



#UNITYSD2025

SAN DIEGO, CA
JUNE 27 - JULY 1, 2025



Land Acknowledgement

We stand on land that has witnessed the footsteps of the Kumeyaay people for millennia. Their traditional lifeways are deeply intertwined with a worldview encompassing both earth and sky, fostering a community of living beings. This land embodies a relationship that has nourished, healed, protected, and embraced the Kumeyaay people to this day.

Their worldview is rooted in the harmony of cycles and the balance of life's forces. For the Kumeyaay, red and black symbolize this balance, reflecting the harmony within our bodies and the world around us. We acknowledge the enduring legacy of the Kumeyaay people. We strive to promote this balance as we seek knowledge and understanding.

Inspired by the Kumeyaay spirit, we open our minds and hearts to the teachings of this legacy—the legacy of red and black.

This is the land of the Kumeyaay.

On behalf of UNITY, Thank you to the Local Planning Committee members and Chair Daniel Rios for their heartfelt contributions and support for making this year's 2025 National UNITY Conference memorable.



The Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
is proud to support the

2025 NATIONAL UNITY CONFERENCE

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Artwork Overview



This year, UNITY honored cultural pride and youth creativity with a special t-shirt collaboration celebrating California Native heritage. The project began with a youth logo contest, inviting designs that reflected the richness of local Native cultures. The winning concept came from 15-year-old Reese Mitchell of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, whose artwork helped inspire a final design that pays tribute to Kumeyaay culture and the conference theme.

UNITY partnered with the Local Planning Committee and OXDX Clothing—a renowned Indigenous fashion label founded by Diné artist and UNITY alum Jared Kee Yazzie—to bring the vision to life. For Jared, whose first art vending experience was at a UNITY Conference in San Diego over a decade ago, this collaboration marked a powerful full-circle moment. Through this project, OXDX continues its mission to amplify Indigenous voices and empower the next generation of Native artists.

2025 National UNITY Conference Agenda

Check out UNITY's Facebook and Instagram for Conference Updates!
Please wear your conference badge at all times!

Thursday, June 26th (PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES)

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Sign Up for Campus Tours at San Diego State University
• Open to the first 120 youth and chaperones to sign up (transportation on your own)

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Conference Registration Opens (Town & Country Foyer)

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Youth Empowerment Night with NUC EC (Golden State Ballroom)

- Topics of Discussion
 - National UNITY Council (NUC)
 - Constitution & Bylaws
 - Voting Status
 - Community Involvement
 - National UNITY Council Representatives - Check In
 - Fun, Games and Clan Activities! (MEET OTHERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY!)

Friday, June 27th (Theme: SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT)

7:00 AM

Conference Registration Opens (Golden State Ballroom)

9:00 AM

UNITY 101 Pre-Conference Training (Golden State Ballroom)

- First Time UNITY Conference Attendees & Advisors
- Advisor Check: Membership Voting Status with NUC EC
- Signing Up for Conference Activities

10:00 AM

Opening Ceremony: Lighting the Fire (Martini Lawn)

- UNITY Drum
- Welcome/Call to Order with NUC EC Co-Presidents
 - Watson Whitford & Kaytlynn Johnston
- Opening Prayer
 - Dania Wahwasuck, Miss Indian World, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nationa/Pyramid Lake Paiute
- Cultural Welcome & Land Acknowledgement
- Welcome Remarks & Introduction of Council of Trustees
 - Mary Kim Titla, Executive Director, UNITY
- UNITY Fire & Spirit Room Purpose with UNITY Trainers

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch Break (ON YOUR OWN)

12:45 PM

Music Intermission (Golden State Ballroom)

- Music brought to UNITY by:
 - Marcus "Emcee One" Guinn, Osage/Potawatomi
- Grand Entry: Line Up By Region in Golden State Foyer

BRING YOUR TRIBAL FLAGS & BANNERS!

1:00 PM

General Session (Golden State Ballroom)

- Opening Remarks
 - Chance Rush, UNITY Emcee, MHA
 - Marla Mesarina & Kaylee Evans, NUC EC Emcees
- Grand Entry: UNITY Parade of Nations (WEAR YOUR REGALIA)
- UNITY Drum

Friday, June 27th (Theme: SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT)

1:30 PM	General Session (Golden State Ballroom) - Welcome Remarks - Loretta Tuell, Council of Trustees - Chair, UNITY - UNITY News! Special Presentation - Introductions of the NUC EC - Roll Call of Regions with Jalen Harvey, NUC EC Secretary: - Great Plains: Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota - Midwest: Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin - Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont - Northwest: Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska - Pacific: California, Hawaii - Rocky Mountains: Montana, Wyoming - Southeast: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia - Southern Plains: Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas - Southwest: Colorado, New Mexico - Western: Arizona, Nevada, Utah
1:45 PM	Special Presentation: Running Strong (Golden State Ballroom) for American Indian Youth
2:30 PM	Announcements: Movement is Medicine
2:40 PM	Presentation of Earth Ambassadors (Golden State Ballroom) - Remarks - Introduction Video & Medallion Presentation with Council of Trustees - Honor Song with UNITY Drum
3:25 PM	Introduction of UNITY Trainers (Golden State Ballroom) Conference Reminders & Safety Announcements
3:35 PM	NUC EC Announcements (Golden State Ballroom) Announcements/Instructions for Youth Sign-Ups
3:45 PM	Youth Council Sessions - Caucus Rooms & Advisor Trainings
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Area Caucus Sessions #1 - Regions: - Great Plains: Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota (Pacific H & I) - Midwest: Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin (Pacific D) - Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont (Palm Room 1) - Northwest: Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska (Town & Country D) - Pacific: California, Hawaii (Town & Country B) - Rocky Mountains: Montana, Wyoming (Palm Room 2) - Southeast: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia (Pacific C) - Southern Plains: Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas (Pacific E) - Southwest: Colorado, New Mexico (Pacific F & G) - Western: Arizona, Nevada, Utah (Town & Country C)
4:15 PM - 5:15 PM	Advisor Training #1: Meet & Greet (Pacific Ballroom A) - Introductions with Safety Team - Conference Safety & Mitigation
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Dinner Break (ON YOUR OWN)
7:45 PM	LPC Reception (Golden State Ballroom) - Light Refreshments Provided - Guest Speaker - Cody Martinez, Chairman, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation - Bird Singing
12:00 AM	Curfew/Lights out! (DAILY)

2025 National UNITY Conference

Local Planning Committee Reception

Friday, June 27th
(Golden State Ballroom)

7:45 PM

LPC Reception

- Light Refreshments Provided

7:50 PM

Opening Prayer

- Kenny Meza (Jamal Indian Village),
Tribal Elder

7:55 PM

Opening Remarks

- Chairman Cody Martinez,
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay
Nation

8:05 PM

Bird Singing

- Blue Eagle Vigil, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay
Indians
- Fred Largo, Campo Band of Kumeyaay
Indians

9:05 PM

Mock Peon Game

- Tribal Youth, Sycuan Band of the
Kumeyaay Nation

9:30 PM

Jim Thorpe Documentary

- Dr. Joely Proudfit, Director - California
Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center
Department Chair and Professor, American
Indian Studies, CSUSM

Saturday, June 28th (Theme: MENTAL DEVELOPMENT)
WEAR ORANGE - HONOR EVERY CHILD MATTERS

COLLEGE & CAREER DAY!

6:30 AM	Wellness Warriors Fitness! (North Parking Lot/Town & Country D) • Mary Kim's Milers or Zumba with Eileen Crocker
8:00 AM	General Session (Golden State Ballroom) • Opening • Liliana Mars & Mazie Countryman, NUC EC Emcees • Blessing with Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Youth Council • UNITY News • Evaluation Giveaway, Raffles & Prizes • LorenAshley Buford, Event & Resource Development Manager, UNITY
8:30 AM	College & Career Day Kickoff! (Golden State Ballroom) • Dr. Joely Proudfit, Director - California Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center Department Chair and Professor, American Indian Studies, CSUSM • Jeanine Gaines, Director of Partnerships, Children Youth Behavioral Health Initiative
8:40 AM	National UNITY Council Every Child Matters Presentation • Special Presentation: Sicangu Youth Council - Carlisle Indian School Repatriation • Orange Ribbon Awareness Activity: Jalen Harvey, NUCEC Secretary
9:05 AM	Announcements: Movement is Medicine
9:15 AM	Keynote Speaker - Jacob Tobey • Broadcaster, San Antonio Spurs, Mashpee Wampanoag
9:55 AM	Welcome Remarks - GRIC Governor Stephen Roe Lewis
10:00 AM	Break (Go to Workshops/Advisor Rooms)
10:15 AM	Workshops Session #1 (45min. WORKSHOPS)
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Advisor Training #2 with Dr. Pearl Yellowman (Pacific Ballroom A)
11:00 AM	Break (Go to Workshops/Advisor Rooms)
11:15 AM	Workshops Session #2 (45min. WORKSHOPS)
12:00 PM	Lunch Break (On Your Own)
1:45 PM	Visit Educational Booths and Earn A Chance to Win Raffle Prizes!
2:30 PM	Workshops Session #3 (45min. WORKSHOPS)
3:15 PM	Break (Go to Workshops/Advisor Rooms)
3:30 PM	Workshops Session #4 (45min. WORKSHOPS)
5:00 PM	Dinner Break (ON YOUR OWN)
7:00 PM	UNITY Cultural Night (SIGN-UP REQUIRED)
11:00 PM	Adjourn • Spirit Room Available (prayers, cultural sharing and reflections) (ADVISORS MUST BE PRESENT WITH ATTENDEES)
12:00 AM	Curfew/Lights Out! (DAILY)

Sunday, June 29th (Theme: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT)
WEAR YOUR TRADITIONAL SHIRT OR SKIRT DAY

Wellness Warrior Day

6:30 AM	Wellness Warriors Fitness! (North Parking Lot/Town & Country D) • Mary Kim's Milers or Zumba with Eileen Crocker
8:00 AM	Traditional Shirt and Skirt Fashion Show (Golden State Ballroom)
8:30 AM	General Session • Opening: Earth Ambassadors Nizhoni Deschene & Néepa Hyde • Blessing/Cultural Presentation with Bishop Paiute Tribal Youth Council • UNITY News! • Evaluation Giveaway, Raffles & Prizes • LorenAshley Buford, Event & Resource Development Manager, UNITY

Sunday, June 29th (Theme: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT)
WEAR YOUR TRADITIONAL SHIRT OR SKIRT DAY

9:00 AM	Quannah Chasinghorse: Land Defender Fireside Chat
	• Earth Defender, International Supermodel, Han Gwich'in/Sicangu Oglala Lakota
9:30 AM	Announcements: Movement is Medicine
9:40 AM	Fireside Chat with National Native Youth Leaders
	• Moderated by NUC EC Secretary, Jalen Harvey
	• Youth Representatives from CNAY, NCAI and UNITY
10:10 AM	Announcements
10:15 AM	Break (Go to Workshops/Advisor Rooms)
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Area Caucus Sessions #2
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	Advisor Training #3 with Dr. Pearl Yellowman
12:00 PM	Lunch Break (On Your Own)
7:00 PM	Talent Night (Sign-Up Required)
12:00 AM	Curfew/Lights Out! (DAILY)

**3 ON 3 BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT**
San Diego State University
2:00 PM
(Transportation on own)

Monday, June 30th (Theme: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)
WEAR RED IN HONOR OF MMIR

7:30 AM	Morning Music	(Golden State Ballroom)
	• Marcus "Emcee One" Guinn, Osage/Potawatomi	
8:00 AM	General Session	(Golden State Ballroom)
	• Opening	
	• Emcess	
	• Blessing/Cultural Presentation	
	• UNITY News!	
	• Evaluation Giveaway, Raffles & Prizes	
	• LorenAshley Buford, Event & Resource Development Manager, UNITY	
8:30 AM	NUC EC Co-President Speeches	
8:50 AM	Video Message Secretary Deb Haaland	
8:55 AM	National UNITY Council MMIP Subcommittee Presentation	
	• Red Ribbon Awareness Activity: Jalen Harvey, NUCEC Secretary	
	• Dr. Aaron Payment, Tribal Fellow, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	
9:20 AM	Announcements: Movement is Medicine	
9:25 AM	National UNITY Council's National Initiative: Call to Action!	
9:45 AM	Announcements	
	• NUC Business Meeting Instructions	
	• NUC EC Co-Presidents: Kaytlynn Johnston & Watson Whitford	
10:00 AM	Break (Go to Workshops/Advisor Rooms)	
10:15 AM	Workshops Session #1 (45min. WORKSHOPS)	
10:15 AM	National UNITY Council Business Meeting	(Pacific Ballroom A)
	• MANDATORY FOR ALL YOUTH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES	
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Advisor Training #4 with Dr. Pearl Yellowman	(Golden State Ballroom)
11:00 AM	Break (Go to Workshops/Advisor Rooms)	
11:15 AM	Workshops Session #2 (45min. WORKSHOPS)	
12:00 PM	Lunch Break (On Your Own)	

Monday, June 30th (Theme: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)
WEAR RED IN HONOR OF MMIR

1:45 PM	Visit Educational Booths and Earn A Chance to Win Raffle Prizes!	
2:30 PM	Workshops Session #3 (45min. WORKSHOPS)	
3:15 PM	Break (Go to Workshops/Advisor Rooms)	
3:30 PM	Workshops Session #4 (45min. WORKSHOPS)	
4:15 PM	Break (GET READY FOR Award Show!)	
6:00 PM	"Under the Sky" Soiree - Food Stations • Food, Music & Photo Booths • VIP lounge for Major Sponsors	(Outdoor Lawns)
7:00 PM	Doors Open for Award Show • Special Performance - One Way Sky	(Golden State Ballroom)
7:30 PM	UNITY Fashion Show • Norma Flying Horse, Red Berry Woman Designs	
8:00 PM	UNITY Awards & Scholarship Presentation • JR Cook - Advisor of the Year • Eddie Wadda - Alumni of the Year • UNITY Youth Council of the Year • Golda Cook Scholarship • JR Cook Memorial Scholarship • Norman DesRoisers Scholarship with DesRoiser Family • Honoring the NUC EC 2024-2025 • Special Presentation • 50th National UNITY Conference Presentation • NUC EC 2025 - 2026 Election Announcement ◦ Oath of Office ◦ Honor Song	
9:15 PM - 11:00 PM	UNITY Dance	(Golden State Ballroom)
	UNITY Intertribal Social Dance • UNITY Drum	(Town & Country Ballroom D)
12:00 AM	Curfew/Lights Out! (DAILY)	

Tuesday, July 1st (Closing: UNITY COMMITMENT CEREMONY)

7:00 AM - 8:45 AM	New NUC EC Orientation (MANDATORY FOR ALL NUC EC 2025-2026 REPS)	
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Closing Ceremony at UNITY FIRE • Prayer • Tribal Leader Remarks • Commitment Ceremony & UNITY Fire with UNITY Trainers • 2027 National UNITY Conference Location Announcement • Evaluation Giveaway, Raffles & Prizes ◦ LorenAshley Buford, Event & Resource Development Manager, UNITY • Special Presentation ◦ Mary Kim Titla, Executive Director, UNITY • Friendship Circle with UNITY DRUM	(Martini Lawn)

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Workshops: Saturday, June 28 - session 1 & 2

session 1 - 10:15 am - 11:00 am / session 2 - 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
College and Career	Guided by Our Nations: A Tribal Leaders Dialogue with Native Youth	UNITY Co-Presidents	Panelists will share real-world leadership experiences and lessons learned, offering valuable insight into civic engagement and Indigenous leadership.	Golden State Ballroom
College and Career	University of California, Overview	Juan Carlos Lopez	We will explore the ins-and-outs of what is required to be consider for admissions to the University of California.	Palm Room 1
College and Career	Creating Native & Indigenous Centered Retention Programs	Aerin Scalco	In this session, attendees will identify key successes in improving student retention, and develop strategies to enhance support for students.	Palm Room 2
College & Career	How to Build Your Network, Skills, and Resume During College	Elijah Cota	Learn how to build strong connections, discover your strengths, and turn college into a stepping stone for meaningful opportunities.	Palm Room 3
College & Career	Internship and Fellowship Opportunities at NMAI	Krishna Aniel	Learn the various opportunities to intern at the National Museum of the American Indian's, the Native American Collections Fellowship and the Native Arts Fellowship.	Palm Room 4
College & Career	Why Haskell?	Rhonda LeValdo	Present information on attending Haskell Indian Nations University and the options we have.	Palm Room 5
College & Career	College admissions 101	Mika Harrison	Attendees will learn all about College Admissions 101: when to start touring colleges, when to apply, FAFSA deadlines, and scholarship seasons.	Palm Room 6

Workshops: Saturday, June 28 - session 1 & 2

session 1 - 10:15 am - 11:00 am / session 2 - 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
College & Career	The Career Compass: Moving Towards Mental Wellness and Meaningful Work	Adene Karhan	In this session we'll talk about how understanding your mental health can help youth and young adults examine potential career paths and make informed choices.	Palm Room 7
College & Career	Career Readiness: Empowering Futures	Dania Wahwasuck	We will engage in discussions about overcoming barriers, embracing cultural identity, and harnessing strengths to succeed in various career paths.	Palm Room 8
College & Career	Play and Learn: Tribal Gaming	Danielle Finn	This will be a workshop to teach and play the 3 different classifications of gaming in Indian Country through games.	Sunset 1
College & Career	"Against the Odds: Turning Struggles into Strength and Dreams into Reality"	Jason Amador	This workshop will equip you with the mindset, daily habits, and self-belief needed to overcome adversity and pursue your goals with purpose.	Sunset 3
College & Career	Let's Go Viral! Empowering Native Youth Through Social Media	Ian Teller	Through interactive activities, Native youth will learn how to use social platforms to amplify their voices, share their stories, and drive meaningful change.	Pacific I
Community Advocacy	Buffalo in the Storm: Organizing in Inclement Political Weather	Tremayne Nez	In this workshop, we aim to apply lessons from buffalo relatives to our current challenges.	Town & Country B
Community Advocacy	Knowing Our Power: Understanding Systems, Influence, and Strategy	Angela Diaz	In this session, we'll walk through what a power analysis is and how it can be used to understand power structures within our communities.	Sunset 4

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Workshops: Saturday, June 28 - session 1 & 2

session 1 - 10:15 am - 11:00 am / session 2 - 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
Culture	"Honoring Our Relatives: A Native Youth-Centered Approach to the MMIWR Crisis"	Lynnette Grey Bull	This workshop will explore how Native youth can play a vital role in advocacy, awareness, and policy change around Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives.	Town & Country C
Culture	Leadership	Travis Ruiz	Fostering a culture where vulnerability and relentlessness meet through an engaging leadership approach.	Pacific C
Culture	Keres BINGO: Celebrating Culture & Community	Rosemary Reano	Get ready to listen closely and shout "BINGO!" for a chance to win prizes. This is a wonderful way to experience a piece of Keres language and culture in a fun and memorable setting.	Pacific G
Culture	SD Hip Hop Workshop	Nicholas Havens	We will cover all elements of Hip Hop including, Writing Singing/Rap'N, Breakin'/Dancing, Graffiti/Art in blackbooks/Murals & Dj'N/Producing.	Pacific H
Culture	Awaken the Warrior	Kansas Middletent	This workshop is a hands on experimental learning approach that creates a safe environment for our students to gain valuable life skills that will help them navigate "walking in two worlds".	Martini Lawn
Culture	Reclaim Your Roots, Reclaim Your Mind	Sommer Lopez	We'll explore how reconnecting with our traditions can boost your mental health, help you stay grounded, and guide you toward becoming a leader.	Pacific E

Workshops: Saturday June 28 session 1 & 2

session 1 - 10:15 am - 11:00 am / session 2 - 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
Environment	2025 class of Earth Ambassadors	Earth Ambassadors	Join the newly inducted class of Earth Ambassadors in this workshop session covering various topics related to culture and environmental stewardship.	Town & Country D
Environment	Currents of Change: Indigenous Youth Rising for Ocean Rights	Kelsey Leonard	This interactive workshop brings together Indigenous youth to explore the rights of the Ocean through the lens of traditional knowledge and advocacy.	Pacific D
Health & Wellness	Beads of Strength: A Quest for Inner Care	Jalen Harvey	As you complete small acts of self-care and reflection, you will earn a bead representing your personal strength and healing.	Sunset 2
Health & Wellness	Skincare and beauty. How it relates to our health.	Tania Estrada	Teaching the youth about skincare and beauty and how it relates to our health.	Pacific F
Health & Wellness	'Resiliency' from a Dine Youth Therapist perspective	Anya Ashley	In this session we will discuss resiliency and positive ways to cope with stress. Attendees will generate ideas from others, but also learn how to incorporate these ideas into their own lives.	Sunset Patio
Health & Wellness	Girls Flag Football 2028 Olympic Sport	Keith Vasquez	Introducing our native Americans/indigenous youth to Girls flag football, the fastest growing sport in the U.S.	Flamingo Lawn



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ALABAMA NATIVES.
ALABAMA NEIGHBORS.

Workshops: Saturday, June 28 - session 3 & 4

session 3 - 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm / session 4 - 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
College and Career	Guided by Our Nations: A Tribal Leaders Dialogue with Native Youth	UNITY Co-Presidents	Panelists will share real-world leadership experiences and offer valuable insight into civic engagement and Indigenous leadership.	Golden State Ballroom
College and Career	University of California, Overview	Juan Carlos Lopez	We will explore the ins-and-outs of what is required to be consider for admissions to the University of California.	Palm Room 1
College and Career	Creating Native & Indigenous Centered Retention Programs	Aerin Scalco	Attendees will identify key successes in improving student retention, and develop strategies to enhance support for students.	Palm Room 2
College and Career	Pathways to Purpose: Native Voices on Higher Education Journeys	Tommy Devers	American Indian student leaders from CSUSM will engage in an interactive session exploring the transformative power of higher education.	Palm Room 3
College and Career	Let's Go Viral! Empowering Native Youth Through Social Media	Ian Teller	Through interactive activities, Native youth will learn how to use social platforms to amplify their voices, share their stories, and drive meaningful change.	Pacific I
College and Career	Conducting interviews for social media	Victor Organista	This workshop will be a guide through the steps that are necessary for conducting a successful interview.	Sunset 2
Community Advocacy	Buffalo in the Storm: Organizing in Inclement Political Weather	Tremayne Nez	In this workshop, we aim to apply lessons from buffalo relatives to our current challenges.	Town & Country B

Workshops: Saturday, June 28 - session 3 & 4

session 3 - 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm / session 4 - 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
Community Advocacy	Wuske Washapuk	Liliana Mars	In this workshop we will share our experiences and create a safe space to have fun and connect our roots.	Town & Country C
Community Advocacy	The Future is Us: Building Inclusive Leadership for Tomorrow	Whitney Robinson	This is a dynamic and interactive workshop designed to inspire and prepare individuals to become impactful leaders.	Palm Room 5
Community Advocacy	Strengthening Policies, Empowering Native Youth	Kimberly Osmani	Participants will discuss how Native youth and communities are strengthening policies that support youth with disabilities.	Palm Room 7
Community Advocacy	The Power of Community	Kaylee Evans	Attendees will express their experiences with community strength as we explore the power that community has within our Native culture.	Sunset 1
Culture	Diné Philosophy of Learning	Kaleb Jones	This workshop will share an interactive presentation about how to use the Diné Philosophy of Learning in everyday life.	Palm Room 4
Culture	Sewing Traditions Together	Stephanie Garcia	Attendees will sew items and incorporate designs that hold cultural significance for participants.	Sunset 4
Culture	Piipaa Xumar Shuvar (Maricopa Children Songs)	Aarick Mack	Learn children's songs translated into the Piipaash language.	Pacific C
Culture	Who Are You?: Unearthing and Embracing our Indigenous Identities	Angelo Romero	Bridging gap between traditional and modern approaches on how to preserve our tradition in the 21st century.	Pacific E



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Workshops: Saturday, June 28 - session 3 & 4

session 3 - 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm / session 4 - 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
Culture	Creator's Game: Building a pathway to the future	Edison Red Nest III	In this workshop we will discuss the origins of Creator's Game and how we use it to better ourselves. We will discuss how Lacrosse is being utilized to send our Native youth to college.	Flamingo Lawn
Environment	2025 class of Earth Ambassadors	Earth Ambassadors	Join the newly inducted class of Earth Ambassadors in this workshop session covering various topics related to culture and environmental stewardship.	Town & Country D
Environment	Sagebrush & Bingo: Native Plants of Fort Hall	Mazie Countryman	Native Plant Bingo—learn as you play and win prizes while deepening your connection to the land!	Pacific G
Environment	Indigenous Surf Film	Native Like Water	Join the Native Like Water team to indulge in Indigenous film.	Pacific D
Health & Wellness	LGBTQIA/ Two Spirit Safe Space/talking circle . MMIP Awareness	Layha Spoonhunter	This workshop will provide a safe space to talk about issues affecting LGBTQIA and Two Spirit native youth and their allies.	Palm Room 6
Health & Wellness	Wellness and Prevention with the Tribal Youth Court and AIR Programs	Temyal Lomayesva	This presentation will cover the framework and Peer Decision maker training process as part of our Tribal Youth Court.	Palm Room 8
Health & Wellness	Indigenous Surfing, a Metaphor for Life	Marc Chavez	Presentation will include a sneak preview of the Indigenous Surf Film Haagua and demonstrate how youth can obtain a flow state through cultural water recreation.	Pacific F

Workshops: Saturday, June 28 - session 3 & 4

session 3 - 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm / session 4 - 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
Health & Wellness	Running Towards Healing: Mental Wellness Through Movement	Terence Brown	this workshop, we will address the challenges affecting Native youth today and explore their deep connection to mental well-being.	Pacific H
Health & Wellness	Self Care - Make your own candy jars	Ashley Johnston	Make Your Own Candy Jar workshop! You'll decorate your own jar and fill it with your favorite sweets, because self-care should always be sweet and simple!	Sunset Patio

At CSUSM, you don't choose between your heritage and your degree — **YOU** strengthen **BOTH**.



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YOUR

EDUCATION

YOUR

FUTURE



Start Your Journey: csusm.edu | (760) 750-4000
Financial Aid: csusm.edu/finaid | Application Deadline:
Priority consideration by March 2

CSUSM



Why CSUSM is Home for Native Students:

- Award-winning California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center
- 18 distinguished American Indian faculty members
- NEW American Indian Student Center opening Fall 2025
- Significant Native Student Population - A thriving Native community



Programs That Make a Difference:

- Indigenous Climate & Environmental Collaborative (ICEC) - Indigenous solutions for environmental challenges
- Tribal partnerships - Real-world opportunities with local and national tribal governments
- Indigenous Leaders Empowerment & Development Program (ILEAD) - Leadership development rooted in community values
- Award-winning - American Indian Student Alliance



Workshops: Monday, June 30 - session 1 & 2

session 1 - 10:15 am - 11:00 am / session 2 - 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
College and Career	Creating Your Elevator Pitch	Jaycee Salling	A strong pitch can help you build relationships, explore career paths, and gain valuable insights even if you're not actively seeking employment.	Palm Room 1
College and Career	Dreamstarter: Changing Your Community One Dream at a Time	Sydney Farhang	RS staff will present on this program as an opportunity for Native youth to engage with their communities.	Palm Room 2
College and Career	Internship and Fellowship Opportunities at NMAI	Krishna Aniel	Learn the various opportunities to intern at the National Museum of the American Indian's, the Native American Collections Fellowship and the Native Arts Fellowship.	Palm Room 4
College and Career	Why Haskell?	Rhonda LeValdo	Present information on attending Haskell Indian Nations University and the options we have.	Palm Room 5
College & Career	College admissions 101	Mika Harrison	Attendees will learn all about College Admissions 101: when to start touring colleges, when to apply, FAFSA deadlines, and scholarship seasons.	Palm Room 6
College & Career	The Career Compass: Moving Towards Mental Wellness and Meaningful Work	Adene Karhan	In this session we'll talk about how understanding your mental health can help youth and young adults examine potential career paths and make informed choices.	Palm Room 7
College & Career	Play and Learn: Tribal Gaming	Danielle Finn	This will be a workshop to teach and play the 3 different classifications of gaming in Indian Country through games.	Sunset 1

Workshops: Monday, June 30 - session 1 & 2

session 1 - 10:15 am - 11:00 am / session 2 - 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
College & Career	"Against the Odds: Turning Struggles into Strength and Dreams into Reality"	Jason Amador	This workshop will equip you with the mindset, daily habits, and self-belief needed to overcome adversity and pursue your goals with purpose.	Sunset 3
Community Advocacy	Pageant Preparation & Public Speaking: Find Your Voice	Dania Wahwasuck	Participants will learn the importance of stage presence, effective communication, and how to convey their stories with confidence.	Pacific D
Community Advocacy	Cultivating Community	Eileen Crocker	Discover your inherent abilities and empower your voice as Eileen shares her experiences and skills to help you cultivate your community.	Pacific F
Community Advocacy	Hawai'i & Tulalip Youth Unite to Uplift Our Communities	Lilla Iokepa-Guerrero	An overview of the International Declaration document and the developed Tulalip Declaration of Youth document.	Town & Country B
Culture	Traditional Games of the North	Kyle Worl	Discover pathways to participate in Traditional Games competitively and recreationally, including scholarship and travel opportunities.	Town & Country C
Culture	Understanding Colonial Norms to Build a Network of Support for Native American Students	Aerin Scalco	This workshop will explore how the Native Resource Center (NRC) at SDSU operates within a colonial university system while centering Indigenous ways of being.	Sunset 4

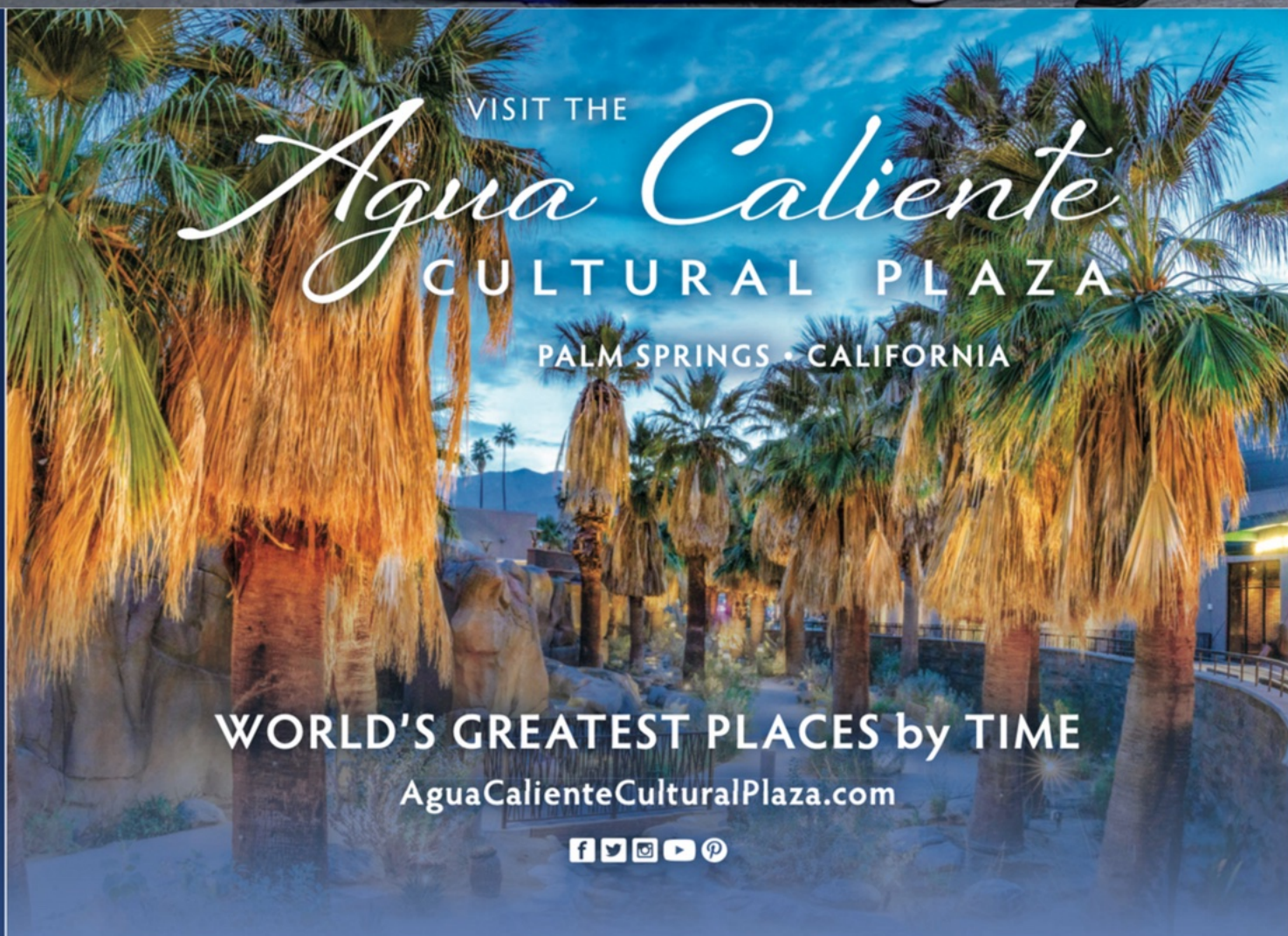


The Colorado River Indian Tribes Salute:

UNITY 2025



CELEBRATING VOICES OF H.O.P.E
YOUTH CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE



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Workshops: Monday, June 30 - session 1 & 2

session 1 - 10:15 am - 11:00 am / session 2 - 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
Health & Wellness	Break Cycle Warriors	Bradly Guachino	Using physical, mental, and spiritual strategies and tactics. Walking with our youth through Indian country and breaking cycles along the way.	Pacific C
Culture	Cultural	Charlene Worrell- Elliott	Promoting the importance of our relationship to the environment empowering our connection to nature and culture.	Pacific G
Culture	SD Hip Hop Workshop	Nicholas Havens	This workshop will explore all elements of Hip Hop including, Writing Singing/Rap'N, Breakin'/Dancing, etc.	Pacific H
Environment	2025 class of Earth Ambassadors	Earth Ambassadors	Join the newly inducted class of Earth Ambassadors in this workshop session covering various topics related to culture and environmental stewardship.	Town & Country D
Environment	Reviving Indigenous Aquaculture: Oyster, Abalone + Kelp Restoration	Coach Jackson	Building capacity to support Indigenous-led South Coast oyster, abalone + kelp restoration in partnership with Scripps Institution of Oceanography and SDSU CMIL.	Pacific I
Health & Wellness	We Are Medicine: New Medicine Is Needed	Winona Boado	This workshop is an opportunity to empower Indigenous youth by strengthening kinship bonds exploring the deep work of self-discovery and community care.	Pacific E

Workshops: Monday, June 30 - session 1 & 2

session 1 - 10:15 am - 11:00 am / session 2 - 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
Health & Wellness	Mobile Technology as a First Line of Defense for Young Adults	Ken House	Using mobile technology, Tribal Nations can meet young people where they are and help them get better outcomes from diseases of despair - suicide, addiction, etc.	Sunset 2
Health & Wellness	'Resiliency' from a Dine Youth Therapist perspective	Anya Ashley	Attendees will generate ideas to cope with stress from others, but also learn how to incorporate these ideas into their own lives.	Sunset Patio
Health & Wellness	Girls Flag Football 2028 Olympic Sport	Keith Vasquez	Introducing our native Americans/indigenous youth to Girls flag football, the fastest growing sport in the U.S.	Flamingo Lawn
Health & Wellness	Hoop Dance Workshop With Eric Michael Hernandez	Eric Hernandez	Discover the art, tradition, and athleticism of Native American Hoop Dance in this interactive workshop led by award-winning hoop dancer Eric Hernandez.	Martini Lawn
Health & Wellness	Breathing, Movement, & Peaceful Sounds: a "Me Moment" Retreat	Daniel Hatcher	Join Healthier Generation for an interactive "Me Moment" retreat where you'll explore restorative activities to find peace and calm. Participants will receive a list of free resources to use and share with others.	Palm Room 3
UNITY	NUCEC Business Meeting	Executive Committee	Youth councils need who are in good standing, including up-to-date annual UNITY Network affiliation fees and reports, will have voting privileges and access to business meeting content.	Pacific A

Live *beyond*



If past trauma still hurts,
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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are common. ACEs can include experiencing abuse, neglect, having a caregiver who struggled with mental health or substance use, or experiencing divorce or the loss of a parent. Toxic stress caused by ACEs can impact our mental and physical health, and our relationships. Even today. But it's never too late to begin healing.



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2025 HEALING CIRCLES

Join us for this free training for
Native youth ages 14-24 years old.
UNITY is seeking partners interested
in hosting these upcoming trainings.

COMING TO A STATE NEAR YOU:

- September 2025 - Washington
- October 2025 - Oklahoma
- April 2026 - Louisiana
- May 2026 - Montana



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Workshops: Monday, June 30 - session 3 & 4

session 3 - 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm / session 4 - 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
College & Career	Microenterprise Development in Tribal Communities	Josh Smith	This workshop will offer tips on how to develop a business plan, how to brand yourself and how to create a marketing strategy.	Palm Room 2
Community Advocacy	Reasonable Accommodations in Higher Education	Jesse Lara	A student's right to disability-related reasonable accommodations from a public/private college or university.	Palm Room 1
Community Advocacy	Tribal Youth Protecting Youth From MMIP & Exploitation	Dr. Aaron Payment	Monday "Honoring Our Relatives: A Native Youth-Centered Approach to the MMIWR Crisis"	Palm Room 4
Community Advocacy	The Future is Us: Building Inclusive Leadership for Tomorrow	Whitney Robinson	Participants will explore the power of representation and the importance of inclusive leadership.	Palm Room 5
Community Advocacy	Strengthening Policies, Empowering Native Youth	Kimberly Osmani	Participants will discuss how Native youth and communities are strengthening policies that support youth with disabilities in employment.	Palm Room 7
Culture	Tradition Games	Steven Tamayo	Native youth play a vital role in advocacy, awareness, and policy change around MMIP	Town & Country C
Culture	Mental Health for Modern Day Warriors	Taylor Susan	Workshop will include presentation about stress and ways to cope with stress.	Sunset 4
Culture	Piipaa Xumar Shuvar (Maricopa Children Songs)	Aarick Mack	Learn children's songs translated into the Piipaash language.	Pacific C
Culture	UNITY Drum	Isidoro Sierra	Learn about the history of the UNITY drum.	Martini Lawn

Workshops: Monday, June 30 - session 3 & 4

session 3 - 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm / session 4 - 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

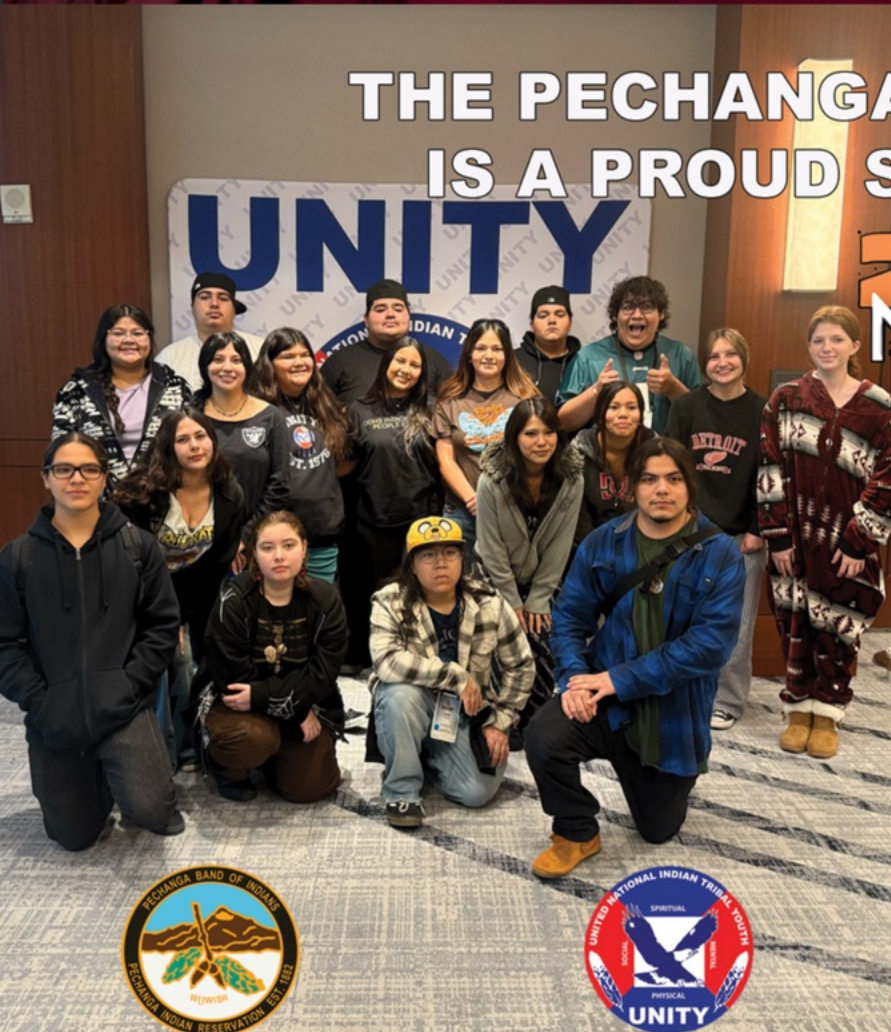
Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
Culture	Who Are You?: Unearthing and Embracing our Indigenous Identities	Angelo Romero	Bridging gap between traditional and modern approaches on how to preserve our tradition in the 21st century.	Pacific E
Culture	Dine Culture Sharing & Generational Teachings	Talibah Begay	I would love to share how important the connection between a grandchild and grandparent is.	Pacific G
Culture	"Story Medicine: Reclaiming Identity Through Traditional Storytelling"	Angelina Hinojosa	This youth-led workshop will use traditional storytelling as a teaching tool to help Native youth reclaim their identity, overcome behavioral struggles, and find strength in ancestral knowledge.	Pacific I
Culture	Maanico Horuzra Youth Council Culture Sharing	Vicky Ontiveros Gallegos	Traditional games of the Ho-Chunk Nation.	Palm Room 3
Environment	2025 class of Earth Ambassadors	Earth Ambassadors	Join the newly inducted class of Earth Ambassadors in this workshop session covering various topics related to culture and environmental stewardship.	Town & Country D
Health & Wellness	Opioid Awareness & Narcotics Administration	Julie Woochuk	A presentation designed to increase awareness regarding opioids.	Palm Room 6
Health & Wellness	Safe Sex Practices & STI Prevention	Kara De Angelo	We would like to do a Q&A prior and post presentation along with giveaways to active participants in post oral "Quiz Questions."	Palm Room 8
Health & Wellness	Native VISION - Living a Life You Have Always Dreamed Of	Louis Blue Cloud Baca	Join us to learn how you can begin to live a joyful and meaningful life...a life you have always dreamed of.	Sunset 1



Working Together for Our Future

**THE PECHANGA BAND OF INDIANS
IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE**

**2025
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CONFERENCE**



This year's theme, **Voices of H.O.P.E.** highlights the vital role Native youth play in shaping healthier and stronger communities. Pechanga stands with **UNITY** in empowering youth leaders to speak out, take action, and promote positive mental health and well-being.

By supporting youth voices and leadership today, we are helping to build a brighter, healthier future for our children—**chámmakilawish**.



Workshops: Monday, June 30 - session 3 & 4

session 3 - 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm / session 4 - 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Category	Workshop Title	Presenter	Description	Room
Health & Wellness	Indigenous Approach to Mental Wellness	Monique Castro	This workshop will include a deeper understanding of Indigenous core values, balance, and sustainability.	Sunset 2
Health & Wellness	Alcohol: the Mind Killer	Edison Red Nest III	We will talk about ways to come back alcoholism and help those currently struggling.	Sunset 3
Health & Wellness	Creative Expressions for Mental Wellness	Brianna Farnam	Using the creative arts to enhance mental wellness	Pacific D
Health & Wellness	Indigenous Surfing, a Metaphor for Life	Marc Chavez	Presentation will include a sneak preview of the Indigenous Surf Film Haagua and demonstrate how youth can obtain a flow state through cultural water recreation.	Pacific F
Health & Wellness	Running Towards Healing: Mental Wellness Through Movement	Terence Brown	this workshop, we will address the challenges affecting Native youth today and explore their deep connection to mental well-being.	Pacific H
Health & Wellness	I got this!	Sheldon Smith	We'll explore positive affirmations—what they are, how to use them, and why they're powerful for your mind and mood.	Sunset Patio
Health & Wellness	Our Healing Seal	Kelly Valo	Learn what type of leader they are and how their skills in communication and healing can be a steppingstone towards Mental Health education and awareness.	Flamingo Lawn
Health & Wellness	Spiritual Awakening Connection through Culture	LoVina Louie & Hunter Genia	How do you connect? Embracing your spirit and connection through song, prayer and language.	Town & Country B
UNITY	NUCEC Business Meeting	Executive Committee	Youth councils need who are in good standing, including up-to-date annual UNITY Network affiliation fees and reports, will have voting privileges and access to business meeting content.	Pacific A

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2024-25 National UNITY Council Executive Committee



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Female Co-President
Bishop Paiute



Watson Whitford
Male Co-President
Chippewa Cree/
Navajo



Mazie Countryman
Northwest Representative
Northern Arapaho/
Eastern Shoshone/
Shoshone Bannock/
Navajo



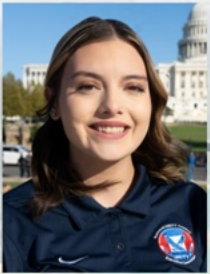
O'shay
Birdinground
Rocky Mountain Representative
Apsaalooke (Crow)



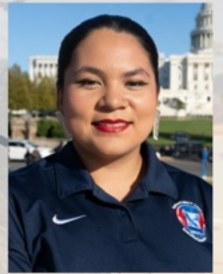
Sophia Landin
Great Plains Representative
Mandan/Hidatsa/
Arikara



Marla Messarina
Midwest Representative
Leech Lake Band of
Ojibwe/
Sisseton Wahpeton
Oyate



Ashley Johnston
Pacific Representative
Bishop Paiute



Liliana Mars
Northeast Representative
Narangansett/Navajo



Jalen Harvey
Secretary & Western Representative
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Acoma/ Hopi



Jaime Crowe
Southwest Representative
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Mahiya Ramirez
Vice President & Southern Plains Representative
Muscogee (Creek)



Kaylee Evans
Southeast Representative
Haliwa Saponi/Lumbee



Healing can start without a pro



Connecting with your community can help make a difference. Your friends, family, elders, and others may be available to listen, to support you, and help you release stressful feelings. Learn other ways to reduce negative emotions at TakeSpaceToPause.org



The Mohegan Tribe is a Proud Supporter of the 2025 National UNITY Conference



Mohegan
Tribe

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Uncasville, CT 06382
<https://mohegan.nsn.us>

2025 Earth Ambassadors



Néepe Hyde
Shinnecock



Marla Mesarina
Leech Lake Band of
Ojibwe/Sisseton
Wahpeton Oyate



Vydell Willie
Navajo Nation



Mahiya Ramirez
Muscogee (Creek)
Nation



McKaylin Peters
Menominee



Codie Horse-Topetchy
Kiowa/Comanche/
Otoe-Missouria



Jada Allen
Lumbee Tribe of
North Carolina



Nizhoni Deschene
Navajo Nation/
Turtle Mountain
Chippewa



Laylalanai Gocobachi
Pascua Yaqui Tribe



Jizelle Juan
Salt River Pima-
Maricopa Indian
Community



2025 REGIONAL EARTH AMBASSADORS GATHERINGS

Connect with fellow youth leaders passionate about environmental stewardship. For more information contact youth programs.

COMING TO A STATE NEAR YOU:

- August - Michigan
- September - Florida
- October - Arizona
- November - Hawaii



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Connect with our Tribal Finance professionals to explore pathways to financial literacy. Whether it's coaching, mentoring, or comprehensive financial programs, we're here to support Native Youth: our future Tribal Leaders.

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Hattie Mitchell

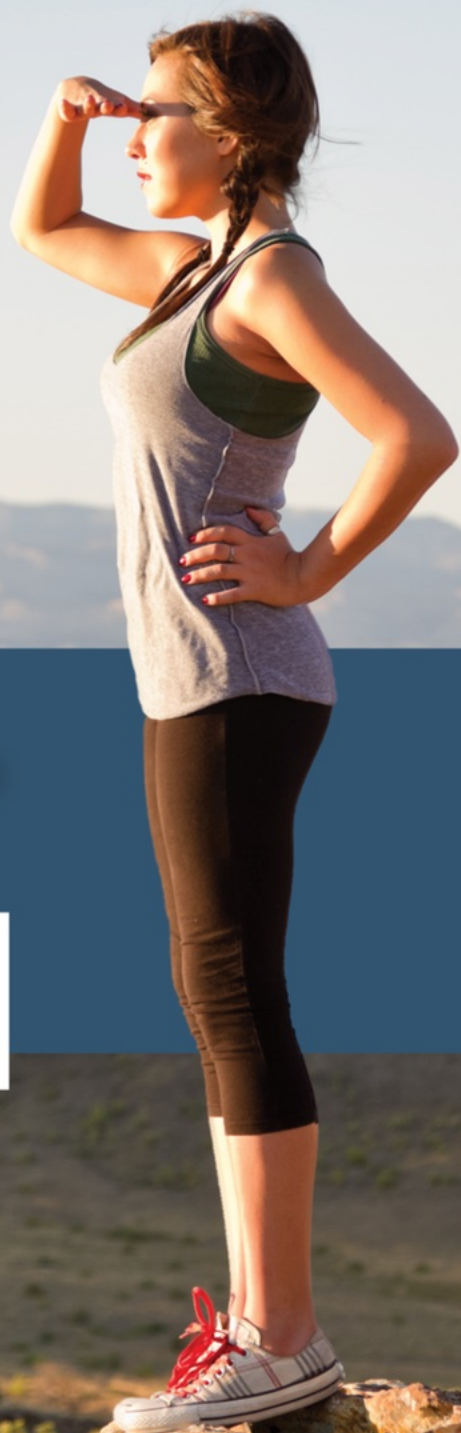
Ask Hattie Mitchell—a key member of REDW's National Tribal Practice—about her own journey, what she loves about the accounting profession, internship opportunities, and more!

Scan to learn more:



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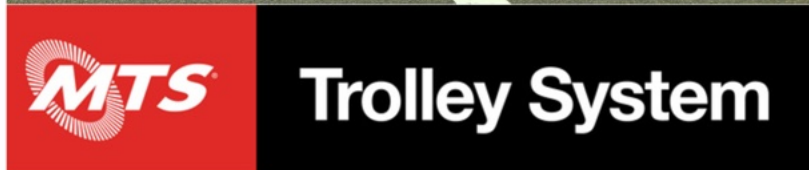
Transportation Information

San Diego

International Airport

Located 7 miles away from Town & Country Resort, receives from than 20 million passengers a year. So few things to cover:

1. READ ID, a requirement for all U.S. residents after May 7th, 2025. You can visit the federal government's website for more information.
2. Transportation to San Diego International Airport
 - a. The San Diego Flyer, an electric shuttle-bus service. Operates 7 days a week between airport and Old Town Transit Center, where you can connect to the Trolley (Trolley Map to the right). Buses stop at both main terminals and arrive every 20-30 minutes.
3. Taxi or Shuttle
 - a. An easy way to get to the main terminals. They can be found at the Transportation Plazas outside each terminal.
4. Car Rentals
 - a. The airport is served by all major car rental companies. There are free shuttles that transport customers between the terminals and Rental Car Center.
5. Bus
 - a. Bus Route 992 (operated by Metropolitan Transit System) takes passengers to and from Downtown's Santa Fe Depot. You may download the PRONTO APP to load funds to pay for your ride.
6. Trolley
 - a. The easiest way to access multiple lines of the San Diego Trolley is by taking the free San Diego Airport Flyer shuttle to Old Town Transit Center.

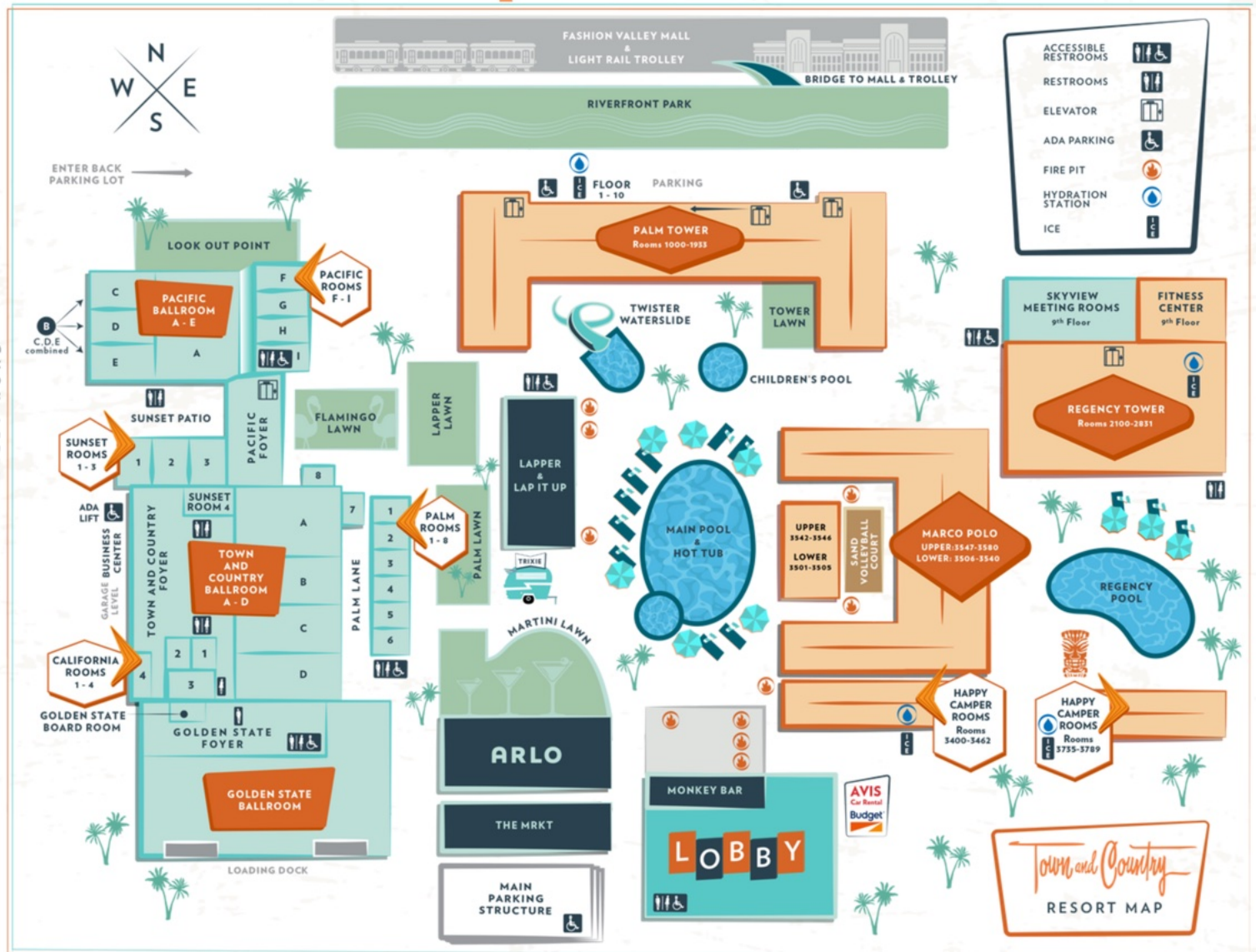




"The Strong People"

J A M E S T O W N S ' K L A L L A M T R I B E

Hotel Map & Places to Visit

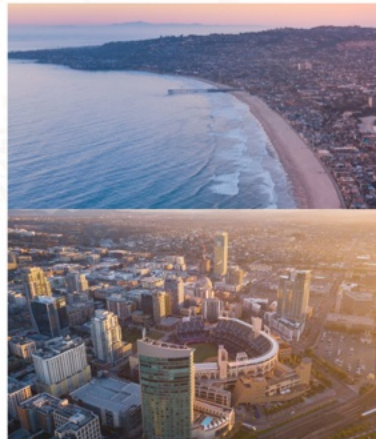


San Diego Zoo

Located just 3.5 miles away from Town & Country Resort, San Diego Zoo features over 4000 animals with several different ecosystems to view. Take part in tour bus rides throughout the park, or see the entire zoo from above on their Skyfari Gondola lift. Either way, San Diego Zoo is great place for wonderful memories.

Sunset Cliffs Natural Park

Located 7 miles away from Town & Country Resort, Sunset Cliffs Natural Park showcases a rugged coastline and some magnificent views for an awesome sunset. It is a perfect spot for an afternoon picnic. Who knows? You may even be lucky enough to spot the grey whales passing through.



Mission Beach

Located 7 miles away from Town & Country Resort, you can enjoy the Californian lifestyle on the sandy beach. Two miles of beachfront makes way for relaxation and entertainment for you and your friends.

Downtown San Diego

Located just 5 miles away from Town & Country Resort, downtown San Diego offers much to do with several shopping spots, eateries and more. If timing serves, you may even be able to catch a Padres Game at Petco Park.

Keynote Speakers



photo by Kyleen James

Quannah ChasingHorse (she/they) is a **Han Gwich'in and Sicangu/Oglala Lakota** land protector and fashion model from Eagle Village, Alaska. Raised with a subsistence lifestyle, she is a **fourth-generation land protector**, deeply connected to her heritage. Quannah, who aspired to be a model since childhood, was scouted for a **Calvin Klein** campaign at 18 and has worked with top fashion brands, won numerous awards, and appeared in magazines like Vogue and Elle. Her short film, **Walking Two Worlds**, has also won accolades. Above all, she prioritizes using her platform to **promote Indigenous values and support her community**.

Jacob Tobey, hailing from **Sandwich, Massachusetts**, Tobey earned his degree from **Suffolk University** in 2018, having completed internships with the Boston Celtics and the New England Patriots. Before his current position in Denver, he served as the weekend sports anchor at KJRH-TV in Tulsa, where he reported on the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, University of Tulsa, and the Oklahoma City Thunder. Outside of broadcasting, Tobey is a **dedicated advocate** for his Native American heritage, proudly representing the **Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe**. He **loves to share his family's culture** with others and often performs as a singer and guitarist at local venues.



UNITY Trainers

Marcus Anthony Guinn, (Emcee One) is a member of the **Osage & Potawatomi Nations** of Oklahoma & **Puerto Rican**. EMCEE, DJ, Event Producer, But also a **Youth Advocate, & National Speaker**. Currently an official **DJ for Nike N7**, International DJ/Tour Support for Taboo (The Black Eyed Peas), MTV Video Music Award Winner, & Official DJ for **Oklahoma City Thunder**, NBA and President of One Innertainment, Inc. He leverages his work in the entertainment world to **speak into the lives of young people**. Marcus has served with many youth, and youth organizations nationally.



Pearl Yellowman, a member of the Navajo Nation, is a full-time Trainer specializing in Youth, Community, Government, and Executive Leadership Development. In 2019, she became the **Executive Director of the Division of Community Development**, advising President Jonathan Nez on policies affecting the Navajo people. Pearl holds a Bachelor's in Social Work, two Master's degrees in Educational Leadership and Counseling Education, and a **Doctorate in Educational Leadership** from the University of Montana. She is a mother of three and follows traditional teachings of **Ho'zho'**, or the Navajo Beauty Way.

Chance Rush has over 20 years of experience as a motivational speaker and trainer for tribal organizations. He is the **founder of Our Native Men, Inc.** and owner of Cloudboy Consulting, LLC. An **enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes**, Chance promotes fitness, education, and spirituality. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and serves as a Life and Health Coach, Personal Trainer, and ordained Pastor. He is also an **NAIA National Champion and four-time All American in Track & Field**.



LoVina Louie is a member of the **schitsu'umsh (Coeur d'Alene) Tribe** and a descendant of notable chiefs. She holds a **Bachelor's in Organizational Sciences** from the **University of Idaho**. LoVina has been featured on Lifetime Movie Network's **"50 Women in 50 States"** and spoke at **TEDx Coeur d'Alene**. She serves on the board of the Native Wellness Institute and is a national trainer in youth leadership and community wellness. With over twenty years of experience in wellness and healing, she is a dedicated family member and community advocate, known for her passion and zest for life.

Sheldon Smith is a Native American advocate and **motivational speaker** dedicated to helping young people realize their potential. His work emphasizes positive character development, leadership, self-care, and cultural empowerment. He **shares his passion** through **storytelling**, barrier-breaking, and entrepreneurship.



Hunter Genia, Ojibwe and Odawa from **Michigan**, has supported **UNITY** for several years and was part of the **first Earth Ambassadors** circle. He advocates for Indigenous communities, promotes cultural lifeways, and works with **tribal youth** to inspire their **resilience** and potential. Hunter is an LMSW and works for Tribal Tech, LLC, an Indigenous woman-owned company in Alexandria, VA.



Code of Conduct

I agree to uphold the standards set forth within the following Code of Honor:

Maintain and promote a healthy mind, body, and lifestyle.

Observe high standards of taste and decency. This includes refraining from disorderly, lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct or expression in-person or virtually.

Refrain from drug and alcohol abuse. This includes refraining from the possession, use or distribution of any illicit drug (as defined by applicable law) and the abuse of alcohol.

Be honest.

Respect all personal rights. This includes not physically or verbally abusing any person and not engaging in conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of others and their property—not obstructing or disrupting others in the performance of official duties by officers, functions, or other authorized activities of the National UNITY Council. Refraining from theft, concealment of weapons, damage, or misuse of the property of others.

Honor the law of the land.

I will conduct myself in a positive manner and in the best interest of UNITY at all times, I understand that failure to comply shall result in disciplinary action(s) as warranted by a Peer Mediation Committee.

This is a drug/alcohol free event.

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UNITY NATIONAL SAFETY

CONFIRMING YOUR IDENTITY

If you are requested to show your CIB or ID to any law enforcement, remain calm and immediately call your guardian or chaperone.

DOCUMENT ENCOUNTER

If possible, record the interaction through video or audio, and make note of important details such as names, times, and any relevant circumstances.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

In case of a medical emergency please go to the nearest in-house phone and contact the Hotel Operator. The Operator will dispatch Loss Prevention to the location. Dial 0, and the Hotel Operator will call 911.

HOSPITALS

- UC San Diego Health Emergency Department – Hillcrest (2.5 miles)
- Perlman Clinic Mission Valley Urgent Care (0.4 miles)

NEARBY PHARMACYS

- CVS (1.3 miles– 1288 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108)
- Walgreens (2 mile– 301 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92103)

BE SAFE, AND HAVE FUN!



UNITY NATIONAL SAFETY

HOTEL SECURITY

Should you ever need assistance from Security:
Call - (619) 291-7131

BUDDY SYSTEM

Always stay with a Buddy, so find your buddy.

- If you plan to leave the hotel, you must be with a chaperone at all times

ALWAYS STAY WITH YOUR CHAPERONE

If you're planning to explore or sightsee around San Diego, it's important to always stay with your chaperone. San Diego is a big city, and it's best to stick together to stay safe and enjoy your time!

DONT FORGET YOUR ID

Create a reminder to always carry your CIB, Tribal ID, or state issued ID whenever you plan to leave your Hotel room.
Before you travel, collect all needed documents and store them in a safe place.

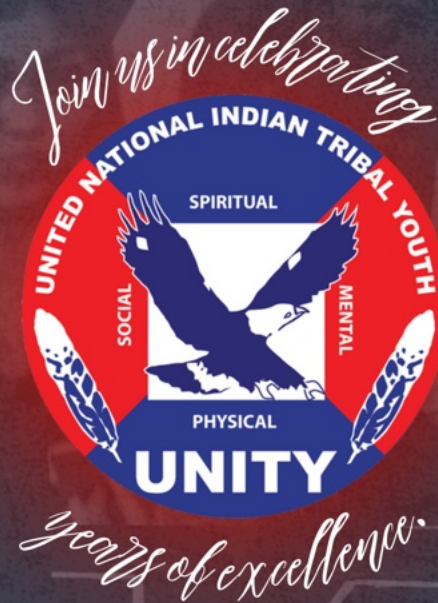
HAVE A PLAN

In the rare event, that someone asks about your citizenship or personal information, you have the right to politely decline to answer without a lawyer present and request to see an issued warrant.

BE SAFE, AND HAVE FUN!

"Inspiring Hope and Changing Lives since 1976."

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JULY | 10-14 | 2026

OKLAHOMA CITY
CONVENTION CENTER

OKLAHOMA CITY | OK

UNITYINC.ORG

17th Annual Traditional Gathering

Sycuan

Iipai - Tipai Mataayum



Saturday June 28, 2025

FOLLOW US:



BIRD SINGING - BIRD DANCING- FUN- GAMES- PEON- FOOD- VENDORS

Schedule of Events:

Registration	11:00am -1:00pm
Hosted Lunch	12:00pm
Native Baby Pageant	1:00pm
P'shook	1:30pm
Horseshoe Tournament, Tribal	2:00pm
Bird Dancing Contest	5:00pm
Peon	Dusk

EVENT LOCATION: SYCUAN REC CENTER BALL FIELD 5577 DEHESA RD. EL CAJON

FOR GENERAL INFO CONTACT CHARLENE ELLIOTT

CWORRELL@SYCUAN- NSN.GOV

FOR VENDOR INFO CONTACT HARMONY SWEETGRASS

SYCUANGATHERINGVENDORS@GMAIL.COM

LODGING AT SYCUAN CASINO RESORT (21+) 619.445.6002

LODGING AT AYERS LODGE 619.445.5800

DRUGS, ALCOHOL & FIREARMS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON OR NEAR THE GATHERING GROUNDS



Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

**is honored to be a proud sponsor of the
2025 United National Indian Tribal Youth
(UNITY) Conference**

We recognize the incredible strength, resilience, and leadership potential of Native youth across Indian Country. Events like the UNITY Conference uplift our young people, nurture their voices, and build lasting connections that empower future generations.

From the heart of our sovereign Nation to each of yours, we stand with you in celebrating Native pride, leadership, and cultural revitalization.