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**44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEDICINE WAYS CONFERENCE**  
**Saturday, April 4, 2026**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE



# Medicine Ways Conference

Stories Passed Around the Fire

8:30- 9:30 (SSC Lobby).

- Registration and Breakfast

9:30– 10:00 (SSC MPR 1, 2, 3).

- Welcome, Blessing, & Birdsongs
  - *Michael Madrigal*

10:15– 11:00 (SSC 229).

- Keynote Speaker:
  - *William Bauer*

11:10– 12:00 (SSC 229).

- Keynote Speaker:
  - *James Yee*

12:00– 1:00 (SSC MPRs 1, 2, 3).

- Lunch
- Silent Auction Winners Announced

1:00– 1:50

- Pottery Workshop (Outside Lawn)
  - *Izzi Reyes*
- NASA Workshop- Ink Stamping (SSC 216)
  - *Alikoi & Francine*

1:50 – 2:00 (SSC MPRs 1, 2, 3).

- Closing



UCR Native American Student Association and Native American Student Programs Present:

## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual UC RIVERSIDE POW WOW May 22 - 24, 2026

Riverside Sports Complex  
1000 W. Blaine St. Riverside, CA 92507

Friday, May 22nd	Saturday, May 23rd	Sunday, May 24th
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM	11:00 AM - 10:00 PM	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Grand Entry 7:00 PM	Grand Entry 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM	Grand Entry 1:00 PM

**Head Staff:**  
**MC:** Brian Frejo  
**AD:** Víctor Chavez  
**Head Gourd:** David Patterson  
**Head Woman:** Kiara Love Flores  
**Head Man:** Sam Sierra  
**Host Northern Drum:** NDN HILL  
**Host Southern Drum:** Hale & Co.  
**Invited Drum:** Wildhorse  
**Outgoing Ms. UCR Pow Wow Princess**  
**2025-2026: Cheweka Lawson**

All drums, dancers, birdsingers welcome!  
\*Ms. UCR Pow Wow Pageant 2026-2027  
\*Cahuilla Birdsingers  
\*Kalpulli Teuxihuilt  
\*Free Admission  
\*Free Parking  
\*Open to the public  
\*Arts & crafts & food vendors!  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**VISIT-NASP.UCR.EDU**

UC Riverside & Pow Wow staff are not responsible for theft, loss, or damage to property, and parking violations. Absolutely no drugs, alcohol, or weapons allowed. Security is strictly enforced and violators will be prosecuted. Bring your own chairs and canopies. Canopies must be properly secured.



# MS. UCR POWWOW PRINCESS

## CHEWEKA LAWSON

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians



*Our Miss UCR is responsible for upholding the highest standards of leadership, cultural and community involvement, and serving as a role model to people of all ages. Miss UCR spreads joy and culture while wearing her royalty regalia and crown in the UCR Blue and Yellow colors. Cheweka engages within our community and provides support, not only to our events, but other events around our area, including her home community in Long Beach.*



# WELCOME!

For over four decades, UCR's Native American Student Association and Native American Student Programs have hosted the annual Medicine Ways Conference. Each year the theme has changed to reflect the times, with the students of NASA leading the way. The theme this year was selected to be "Storytelling: Stories Passed Around the Fire" to emphasize the importance of Native American history a multimodal format. Please take a moment to hear a few of the student voices that led to this year's theme:

*"Storytelling is the living thread that connects our ancestors' wisdom to our present, ensuring our history, spirituality, and cultural values are passed down to guide future generations. In my community, these stories shared by elders through song and dance reinforce our deep bond with the ocean and nature, serving as both an act of resilience and a way to navigate the modern world".*

- Alikoi Parra (NASA President - Business)  
*Kaswa' Chumash*

*"It is important to our survival as Native peoples to acknowledge former and contemporary forms of storytelling that have survived and grown over time. It is an integral part of our history and future. The stories are blueprints passed down from our ancestors, shared by our elders, learned by the youth to proudly flaunt our perseverance—our survival—and to guide new generations in life utilizing traditional Indigenous knowledge".*

- Eden Phillips (NASA Co-Chair - English)  
*Chemehuevi*

*"Storytelling is a way to pass knowledge. It is a way of teaching. Its important we listen because when you do so you are hearing your ancestors through these shared words".*

- Izzí Reyes (NASA Member - History)  
*Mexican Kikapú and Lepai Ndé*

*"Storytelling is vital to our community as it gives us an opportunity to spread irreplaceable customs. Our culture lives on through these conversations so keeping these ancestral traditions alive makes them imperative to maintain".*

- Michael Aguirre (NASA Member - Human Resources)  
*Gabrielino Tongva Nation*



## A work on this year's illustration:



Within this art piece, I explored the Medicine Ways Conference theme of storytelling. Items such as the Gourd, a silhouette of a family, books, and a sage plant can be found. I found it important to emphasize both modern and traditional ways of storytelling as both help our community thrive. Storytelling in any medium allows future generations to connect with their culture as well as their ancestors.

One way I've done this within the Art piece is by adding charms on a bracelet. These include a bear claw, a seashell, and the hummingbird. While creating this piece, I was thinking of my late Grandpa Steven-an Ohlone Bear Dancer. Each item has a significance memory attached to them.

I wanted to embed this idea of storytelling even into the style of art. I draw inspiration from stainless glass windows. Stainless glass windows have been used for centuries as a form of contemporary storytelling. Another reason is the physical properties of stainless glass window. Stainless glass windows are incredibly durable yet and beautiful.



## Native American Student Association



Native American Student Association (NASA) consists of students from various Native American communities throughout the United States and from other diverse backgrounds. In addition, NASA also represents Indigenous communities from Mexico, Canada, and other areas of the Americas. These students are dedicated to establishing strong ties with neighboring Native American communities in order to increase the representation of Native American students at UCR. NASA provides a rich cultural environment through which Native American students on campus can prosper. NASA coordinates and sponsors various programs throughout the school year, with the Medicine Ways Conference being one of their principal events.

## Native American Student Programs



Native American Student Programs (NASP) office is to provide educational, cultural, and social support for UCR students, specifically for Native American/American Indian Students. The NASP office coordinates a variety of activities and programs designed to expand education awareness for our UCR campus as well as the local communities. Additionally, NASP encourages the development and enhancement of leadership and interpersonal communication skills through active participation of students, which makes it possible to plan, organize, and implement innovative programs that promote and educate the campus community about the uniqueness of Indigenous Peoples.

# UCR Land Acknowledgment



*Rupert (Cahuilla) & Jeannette Henry Costo (Cherokee)*

"We at UCR would like to respectfully acknowledge and recognize our responsibility to the original and current caretakers of this land, water, and air: the Cahuilla [ka-wee-ahh], Tongva [tong-va], Luiseño [loo-say-ngo], and Serrano [se-ran-oh] peoples and all of their ancestors and descendants, past, present, and future. Today this meeting place is home to many Indigenous peoples from all over the world, including UCR faculty, students, and staff, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these homelands."

Native American Student Programs (NASP) was formed in 1980, making UC Riverside the first UC campus to open an office with a full-time staff dedicated to American Indian student support. One of nine Ethnic & Gender Offices located in Costo Hall; named in honor of Rupert (Cahuilla) & Jeannette Henry Costo (Cherokee). Rupert Costo was a key player in the foundation and establishment of UC Riverside.

## Illustrator: Francine Phillips

*Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe  
(She/Her)*

Francine is a member of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe. She, as a pre-med, has worked on contributing to local indigenous and underserved communities. School-wide organizations she's a part of are NASA (Native American Student Association), where she serves as treasurer and is a member of the Medical Scholars Program.



## Opening Blessing by Michael Madrigal

*Cahuilla Band of Indians*

Michael Madrigal is a citizen of the Cahuilla Band of Indians and a graduate student in the Native American / Ethnic Studies program at UC Riverside. He is committed to strengthening the life sustaining relations between Indigenous peoples and Land. He is the current President of the Native American Land Conservancy.



## WILLIAM BAUER

*Round Valley Indian Tribes*

William Bauer is an enrolled citizen of the Round Valley Indian Tribes and a professor of American Indian history at the University of California, Riverside. His research examines the history of Indigenous People, work, oral history and sovereignty in the American West. Bauer has served on OAH's African American, Latino, Asian American and Native American (ALANA) Historians and Histories committee and the American Historical Association's Committee on Minority Historians as well as the councils of the Western Historical Association and the American Society of Ethnohistory.



## POTTERY WORKSHOP

**ÍZZÍ REYES**

*Mexican Kikapú and Lepaí Ndé*

Isabella Reyes (Izzí) is proud to honor her Mexican Kikapú ancestry as a fourth year History major at UCR. Prior to UCR, Izzi was a K-12 ceramics teacher for Pomona Unified School District under the DA Center for the Arts, developing a curriculum that highlighted decolonial art through clay, textiles, and ancestral ways of knowing and hopes to continue after graduation.



# STAMP WORKSHOP



## ALIKOI PARRA & FRANCINE PHILLIPS

*Kaswa' Chumash - Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe*

Interactive workshop, with the importance of storytelling being noted in the previous presentations, *NASA* is procuring a space in which you can create your own story vis-à-vis stamps.

Tell us your story!

Alikoi Parra (Kaswa' Chumash) is a first-generation transfer student at UC Riverside, a fourth year pursuing a degree in Organizational Behavior and Business Management. She serves as President of the Native American Student Association and is a dedicated traditional singer and dancer for her tribe.

Francine is a member of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe. She, as a pre-med, has worked on contributing to local indigenous and underserved communities. School-wide organizations she's a part of are NASA (Native American Student Association), where she serves as treasurer and is a member of the Medical Scholars Program.



Some of Bauer's published works include; *We Are the Land: A Native History of California* (2021), with Damon Akins; *California Through Native Eyes: Reclaiming History* (2016); and "We Were All Like Migrant Workers Here": Work, Community and Memory on California's Round Valley Reservation, 1850-1941 (2009), as well as peer-reviewed articles in the *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Journal of the West* and *Labor*.



## JAMES YEE

*kaswa' Chumash*



Born in Santa Barbara and raised in Goleta, James is a veteran of the U.S. Army. He has a master's degree in TESOL from Temple University, Japan Campus, and spent a number of years living and teaching in Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan. He is the former chairman of the Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians, representing the interests of the Indigenous peoples of the coastal areas of southern Santa Barbara County, including the ancestral homelands where the UCSB campus is located. Currently, James is a PhD student in the UCSB Department of Linguistics, where he studies topics and issues related to the revitalization of the 'alapkaswa' language (also known as "Barbareño Chumash").