasing employability, and providing skills for fulfilling careers while continuing to preserve tribal culture and teachings."

~ **James C. Ramos**, Assemblyman District 40
(San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)



"Through providing a culturally relevant academic program and personalized support services to American Indian students, CINC is working to close the equity

gap and add parity to the Native American student population. However, as a result of COVID-19's impact, CINC has seen an 80% drop in funding sources and is facing a significant funding shortfall for student services and administration of the college..."

~ **Eduardo Garcia**, Assemblyman District 56

"This partnership with CINC is helping us to become a more understanding and culturally competent college (COD), especially in serving Native students. To the graduates, congratulations on achieving this milestone on your journey to academic and career success. You have persevered through not just difficult academics, but also an unprecedented disruption in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. This speaks to your innate abilities and resilience. Your time with California Indian Nations College has prepared you well for the journey ahead."

~ **Amanda Philips**, Dean of Counseling
College of the Desert



CN Cronkite News
ARIZONA PBS

HOME NEWSCAST

BORDERLANDS HEALTH INDIAN COUNTRY MONEY NEXT GEN NOTICIAS POLITICS SOCIAL JUSTICE SPORT SUSTAINABILITY

EDITOR'S PICKS HEALTH INDIAN COUNTRY

'Keeping the culture alive': Native dance goes digital during pandemic

By McKenzie Allen-Charmley/Luce Foundation: Southwest Stories Fellowship
Aug. 11, 2020



Natha Little Crow, an Ojibwe-Missouri dancer who won a virtual dance special sponsored by a Lakota Sioux family, performs at the Comanche Nation Fair in September 2019. (Photo courtesy of Mike Griffin)

PHOENIX – Singing, dancing, socializing, sharing food – the elements that make powwows an essential part of preserving Indigenous culture are the same ones that make them a coronavirus risk.

Native communities throughout the country have cancelled the traditional gatherings indefinitely as a result. But Tiny Rosales, a member of the Ojibwe tribe, has found a way to “to keep the people dancing.”

In March, Rosales created a space on Facebook allowing families, schools and businesses to host virtual Native dance competitions from afar.




“Unfortunately, education has been a tool of colonization, stripping our people of their culture and language. Tribal Colleges decolonize higher education and integrate Native American pedagogy, traditions, languages, and values in an environment that provides for the specific needs of our students. We are proud and committed to be a part of California Indian Nations College who makes it a priority to instill and promote our culture, language and traditions.”

~ **Darrell Mike**, Chairman
(Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians)

EdTech
Focus On Higher Education

TOPICS STATES TIPS & TACTICS VOICES FEATURES VIDEO UNIVERSITY



HOME > CLASSROOM

MAY 17 2021

Online Learning Increases College Access for Underserved Native American Students

The California Indian Nations College saw a 22 percent increase in enrollment last year. Here's a look at how they did it.

by **Adam Stone**
Adam Stone writes on technology trends from Annapolis, Md., with a focus on government IT, military and first-responder technologies.


LISTEN 04:47

While some colleges and universities struggled during the rush to remote learning last year, others rose to the challenge. The [California Indian Nations College](#) is one example of a school that has not only survived but thrived. The community college in Palm Desert, Calif., which largely serves a Native

DCN NEWS NEWS • NONPROFIT DIRECTORY • CALENDAR • CURRENT ISSUE • ADVERTISE • CONTACT US

NATIONAL NEWS

California Indian Nations College Celebrates Theresa Mike as 56th AD Woman of the Year



Theresa Mike, visionary and Founding Trustee of California Indian Nations College (CINC) was recognized as the 56th Assembly District Woman of the Year for the second year in a row, 2020 and 2021, by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (56-AD) at the UCR-Palm Desert campus on July 9th. This prestigious award is given to those who exemplify greatness in arts, business, education, community building and being an overall, well-rounded, human being.

"I am so glad that we get to honor this phenomenal woman the right way, this year," Assemblymen Garcia said at the award ceremony. "No other person has been voted for two years in a row, but Theresa truly embodies all of the qualities and then some, as she elevates reservations across Indian Country and impacts so many lives through her service to tribal sovereignty and California Indian Nations College."

Desert Sun.


Sports Business News Life Opinion Real Estate Obituaries E-Edition Legals

EDUCATION

'We're still growing': Tribal college in Palm Desert pushes forward virtually amid COVID-19

Amanda Ulrich Palm Springs Desert Sun
Published 7:00 a.m. PT Jan. 9, 2021 | Updated 11:08 a.m. PT Jan. 11, 2021

View Comments



California Indian Nations College students meet over Zoom in 2020. Photo Courtesy Of California Indian Nations College

Michael Eder, 47, has taken a wide array of classes over the past year: mass media, cultural anthropology, English, public speaking.

But there's an added component to Eder's curriculum not found in most college courses: Native American voices and content.


Eder, a member of the Crow Tribe in Montana, is enrolled at California Indian Nations College, a two-year community college in Palm Desert. Many of the students sitting alongside Eder in class, or now occupying the same Zoom screen, are Native American.

UKEN REPORT
THE FACTS COME FIRST

POLITICS HEALTH EDUCATION NEWS BUSINESS

AN INTRO TO CALIFORNIA INDIAN NATIONS COLLEGE

Posted by Ryan Mariano | Mar 7, 2021 | Education, News



CALIFORNIA INDIAN NATIONS COLLEGE IS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S FIRST ACCREDITED TRIBAL COLLEGE

PALM DESERT – Palm Desert is home to what will be California's first fully accredited two-year tribal college. California Indian Nations College (CINC) is an intertribal college chartered by the [Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians](#) that incorporates and supports indigenous culture, native language revitalization, and the strengthening of traditional Native American values.

“Whether you take one class or a full course load as a full-time student; you will earn your degree in time. Once you have your Education – no one can take that from you, education is a great equalizer.”

~ **Theresa Mike**
CINC Founder & Life-Time Board of Trustee
(Lummi Nation)

OPERATING EXPENSES (2020-2021)

Academics	\$ (504)
Administration	
Contracts, Licenses and Fees	\$ 120,279
General Operations	\$ 46,019
Board of Trustees	
Student Services	\$ 4,509
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 170,303

PERSONNEL COSTS (2020-2021)

Administration (All Staff)	\$ 824,721
Adjuncts	(4,196)
Benefits & Fees	\$ 188,800
Total Personnel Costs	\$ 1,009,325

REVENUES/INCOME (2020-2021)

Student Tuition and Fees	-
Grants	-
Contributions	\$ 67,594
Sales (CINC Merchandise)	\$ 434
Other Sources	\$ 160,706
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$ 750,000
Total Revenue and Income	\$ 978,734

LIABILITIES (2020-2021)

Foundation	\$ (14,450)
Payroll	\$ (84,508)
Total Liabilities	\$ (98,913)



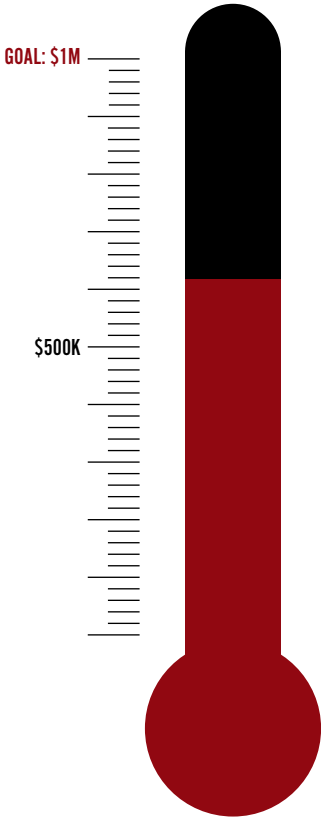
“California needs CINC, because it gives us indigenous people faith and motivation to go to college. Not only that, CINC is a college focused on every individual and people like us hardly get that.”

~ Angelique Santillanes
(Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians)

“I think that California needs CINC because the professors teach with a Native American point of view. I grew up with a father that always taught us this view but not as in depth or as structured as what I have learned while attending CINC. This is what is missing in the school system.”

~ Anna Carrillo

CINC 2021
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
PHASE 1



\$620,374 (62%)
AS OF JULY 31, 2021

TRIBAL SUPPORT RECEIVED

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
Cahuilla Band of Indians
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Pala Band of Mission Indians
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

“CINC allows a unique educational experience, focusing on growth both culturally and academically. CINC has helped reignite my drive for education with the support and unique approach to education.”

~ Alfonso Taboada

While the journey to accreditation is lengthy and demanding, CINC became challenged for financial support to secure the systems, equipment, and staff. As an emerging tribal college, CINC is not entitled to federal or state funding. Once the College attains the second phase of accreditation, the doors for federal and state funding may open. Chairman Mike, of the College’s chartering tribe, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, recognized the need and provided a generous gift of \$500,000 and challenged the local tribes to help the College reach a \$3 million dollar goal by matching his amount! While tribes were recuperating the aftereffects of the pandemic, several tribes and many individuals reached into their pockets to extend their support towards this goal.

We thank you ALL!

INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED THE COLLEGE

Rhonda Ann Albey	Michelle Mike
Lala Andreas	Theresa Mike
Julia Bogany	David Mix
Julia Bourbois	Rachel Montanez
Amy Boyes	Christina Morreo
Larisa & Albert Broyles Chacon	Faith Morreo
Victoria Castro	Marguerite Pablo
Candalaria Chubb	Moraino Patencio
Steve Clute	Mark Pierotti
Carl Davis	Shannon Prieto
Patricia Dixon	Shawn Ragan
Starley & Thomas Dullien	Ken Ramirez
Rosie Fain	Maria Brown Ramos
Corrine Garbani Sanchez	Iselda Salgado
Courtney Gonzalez	Altrena Santillanes
Nicole Green	Jessica Sharpe
Michael Grigsby	Liliana Silvas
Ellen Harju	Tracy Stanhoff
Allison Hedge Coke	Ron Stewart
Shannon Herbert	Leanna Thomas
Dale Jenkins	Olivia Thomas
Christine Kirk	Sienna Thomas
Monte Kugel	Brenda Torres
Cathy Lachowicz Przeklasa	Heather Torres
Brendan Lindsay	Celeste Townsend
Lupe Lopez-Donaghey	Galene Townsend
Michael Madrigal	Anne Varney Logan
Ryan Mariano	Henry Vasquez
Christopher Martinez	Becca Waters
Alaina Ramos Mathews	Marzett Weatherton
Tim McDuffie	



PHASE 1 ESTABLISH COLLEGE (3-5 YEARS)

- Advisory Committee determines feasibility of CINC
- Begin offering classes
- Establish policies and collect data for Accreditation

PHASE 2 ACCREDITATION ELIGIBILITY (UP TO 2 YEARS)

- File eligibility application, Commission approval
- CINC completes and files ISER with Commission
- Site visit

PHASE 3 ACCREDITATION CANDIDACY (2 YEARS)

- File for Federal Recognition as TCU
- Resolve any issues identified by the Commission

PHASE 4 FULL ACCREDITATION

"The students are my why. Their resilience and dedication to learn and grow in order to improve their lives and lives of their families and communities. Their commitment to changing the narrative and statistics plaguing American Indian education. CINC is more than a college; it is an institution of empowerment and is a cultural necessity for generations to come."

~ Courtney Hampton, MBA
CINC Faculty & Staff

As we said goodbye to 2020, we are hopeful and excited for our future. To reach our goals towards accreditation, we look forward to strengthening our relationships with the local and tribal communities. This support will continue to secure the safe, nurturing, and cultural environment and provide students with the support and confidence that they so desperately need and appreciate.

SHORT TERM

- Implement a student mentorship program
- Strengthen our culturally-responsive, rigorous courses to benefit all students
- Expand our partnership with universities to offer guided pathways and transfer opportunities
- Continue to cultivate and recruit highly qualified faculty and staff
- Increase professional development opportunities for faculty and staff
- Expand and diversify funding streams to sustain general operations and secure institutional goals
- Incorporate a vital and enthusiastic Foundation to support the College

LONG TERM

- Extend degree offerings to better serve our students and tribal communities
- Develop relevant certificate programs to meet the professional needs of our students and support local and tribal communities
- Collaborate with tribal and local entities to create a workforce development plan
- Create an internship program for our students
- Build or purchase a physical campus at the culmination of a capital campaign
- Fully endow the California Indian Nations College



We are governed by a nine-member Board. Trustees are knowledgeable within the broad context of the educational, historical, and social environment. Each Trustee reflects the standards of excellence and dedication that the College sets for itself.

With the impacts of the pandemic, three of our trustee members decided to move on from the Board. They have graced us with extraordinary leadership and support; they will not be forgotten.



"I see so much potential in CINC – in its students, its staff, and in its supporters past and present. I hope to be part of bringing this tribal college to life for the betterment of the communities CINC serves."

~ Heather Torres, JD, Trustee
(San Ildefonso Pueblo, Navajo)



"If I ever had a doubt as to the mission of CINC it was dispelled with the 2021 June graduation at Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa Rancho Mirage. The blanket draped students proclaimed success and commitment to personal and tribal empowerment. Student representatives, faculty, and elders spoke to the intrinsic value of learning and becoming within a culturally responsive curriculum to not just what you learn but how you live your native values."

CINC, in its curriculum development, integrates traditional knowledge and practices into the lived realities of today's socio-economic landscape to maintain the richness and resilience of their ancestral rootedness to the global communities that share this land with them."

~ Patti Dixon, Trustee
(Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians)



ADMINISTRATION



Celeste R. Townsend, MBA
(Paiute/Shoshone)
President & CEO



Shawn Ragan, MA
(PhD Candidate)
Vice President & Chief Operations Officer



Ryan Mariano
Administrative Operations Manager



Courtney Hampton, MBA
Academic Coordinator & Instructor



Faith Morreo
(Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians)
Recruitment & Outreach Specialist



Theresa Mike
(Lummi Nation)
Founder

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT

Ronald A. Stewart, PhD

STAFF

Randy Avila (Klamath-Modoc Tribes)
Junior Associate

Joshua T.F. Cárdenas, PhD (Onkwehonwe)
Academic Coordinator & Instructor

Robert T. Prezklasa, PhD
Executive Vice President & Chief Academic Officer

Iselda Salgado
Executive Director, Student Affairs & Student Services

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Darrell Mike (Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians)
President

Gerald Clarke, MA, MFA (Cahuilla Band of Indians)
Vice President

Dineen Mike (Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians)
Secretary

Robert Paull (Lummi Nation)
Treasurer

Theresa Mike (Lummi Nation)
Life-Time Trustee

Jeff Grubbe (Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians)
Trustee

Patricia A. Dixon, MA (Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians)
Trustee

Sandra Kewanhaptewa-Dixon, EdD (Hopi)
Trustee

Heather Torres, JD (San Ildefonso Pueblo/Navajo)
Trustee

FORMER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Starley Dullien, PhD
Interim Chairman

Thomas Dullien, PhD
Trustee

Valerie Red-Horse Mohl
Trustee



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Ryan Mariano
Courtney Hampton
Shawn Ragan
Celeste Townsend

PHOTOGRAPHY

Randy Avila
Ryan Mariano

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Mark Duebner Design

PRINTING

Xpress Graphics & Printing, Palm Desert

PROUDLY SERVING



EDUCATE. STRENGTHEN. EMPOWER.



CALIFORNIA INDIAN
NATIONS COLLEGE

75080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Suite 222
Palm Desert, CA 92211

CINCollege.org

