



**Thriving in Community:  
The UCSC Native Student  
Resource Guide**

# Welcome to the American Indian Resource Center.



*AIRC team with novelist Tommy Orange (Southern Cheyenne), Winter 2020*



*AIRC team members with Supaman (Crow) at the Indigenous Red Market in Oakland, March 2020*

## Our Mission Statement

The AIRC is dedicated to supporting the needs of American Indian students and increasing Native visibility on campus by advocating student-centered programs, cultural events, and tools for academic success and well-being. The center serves as a vital link between American Indian students, the University, and tribal communities to foster growth through mentoring, leadership opportunities, and scholarly development. The AIRC also serves as a supportive space for students to help ease the transition from home to campus life.

## The AIRC's objectives are as follows:

- ✂ To increase Native visibility on campus
- ✂ To promote the value of a college education for American Indians
- ✂ To aid in the development of leadership skills among American Indian students
- ✂ To foster Indigenous knowledge and practices in our activities and preserve the culture and heritage of American Indian students
- ✂ To serve as a liaison between Native communities and the University of California, Santa Cruz

## People Of Color Sustainability Collective

The People of Color Sustainability Collective (POCSC), founded in 2011, represents a groundbreaking collaboration between the Ethnic Resource Centers, Colleges Nine and Ten, and the UCSC Sustainability Office. A collaborative campus effort, POCSC aims to showcase the efforts that people of color have made, are making, and will make to advance sustainability on campus, locally, nationally, and globally. Use the #PoCSustainability hashtag to share what sustainability means to you. [pocsc.ucsc.edu](http://pocsc.ucsc.edu) | [pocsc@ucsc.edu](mailto:pocsc@ucsc.edu)

# Campus Resources.

## **Student Alliance of North American Indians (SANAI)**

SANAI is a student organization that provides academic and moral support to Native American students on campus and works to increase the awareness of the issues of the Indigenous people of North America. SANAI also has a rich history of collaborating with other student organizations, and we encourage all students to attend meetings and participate in programming. [sanaiatucsc@gmail.com](mailto:sanaiatucsc@gmail.com)

## **Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)**

The mission of SACNAS is to encourage Chicano, Latino, and Native American students to pursue graduate education in order to obtain the advanced degrees necessary for science research, leadership, and teaching careers at all levels. The SACNAS office can provide information on many opportunities for minority students and professionals in the sciences. The annual national conference provides scientific symposia, keynote speakers who are at the forefront of scientific research, professional development sessions, and student poster and oral presentations. [info@sacnas.org](mailto:info@sacnas.org) | [sacnas.org](http://sacnas.org)

## **TWANAS**

The Communities of Color and Native American Student Press Collective (previously *Third World and Native American Student Press Collective*), a.k.a "TWANAS", is one of the oldest student-run magazines at UC Santa Cruz. TWANAS is dedicated to providing a media outlet for students of color to write about the issues that affect them. TWANAS regularly accepts submissions for each of our issues. For more information about joining or submitting to TWANAS, email them at [twanaspress@gmail.com](mailto:twanaspress@gmail.com)

## **Student Internship**

The AIRC hires student interns throughout the year. Interns at the AIRC work on a variety of projects and events. They interact with the campus community, represent the AIRC at various events, build strong relationships with fellow interns, staff, and faculty, while gaining experience in program and event planning.

## **Scholarship**

### *E.A. Forssgren Scholarship*

The E.A. Forssgren Scholarship is offered through the American Indian Resource Center. This scholarship awards up to \$3,000 per academic year to American Indian undergraduate and graduate students who are currently enrolled in a federally or state-recognized tribe. Check our website for application due dates.

## **Fall Welcome**

The AIRC hosts a welcome event giving an opportunity for new and continuing American Indian students, staff, and faculty to engage with each other. At the Fall Welcome the AIRC staff introduce ourselves, give a short presentation about our annual events, host Bingo games with great prizes to win, and serve great food, too! It's a welcoming, supportive space that will ensure you start off the school year right. Feel free to bring your friends along. Everyone is welcome!

## **Amah Mutsun Speaker Series**

The series was founded in 2009 and we are proud of its long history. The bi-annual (fall and spring quarters) series highlights topics pertinent to California Natives and builds on the relationship between the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (the original inhabitants of Santa Cruz) and UC Santa Cruz. It provides the opportunity for tribal members, the Santa Cruz community and scholars to come together and learn from each other. The American Indian Resource Center hosts the speaker series and has hosted leading scholars, researchers, and community leaders to campus.

## **Indigethanx**

Indigethanx provides an opportunity to celebrate and help educate about Native foodways and food sovereignty. Every other year the AIRC hosts either a potluck dinner where Native students, faculty, and staff share traditional foods of their tribe, or speakers are invited to present their research and knowledge about how Native people engaged with the land prior to contact and sustain those traditional practices today.

## **Sophia Garcia Robles Memorial Indigefest (Formerly known as Drum Feast)**

IndigeFest celebrates the culture, songs, dances, and arts of Indigenous people in a "pan-tribal" atmosphere of fellowship, trust, respect, and empowerment. The American Indian Resource Center hosted the first Drum Feast in honor of Sophia Garcia Robles on May 24, 2012. IndigeFest brings together singers, dancers, drum groups, spoken word poets and other community members for a day of coalition building and fun. Everyone is welcome!

# AIRC Annual Events.



## Missing And Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls Event (MMIWG)

On May 6, 2019, the AIRC hosted our first annual event in honor of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The goal of this event is to raise awareness about MMIWG, an issue affecting Native communities both in the United States and abroad. The MMIWG event is held every year on May 5, the United States' National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

## Year-End Celebration

At this event, staff, faculty, students, friends, and family members come together to celebrate Native graduates. It is the highlight of the academic year!

# Student Voices.



UCSC is a great place to spend your undergrad, you'll have many unique experiences at UCSC. The community is accepting and creates a perfect space for you to find yourself!

- **Kameiko Hostler (Hoopa Valley Tribe)**



I love this community! I was always safe and taken care of at the Resource Centers.

- **Jemzi Ortiz (Northern Cheyenne), Alumna**



The AIRC has made UCSC a place where I feel supported and encouraged to succeed.

- **Arely Hernandez (Maya Mam & Otomi)**



You'll find your place here at UCSC! Being involved with the AIRC and student organizations like TWANAS, SACNAS and SANAI will give you an opportunity to meet other Native students on campus, to build community. I know these are the spaces on campus where I have made a home for myself.

- **Serah Zemaryalai (Lovelock Paiute Tribe, Shoshone, Pomo)**



I really felt connected to UCSC the first time I toured it. The campus is absolutely beautiful, and the non-competitive and supportive culture is a good fit for me.

- **Tahnee Henningsen (Concow, Maidu)**



If you are looking for a way to get involved with hands-on projects that are working to restore Native sovereignty and lifeways or to correct misrepresentations of Native people then UCSC is a great place for you!

- **Mariah Kelley-Huron (Comanche)**



Starting college can be a scary journey. But, by going into it knowing you have a community to rely on, the process seems a lot less daunting. I knew of the resources at the AIRC and other Native student organizations, of the spaces they provide for studying and working, and knew that at UCSC I'd be able to find and create my own home.

- **Julia Gavin (Diné (Navajo) & Blackfeet)**

# Native Faculty.



**Yve Chavez**

**Tongva, Akimel O'odham, and Tohono O'odham**

Assistant Professor of History of Art and Visual Culture



**Jean E. Fox Tree**

Professor of Psychology



**Caitlin Keliia**

**Yerington Paiute and Washoe**

Assistant Professor of Feminist Studies



**Amy Lonetree**

**Enrolled Citizen of the Ho-Chunk Nation**

Associate Professor of History and American Studies



**Renya Ramirez**

**Enrolled Member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska  
and descendant of the White Earth Ojibwe.**

Professor of Anthropology and American Studies



**Tsim D. Schneider**

**Enrolled Citizen of the Federated Indians  
of Graton Rancheria**

Assistant Professor of Anthropology

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UC Santa Cruz is located on the unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, comprised of the descendants of indigenous people taken to missions Santa Cruz and San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast, is today working hard to restore traditional stewardship practices on these lands and heal from historical trauma.

*Pronunciations of the tribes are:*

*Amah (Aaa-Ma), Mutsun (Moot-sun), Uypi (You-P), Awaswas (Aaa-Was-Was)*



*Visit the AIRC on the 3rd Floor of the Bay Tree Building,  
above the UCSC Bookstore.*



## Contact Information:

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