

A Special Message to the Campus Community:

It is my great pleasure to announce the appointment of Dr. Vincent Whipple as the university's director of Tribal Relations.

This newly created position will lead communication, engagement opportunities and special project alliances with all recognized tribal nations in California.

As director of Tribal Relations, Dr. Whipple will report to Vice President for University Advancement Robert Nava. He will focus on building and supporting CSUSB's commitments to tribal communities and their members. A key assignment will involve increasing the college-going rates and success of Native American students, which corresponds with the goals of the three-year, \$960,000 gift presented last September to this university by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Establishing this position is a direct response to the lead recommendation by the Task Force for Native American Student Recruitment and Retention, a group impaneled as part of my presidential initiative to increase native enrollment here and at other universities statewide. I am firmly committed to making the recruitment, enrollment, retention and success of Native American students a high priority.

Dr. Whipple comes to us having recently served as director of Recreation, Education and Youth Services for the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians in northern San Diego County. During his professional career, he has held numerous positions supporting and advocating education for Native Americans, including posts with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. He previously served as coordinator for the Native American Student Center at Cal Poly Pomona, education director for the Los Angeles American Indian Education Office for the California Department of Education, assistant director of the American Indian Recruitment Program at UCLA, and Tribal Partnership Specialist for the L.A. Regional Census Center.

Dr. Whipple's father is a member of the Lakota tribe from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and his mother is a member of the Navajo tribe. He earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Harvard University, a master's degree in American Indian Studies from UCLA and a doctorate in educational leadership from Fielding Graduate University.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Whipple bring his level of experience and ability to this university. His addition demonstrates our total commitment to serve tribal communities and increase the number of Native American students attending and graduating from CSUSB. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Whipple on becoming part of our campus community.

Sincerely,

Tomás D. Morales
President