



Colleagues,

It is my great honor to share with you that the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has awarded nearly \$1 million to Cal State San Bernardino to establish the Native American Enrollment and Achievement Initiative. The formal announcement came earlier today during a breakfast on campus for California Native American Day.



In collaboration with a soon-to-be appointed Director of Tribal Relations, this three-year gift will make possible the hiring of two student recruitment coordinators completely focused on elevating the college-going rate of Native students. It will also produce three student mentors to provide guidance to native students, an academic scholarship, and a summer bridge program geared toward the Native American student population, and will help create additional partnership opportunities with tribal communities to encourage and grow Native American enrollment at CSUSB and throughout California.

As a Minority Serving Institution and a Hispanic-Serving Institution, our university has continued to identify better ways to reach out to and support underrepresented student populations. Last spring, CSUSB created the Native American Task Force in order to look at the issues of access and support while enrolled to promote graduation of Native students.



I believe that, through the opportunities provided by this grant, the efforts of our outstanding faculty and staff, and continuing support of partners such as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Cal State San Bernardino will become a national model for the recruitment and retention of these communities.



I want to thank the entire San Manuel Business Council for this tremendous gift. Our university greatly appreciates our continued partnership and your confidence in us as we work together to impact future generations of students and their families.



Tomás

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