



SEEDS OF NATIVE KNOWLEDGE: Culturally Sustaining Teaching Institute

February 4-5, 2026 Ventura, CA

CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES MODEL CURRICULUM

The San Diego County Office of Education, California Indian Museum and Cultural Center, and partnering Tribes and County Offices of Education will be co-hosting free two-day Seeds of Native Knowledge: Culturally Sustaining Teaching Institutes throughout California. These in-person teaching institutes bring together teachers, school leaders, Tribal education staff, and Tribal community partners to strengthen culturally responsive teaching and honor the sovereignty of California Native Peoples.

This two-day institute is developed for K-12 teachers, administrators, and Tribal education staff who will serve as leaders within their regions, sharing knowledge, resources, and curriculum with colleagues. Rooted in the theme of “Seeds of Native Knowledge,” each institute plants ideas and practices that will take root, spread, and grow while nurturing curriculum that supports both Native and non-Native students across California. Through this work, educators strengthen pathways for truth-telling, cultural understanding, and educational equity. The Teaching Institutes support a call for courageous teaching, collaboration, and commitment. For California schools, this is a chance to lead the nation in truth-telling and in repairing relationships with Tribal Nations through authentic educational reform and increased Tribal consultation. For educators and school leaders, it is an invitation to practice humility and reflection to decolonize teaching practices.

Participants will gain knowledge on topics that include, but are not limited to:

- Essential Understandings of California Indian History and Culture
- New California Native American Studies Model Curriculum (NASMC)
- Native California Blanket Exercise and Tribal Resiliency Talking Circle
- NASMC Units such as Acorns to Oak Trees, CA Missions Through Native Perspectives, and Tribal Government and Civics
- Interwoven Mathematics Curriculum
- Native Ways of Knowing activities, place-based learning, and mock trials
- Literacy resources for *We Are the Land* (Akins & Bauer)
- Honoring Tribal Education Sovereignty Toolkit
- Voices of Our Ancestors: Revitalizing Tribal Languages in Schools
- Strategies for Successful Tribal Consultation
- Designing Engaging Tribal Community Responsive Title VI American Indian Education and Johnson-O’Malley Programs



Museum of Ventura County

February 4 and 5, 2026 from 8: 30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/SeedsofNativeKnowledge-Feb2026>

Location: Museum of Ventura County in Ventura, CA

Who Should Attend: K-12 Educators, K-12 Administrators, Librarians, District AI/AN Education Directors, Title VI TOSAs, Tribal Education Directors, Tribal education staff, Title VI and JOM Leaders, and tribal community

Learn about future dates and locations: <https://bit.ly/SeedsofNativeKnowledge>

Contact: Staci Block, Ed.D. staci.block@sdcoe.net or Taylor Melgoza taylor.melgoza@sdcoe.net

Free registration is offered through the California Department of Education Native American Studies Model Curriculum Grant Funds.

