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2026 AISES Healing the Earth Conference



"HONORING OUR PAST, HEALING THE FUTURE"

Saturday, February 07
University of California, Riverside

AISES: Healing the Earth Conference

Traditional Healing, Traditional Medicine

8:00- 8:50 (SOM ED2 Lobby)

- Registration and Breakfast

9:00– 9:45 (Room 104/106)

- Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Blessing, & Birdsongs, Introductions
 - *NASP, Michael & Will Madrigal*

9:50– 10:35 (Room 104/106)

- Keynote: Mother Earth Clan Ways
 - *Lorene Sisquoc*

10:45– 12:15 (Room 104/106)

- Our First Medicines: Indigenous Science & Plant Medicine
 - *Dr. Katya Adachi Serrano*

12:25– 1:25 (Room 105)

- Lunch

1:35– 2:15 (Room 104/106)

- AISES Alumni Chat: STEM in the Real World
 - *Panelists: Clifford Button, Ernie Chambers, & Nogwa Smith*

2:25 – 3:55

- Career Fair (**Courtyard**)
- Cardiac Ultrasound Presentation (**Room 205**)
- School of Medicine Admissions Presentation (**Rm 105**)
- Highlander EMS Presentation (**Room 104/106**)

4:05 Closing (**Room 104/106**)

Cardiac Ultrasound Workshop

LED BY UCR SOM MEDICAL STUDENTS

This interactive workshop will introduce the fundamentals of cardiac ultrasound through a focused lecture and live demonstration. Participants will learn core principles of echocardiography, followed by a hands-on echocardiogram demonstration highlighting the five standard cardiac views. The session is designed to build foundational skills in image acquisition and interpretation for clinical application.

Highlander EMS **UNDERGRADUATE ORGANIZATION**

At University of California, Riverside

Highlander Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a student-run EMS organization dedicated to providing care during emergent and non-emergent situations for the UC Riverside Campus and surrounding communities. Each care-providing member is a licensed Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) recognized by the California EMS Authority.

HEALING THE EARTH Q&A PANEL

ALUMNI CHAT: STEM IN THE REAL WORLD

Moderator: Eden Phillips

Nogwa Smith

He/Him
Desert Chemehuevi

Nogwa Smith is a UC Riverside Alumnus with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He now works as a Project Engineer for The Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.



Ernie Chambers

He/Him
Dinè

Ernie Chambers (Dinè) grew up in the Inland Empire, specifically in Hemet, CA. He is a first generation college student, who attended Palomar College and Mt. San Jacinto College, then he transferred to UCR majoring in Biochemistry. He is currently completing his masters in the Biomedical Sciences program at UCR. Ernie will be trained by UCR School of Medicine, class of 2030.



Clifford "Cliff" Button

He/Him
Shoshone-Bannock

Clifford Button is Shoshone-Bannock from Fort Hall, Idaho, and grew up in Jurupa Valley, California. A first-generation college student, he earned his B.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Riverside, and continued at UCR to complete his M.S. in Chemical and Environmental Engineering. His thesis research focused on identifying data gaps in building a PFAS groundwater model simulating a local landfill. Clifford has completed two internships, including work as an Environmental Engineering Intern at Nevada Gold Mines and as a Water Resources Intern with the Jurupa Community Services District.



WELCOME

UCR's AISES Student Chapter and Native American Student Programs have hosted several Healing the Earth Conferences. Each year the theme has changed to reflect the times, with the students of AISES leading the way. The theme this year is "Traditional Healing and Traditional Medicine" which encompasses a diverse range of perspectives and approaches to medicine and how we heal our community. As such, we asked our students their perspective's on *Traditional Healing* and how it connects to their traditional knowledge and the knowledge of their peoples. Please take a moment to hear a few of the student voices that led to this year's theme:

"Traditional Medicine to me, is the way that we remember the way our parents take care of us. The way our grandparents took care of our parents when sick, and how that is passed down. Whether it was the rubbing alcohol that washed our feet, or the sage tea that friends have shared with us, or elderberry syrup to help with congestion. It's the people in our lives that have learned how to heal. and who else did they learn how to heal but the people before them"

- Jordyn Ramirez (AISES President - Biochemistry)

"I think traditional healing begins with remembering what our communities were like before colonialism. We can use this knowledge to help guide us in our everyday lives and practices. I think my form of healing comes with making jewelry and spending time with my family, especially my grandma. It reminds me that while there is chaos going on in the world, I can still find time to be present in my community".

- Quashaunna Toledo-Scott (AISES Vice President - Psychology)

"Traditional healing to me is learning from our elders as well as practicing ways of healing that are not rooted in medicine and professional practice. In my community I think traditional healing is seen in trying to bring back our language and providing support for community members who may have never had the chance to learn, especially when our tribe was affected by boarding schools. One way that I heal my own way is staying connected with my culture and also finding community and people to rely on around me!"

- Keila Toledo-Scott (NAHS Vice President - Media & Culture Studies)

A good way to heal is to give it back to the earth, you sit in deep prayer, sing, cry, leave offering. You take those moments for your spirit and move forward with a humble soul. Understanding that healing is not a quick process, part of it is being kind to yourself.

- Isabella Reyes (Izzi) (NASA Member - History Major)

HEALING THE EARTH KEYNOTE

SPEAKER

LORENE SISQUOC

Fort Sill Apache/Mountain Cahuilla

Lorene Sisquoc is a member of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe and a descendant of the Mountain Cahuilla of Southern California.

Lorene has been fortunate to have learned culture and traditions from tribal elders who were kind enough to pass on some of our Cahuilla and other tribal traditions. Her teachers include Donna Largo – Cahuilla Basket Weaver, Robert Levi – Cahuilla Culture Bearer, Esther Kintano – Desert Cahuilla Elder and Barbara Drake – Gabrielino/Tongva material culture teacher. She worked at Sherman Indian High School from 1982 -2025; she is currently the volunteer curator/manager of the Sherman Indian High School Museum.



Lorene taught Native American Traditions, Basketry, Museum Studies and Native Plant use classes at Sherman Indian High School since 1995 in the academic master schedule. She is a traditional artist, presenter, and instructor, dedicated to the preservation and continuance of Native American culture. Lorene strives to ensure that Native American history is accurately taught and that future generations are offered the opportunity to carry on revered traditions.

Opening Prayer/Blessing

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.



Cahuilla Birdsingers

WILL MADRIGAL

Cahuilla Band of Indians



Will Madrigal and fellow birdsingers will open the day after the blessing with Cahuilla songs, welcoming our students, staff, faculty, honored guests and attendees to these homelands of the Cahuilla, Tongva, Serrano, and Luiseño peoples.



In this session Dr. Adachi Serrano will discuss Indigenous science, the societal structures that sustain them, and explore indigenous medicine, including plant medicine as a fundamental Indigenous science. We will learn how to use and prepare 5 core plant medicines. In the hands-on portion, we will blend together a plant medicine tea for participants to take home and experience directly.



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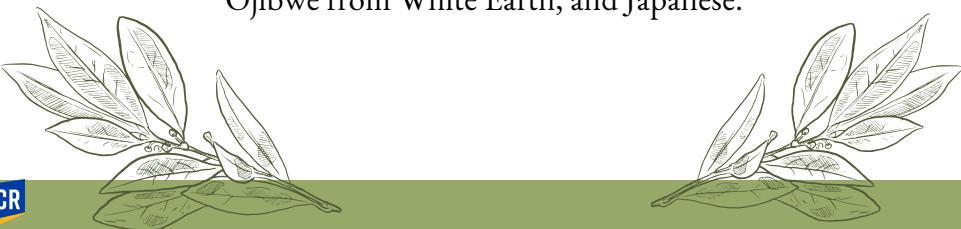


OUR FIRST MEDICINES: INDIGENOUS SCIENCE & PLANT MEDICINE

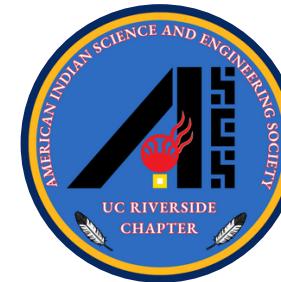
DR. ADACHI SERRANO

Ho-Chunk/Ojibwe

Katya Adachi Serrano, MD (Ho-chunk/Ojibwe/Japanese) is board certified in Family Medicine, Addiction Medicine, and Integrative Medicine and an HIV Specialist. After UCSF Medical School she completed her Family Medicine Residency in Santa Rosa, CA. During her fellowship training in Integrative Medicine, she completed training in Herbal Medicine, and the body work modalities of Strain-Counterstrain and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, which she has practiced ever since. She currently works for the Santa Barbara Public Health Department in Santa Maria, CA providing specialty primary care, HIV and addiction treatment as well as running her micro-practice, Serrano Natural Health, where she practices herbal medicine and body work. As an Indigenous medicine consultant, she provides presentations and workshops on culturally responsive medicine, plant medicine, and integrating an Indigenous approach to medical practice. A mom of 2 vibrant and joyful boys, Dr. Adachi Serrano grew up in the Bay Area and is Winnebago (Ho-chunk), from the Thunder Clan, Ojibwe from White Earth, and Japanese.



AISES - UC Riverside Chapter



The Student Chapter of AISES at UCR consists of students from various Native American communities throughout the United States and from other diverse backgrounds. AISES is committed wholeheartedly to showcasing academic excellence, and advancing Indigenous students in STEM. 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. AISES provides a rich cultural environment through which Native American students on campus can prosper. AISES coordinates and sponsors various programs throughout the school year, with the Healing the Earth Conference as their principal event.

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.