

# Ancillary Unit Annual Report

Date: December 14, 2021

This report is required by [FAM 105.4 \(FSD 87-17.R6\) -- POLICY GUIDELINES FOR THE FORMATION AND REVIEW OF INSTITUTES AND CENTERS](#). \*\*Please make sure to sign and forward scanned signed copies of the report. Thank you.

Basic Information	
Ancillary Unit's name	Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies
Director(s)	James Fenelon
Administrator to whom the unit reports	
Purpose and current goals (as approved by Faculty Senate)	See attached

Activities during previous academic year (2020 - 2021)		
Activity (please describe)	Funds spent	Goal advanced (and extent)

Text Narrative to accompany an informal reporting of CIPS for 2020 to 2021 academic year.

The Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies was heavily impacted by the pandemic and the closures associated with it for a variety of reasons, some relevant to what other Institutes and Centers were experiencing, and some quite unique and, unfortunately, devastating in terms of loss of its leaders.

Our most significant work was with the WRI and various water related agencies, NGO and governmental, including the overarching SAWPA for the Santa Ana watershed region including San Bernardino, tangentially with NGO's and universities working more or less directly with state government, covering the Los Angeles River watershed areas and those in the counties of Ventura and northern Los Angeles.

This work was conducted on the highest professional levels, which we adapted from initial proposals from a team out of University of California Irvine that struggled with an operational design for Native Nations and American Indians so-called data collection, and in following Indigenous protocols outlined in a host of recent studies and orientations toward conducting research in Indigenous communities. We succeeded in conducting listening sessions and other means of ethnographic and socio-political data collection that informed the results in the formal publication – attached herein as “Tribal Section Pages from Ethnographic Strengths and Needs Assessment 09\_01\_20” – that has professional findings of the highest order and could easily be published in governmental and academic journals (which I have no time to do at this point). I might also note we have total affirmation of our approach towards what is now called Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Research Methods, with the attachment “Situating Data Sovereignty Platform Post” used as prelude to Krystal Tsosie and Tao Leigh Goffe's cross-university presentations on IndiData and Darklab processes.

The Center, primarily through my personal representation, also participated in the creation of the tribal college in the end called California Indian Nations College (CINC)

from its onset, moving to an advisory role when political machinations from university related individuals (both UCR and CSUSB) took control, moving it away from the direct oversight and guidance of tribal peoples in the region (although much of this has been rectified over time and since the formal creation of the administrative and then teaching components of the start-up). Because of the focus on the central roles of non-Indigenous or marginally Native American individuals, I elected to step aside from the primary leadership position and keep other roles and activities prominent in my portfolio of involvements related to Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies goals and objectives. I continued to support CINC through CIPS and other means, while pointing out the inappropriate advancement of less than fully qualified non-Natives to leadership roles without following California Higher Education employment guidelines. I was Vice-President of the Foundation Board for CINC until I left for Swarthmore, when they reconfigured these relationships, and am still in close contact with the Founder Theresa Mike of the primary sponsor 29 Palms Band of Mission Indians.

UCR Chancellor's Native American Advisory Committee was another major activity for CIPS further linked to work we were (and to an extent are) conducting with the CFA Ethnic Studies initiatives and law, and to coordinating various organizational efforts to link Native American and Indigenous issues with local colleges and universities. This was seriously hampered by the pandemic closures and passing of our Chair of the Committee and CIPS Board, Luke Madrigal. Another elder practitioner we were working closely with was Julia Bogany of the Tongva people, who also acted as the elder (or Grandmother) of our Center and for the Claremont Colleges. She passed in the spring of 2021 and is partly the reason I accepted the prestigious Lang visiting Professor for Social Change position at Swarthmore College, where I am currently.

There are quite a few other activities, mostly of a highly successful nature, which CIPS and/or myself, conducted over last year, not the least of those being supporting and participating in the theatrical production *Menil and Her Heart* that fronted *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, invited to the Yale Repertory Theater group, with online readings at George Washington University, following presentations at Humboldt, CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, Pomona College at Claremont, San Diego State University, and other venue in Southern California. Seeing as this was the brainchild of Isabella Madrigal with her entire family involved in our Native American Wellness and Social Work efforts, inspired and coordinated by their parents, Renda Dionne and Luke Madrigal, with his passing, and Isabella's acceptance at Harvard, that moved to the backburner, at least for the time being.

One of the many outgrowths of our WRI Native Water Research projects, was the project proposal:

“These led to the **Louis Robidoux Nature Consortium, Tribal Programming and Engagement** proposal submitted to SAWPA DWR review, accepted and adapted from first round (\$383,000) under second round table review for \$300,000, project total of 5 million with multiple partners, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Inland Empire Resource Conservation District; Huerta del Valle; Orange County Water District; in CIPS Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies.” (this is from last year's CIPS report) Because of malfeasance by officials related to SAWPA this state funding along with the project sponsors were redirected to another agency representative, which we were in the process of challenging across many fronts, when first Luke passed, and then when reconsidering these for the Los Angeles River area, Julia passed, and it proved to be too much to continue. Even Luke's brother who is a tribal attorney and was deeply involved in our work (presenting on the Agua Caliente case and the Winter's water law) believed there was no one who could effectively pull this together (Lori Sisquoc agreed to manage the Robidoux site if it did come together). It is difficult to even write about this. We did have an informal meeting (hearing like) with state water officials, with Julia participating,

including her work with UCLA, that also ended with her passing (and her great grand-daughter giving the acknowledgement at CSUSB sponsored conference.

I might remind the reader of this narrative, that I was on full sabbatical during the fall semester of 2020, although we continued with the online and virtual meetings with the Tatavium Fernando, the Chumash, and other tribal and Native American organizations, and were operating under a zero budget allocation, primarily pandemic caused, that was going to be continued by senior administration during the Spring semester or 2021 where we reported this at the WRI Conference attended by our President and a Tribal College President. Again, with Luke and Julia's passing, and accepting a visiting position at Swarthmore, continuation was halted, although I did appoint an Interim CIPS Director, Professor Hannah Kivalahula-Uddin (Puyallup tribal elder), who was not given support in the position.

I can provide further narrative or explication of any unnoted activities for Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies reporting functions, if so desired and with an explicit and specific request for information, since I am fully engaged here at Swarthmore for the time being. Thank you for taking the time to read this first narrative, and I wish you well over the holiday season in southern California (where I hear it is finally raining!) and over the New Year.

James V. Fenelon, Professor and Director (on leave) at CSUSB and Lang Professor at Swarthmore College