

The California State University:
Chancellor's Office
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay
Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy
Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego
San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

June 29, 2023

Dear Spartan community,

I write to share the recent California State Auditor report outlining findings and recommendations regarding the California State University's compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and CalNAGPRA.

NAGPRA requires institutions receiving federal funding to return Native American ancestral remains and cultural items in their possession to the "lineal descendants" through a respectful consultative process. CalNAGPRA broadens California institutions' responsibilities to include ancestral remains and cultural items from state recognized Tribes not currently federally recognized, and to include "meaningful consultation" throughout the inventory and repatriation processes. Both of these ancestral rights laws seek to acknowledge and rectify the harm caused to the Native American communities by the removal of ancestors and their belongings from resting places and of cultural items including sacred objects from their lands.

Last year, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee called on the California State Auditor (CSA) to initiate a review of the CSU's compliance with the laws, following similar reviews of the University of California system. The audit surveyed all CSU campuses and selected four campuses – Chico, San José, Sacramento and San Diego – for a full review.

Overall, the audit report finds that the CSU must do more to ensure timely return of Native American ancestral remains and cultural items.

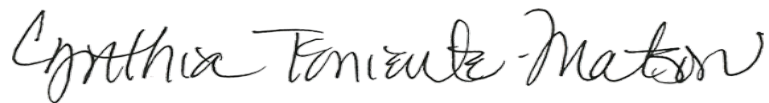
The report can be found on the State Auditor's website [here](#).

The audit report outlines a series of recommendations intended to position the CSU to make progress toward repatriation, including implementation of a systemwide policy, consistent oversight, proper funding, staffing resources, and support mechanisms to ensure prioritization and compliance at the university level.

The CSU intends to implement the audit's recommendations, and San José State joins in the system's commitment to not just comply with the legal requirements of NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA, but also to demonstrate our commitment to respect the sovereignty of Native American tribal communities and to honor their ancestors and sacred ways through appropriately reverent return of the ancestral remains and cultural items that have been housed at our universities.

For more information, please visit the [dedicated NAGPRA page](#) on our Provost's website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Teniente-Matson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson
President