

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR



BAKERSFIELD

March 4, 2024

CHANNEL ISLANDS

CHICO

Dear Tribal Leader:

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

On behalf of the California State University (CSU), I humbly ask for your participation in collaborative and authentic discussions as we embark upon drafting systemwide policies and procedures in relation to our work to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA).

EAST BAY

FRESNO

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

As you likely know, the CSU and our universities have fallen short in our prior efforts to repatriate Native American ancestors and cultural items in a timely manner. A recent report from the California State Auditor clearly detailed how the Chancellor's Office has failed to provide the guidance and oversight necessary to ensure that the CSU's campuses prioritize NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA – and that a systemwide policy is needed. It is clear to me and the Board of Trustees that the CSU must act immediately to correct course and prioritize timely, authentic and respectful actions toward repatriation. As we do that, Tribal voices and perspectives must be at the forefront.

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

NORTHRIDGE

AB 389 also requires the CSU to create systemwide NAGPRA/ CalNAGPRA policies and procedures. The law requires consultation and collaboration with California Tribes and the Native American Heritage Commission. Although the CSU does not have a current systemwide NAGPRA/ CalNAGPRA policy to work from, we view this as an opportunity to build a new policy with Tribal consultations as the foundation.

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

SAN DIEGO

To this end, the CSU will be holding listening sessions across California throughout April and May of this year. Formal consultation sessions will also be offered to Tribes throughout this process. To guide our upcoming listening sessions, we have created a working group of external partners – including Tribal voices – with extensive experience in NAGPRA/ CalNAGPRA compliance efforts. The working group has prepared a draft outline that aligns with AB 389 and will help guide listening session conversations.

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

Tribal Leader  
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A schedule with the dates and locations of the listening sessions is attached. Further information about the systemwide policy development process can be found on our NAGPRA/ CalNAGPRA website at <https://nagpra.calstate.edu/csu-policy>.

The CSU is grateful for the opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue, including Tribal consultation, that will inform our systemwide policies and procedures. We are committed to doing this work the right way; we will not rush this important process, while being mindful of the required timelines.

If you have questions about the listening sessions, please email [nagpra@calstate.edu](mailto:nagpra@calstate.edu). If you have questions about the draft outline, please email Adriane Tafoya, CSU CalNAGPRA Project Manager, [atafoya@calstate.edu](mailto:atafoya@calstate.edu).

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mildred García".

Mildred García, Ed.D.  
Chancellor