

Felix Christman

Federally Recognized Tribal Representative, Tule River Yokuts

Campus Preference: Fresno

Qualified:

Mr. Christman has over five years of experience serving in various roles in his community. He currently is the Tribal Historic Preservation officer and has previously served as a Tribal monitor. Additionally, Mr. Christman served as Vice-Chair of the Yokut NAGPRA Coalition which consists of five federally recognized tribes. Lastly, Mr. Christman has served as a Tribal Council member.

Tribal Council Resolution Provided

References Contacted:

Niel Peyron (Yokut) and Merri Lopez-Keifer (San Luis Rey) recommend the candidate.

Kerri Vera was unable to be reached.

CSU Fresno Committee

1. Tribal Representative (Non-Federally Recognized): Vacant
2. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): William Barios – Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe (Appointed August 1, 2024)
3. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): Vacant
4. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): Vacant
5. CSU Representative: Dvera Saxton (Appointed August 1, 2024)
6. CSU Representative: Vacant
7. CSU Native American Studies Representative: Cristina Gonzales – Coastal Band Chumash (Appointed August 1, 2024)

**Systemwide NAGPRA Implementation & Oversight Committee
Nominations Cover Sheet**

Committee Type: Both Systemwide Committee Campus Committee

Nominee Name:

Preferred Campus: _____

Alt. Campus: _____

Alt. Campus: _____

Position Sought: Tribal Nominee CSU Nominee

Alt. Campus: _____

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation

Name of Tribe: _____

Name of Campus: _____

- Federally Recognized Tribe CA Indian Tribe
 CSU Administrator CSU Faculty Staff NAGPRA Coordinator

Tribal Members (Check all that apply):

- Tribal Historic Preservation Officer work
 Repatriation of human remains and cultural items pursuant to CalNAGPRA/ NAGPRA
 Cultural resources protection under Tribal, state, and federal law
 Consultation with state and federal entities and agencies
 An Elder, Spiritual Leader
 A minimum of five years' experience

CSU Staff/Faculty Members (Check all that apply):

- Archaeology Anthropology Environmental Studies
 Ethnic Studies History (with a focus in California) Law
 Native American Studies Social Science Sociology
 A minimum of five years' experience working in field of study

Circle One: Complete Application (Includes Attachments)

- Short Bio, A Resume or CV
 Tribal Resolution/Letter (as applicable)
 Three References

Incomplete Applications

- Missing Attachments
 Needs Follow Up Call
 Other Explanation: _____

CSU or NAHC Reviewer _____
CSU or NAHC Reviewer _____

Date: _____
Date: _____

NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT
IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

NOMINATION FORM

The California State University (CSU) is committed to fully implementing the spirit as well as the legal requirements of both the Federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA), which were enacted to acknowledge the fundamental human right of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians to their ancestral Human Remains and Cultural Items.

On behalf of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the CSU is soliciting and accepting applications for the Systemwide and Campus Committees. The purpose of the committees is to provide oversight and guidance for the development and implementation of Systemwide and Campus CalNAGPRA and federal NAGPRA compliance, which includes NAGPRA policy development. All applications, incomplete or complete, will be forwarded to the NAHC for consideration. Nominee candidates will be interviewed by the NAHC for potential Commission nomination and appointment by the CSU Chancellor or chancellor's designee. The CSU is referencing the requirements as outlined in Assembly Bill 389 Section 8028.7 and Section 8028.71 to guide the committee selection and policy development processes.

If you are interested in serving or nominating a candidate please review the criteria below, complete the following application materials, and submit completed materials with 1) a short biography or resume demonstrating that the nominee meets the criteria below; 2) a letter of support from Tribe, Tribal resolution or a letter of interest with this form; and 3) a list of at least three references, with name, telephone number, and email address for each.

Committee Term: 3-year renewable staggering term

Tribal Nominees: Support letters or Tribal resolutions for Tribal nominees should be from Tribal governments, Tribal community organizations or Institutional leadership organizations, include the strengths of the candidate, as well as any information that might be relevant.

CSU Nominees: Support letters or resume for CSU nominees should include professional experience demonstrating the ability to work in collaboration with Native American Tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

Please note, the CSU and NAHC will keep completed application on file for committee positions that may become available in the future.

Deadline: Nomination materials must be submitted to nagpra@calstate.edu by **February 2, 2024**

QUALIFICATIONS

Tribal Nominees

A voting member of a California Indian tribe shall be an elder, spiritual leader, tribal leader, or tribal member, as designated by the governing body of the individual's tribe, with a minimum of five years' prior experience in any of the following:

- Repatriation of human remains and cultural items pursuant to federal NAGPRA;
- Cultural resources protection under Tribal, state, and federal law; or
- Consultation with state and federal entities and agencies.

Preference shall be given to members of a California Indian Tribe. If no members of a California Indian Tribe meeting the qualifications of 8028.71 subdivision (c) paragraph (1) are available, members of other Tribes may serve.

CSU Nominees

CSU Nominees must be affiliated with or employed by the California State University and have the following:

- A graduate degree in any of the following: Archaeology, Anthropology, Native American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Law, Sociology, Social Sciences, Environmental Studies, or History, with a focus in California
 - If there are no candidates satisfying this clause, candidates that have degrees and direct professional experience in fields relevant to repatriation or tribal cultural resources matters shall be deemed to meet the requirements of the clause; and
- A minimum of five years' experience working in his or her field of study.

Preference shall be given to members who have demonstrated, through their professional experience, the ability to work in collaboration with Native American tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

In the event that candidates from the California State University are not available or do not meet the above criteria, the California State University representative positions may be filled by retired emeriti of the California State University who meet the above criteria.

Note: At least two CSU nominees to the Systemwide one CSU nominee to the Campus Committee(s) must be affiliated with an American Indian or Native American Studies program

You are encouraged to submit a nomination/self-nomination if the nominee meets a majority of the requirements, even if you are unsure as to whether they meet a specific requirement.

COMMITTEE(S) SOUGHT

Please indicate the Committee(s) to which the nominee is seeking appointment. If nominating for a campus committee(s), list the campus(es) where the nominee is interested in serving, in order of preference. Check all that apply. If a nominee selects both the CSU Systemwide Committee and Campus Committee, their application will be considered for both Committees and they may be appointed to either, however at this time Committee members will only serve on one Committee at a time, unless the pool of candidates does not allow.

CSU Systemwide Committee (*if only Systemwide please skip to Nominator Information below*)

Campus Committee (*please fill out Section A below*)

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A. If the Nominee would like to serve on a Campus Committee, please fill out the following additional information.

CSU Fresno

Campus Committee (*Preferred Campus*): _____

Alternative campus(es) Nominee will consider (*candidates are encouraged to complete this section, if possible*):

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Nominator Information (if applicable)

Name: Neil Peyron Title: Treasurer Tribal Council
Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: Tule River Tribe of Ca.
Email: Neil.Peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov Phone: 559-853-8021

Nominee Information

Name: Felix Christman Title: Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: Tule River Tribe
Email: felix.christman@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov Phone: 559-719-0420

Position Sought: Tribal Nominee CSU Nominee

Please attach:

- (i) A short biography and, if desired, a resume or CV;
- (ii) A tribal resolution or letter of support from Tribe (if applicable), and
- (iii) A list of at least three references, with name, telephone number, and email addresses for each.

Submit completed nomination materials to nagpra@calstate.edu by **February 2, 2024**.

Incomplete materials will not be considered.

Felix Christman
Tule River Tribal Member
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tule River Tribe
401 S Reservation Rd
Porterville CA 93257
Cell (559) 719-0420
Email felix.christman@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
Email fcyet77@outlook.com

RE: Tribal Nominee CSU Committee

My name is Felix Christman, and I am a member of the Tule River Tribe of Yokuts. I currently reside on the Tule River Indian reservation, nestled in the Eastern foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Raised on the Reservation, the traditional teachings and values passed down by my great-grandparents enriched my upbringing and helped to engrain the knowledge that I carry with me today in my work. My experience and expertise within the Cultural arena included my tenure as a Tribal monitor, where I worked closely with influential spiritual leaders, such as the late Joseph Garfield. The invaluable guidance and support I received from Joey greatly influenced and strengthened my efforts in completing numerous repatriations and reburials. During this 8-year period as a staff member, I honed my experience and knowledge related to NAGPRA. Additionally, I have served a term as the Vice-Chair of the Yokuts NAGPRA Coalition, composed of five federally recognized tribes. As a former Tribal Council member and the current Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, I am committed to prioritizing the efforts to bring our ancestors home to their rightful resting place; that said, I support the collaborative efforts to strengthen relationships with State and federally recognized tribes as they are a vital step in the right direction.

Respectfully,



Felix Christman
Tule River Tribal Member
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tule River Tribe
340 N Reservation Rd
Porterville CA 93257
Cell (559) 719-0420
Email felix.christman@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
Email fcyet77@outlook.com

Felix Christman
Tule River Tribal Member
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tule River Tribe
401 S Reservation Rd
Porterville CA 93257
Cell (559) 719-0420
Email felix.christman@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
Email fcyet77@outlook.com

References:

Neil Peyron

Tule River Tribal Council, Treasurer

340 N. Reservation Rd. Porterville CA. 93257

Neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov, 559-781-4271

Kerri Vera

Tule River Tribe, Environmental Dept. Director

P.O. 589 Porterville CA. 93257

Kerri.vera@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov, 559-781-4271 ext. 5041

Merri Lopez-Keifer

Director, Office of the Native American Affairs Office of the Attorney, General Rob Bonta,
California Department of Justice

1300 I Street, Sacramento, CA. 95814

Office: 916-210-6259, Cell: 916-639-1438

Merri.LopezKeifer@doj.ca.gov

FELIX CHRISTMAN 401 S. Reservation Rd. Porterville CA. 93257•559.719.0420

QUALIFICATIONS

My extensive experience underscores my unique environmental/cultural resource specialist qualifications. I have fostered robust working relationships with various Californian tribes and federal and state-recognized local government interagency staff. My expertise encompasses cultural resource protection and preservation, land, ecosystems, natural resources, and traditional ecological knowledge/wisdom and practices. I have been instrumental in developing MOUs and MOAs and drafted the Inadvertent Discovery Plan and policies with the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

SKILLS

- Firm understanding of Tribal traditions, culture, and history
- Facilitate and conduct all repatriations and Reimbursements for the Tule River Tribe and Yokuts NAGPRA coalition.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Goal-oriented and able to handle multiple tasks/projects; Dependable and reliable.
- Team Building

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

June 2024- Present- Tule River Tribe of Ca.- Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

- Ensure Section 106 compliance with the NHPA.
- Consultation with local, Federal, and state agencies
- Serve as the Tribal liaison for NAGPRA-related matters

May 2023-June 2024- Tule River Tribe of Ca. Wastewater Operator

- Maintain daily operations of the plant
- Maintain Reservation sewer system

January 2021-January 2023- Tule River Tribe of Ca.-Tule River Tribal Council member- Elected official

- Responsible for ensuring the safety, health, and morals of the Tule River tribe and the membership.
- Administrative duties- developing policies and procedures for tribal ordinances for cultural resources.
- Assisted with lobbying efforts for tribal water rights.
- Assumed the duties of the Office of Emergency Management for the Tule River Tribe during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

June 2022-January 2023- Tule River Indian Health Center Inc. Board of Directors-Alternate board member Elected official

As an alternate board member of the Tule River Indian Health Center Inc., I have provided oversight and support to the CEO. My active involvement in planning and development for the day-to-day operations of the center, including the implementation of COVID-19 protocols for the Tule River Tribe, has demonstrated my ability to provide effective oversight and support.

September 2016-Present- Yokuts NAGPRA Coalition, Central Ca. Vice Chairman- Elected official, (Tule River (Yokuts) Tulare Co., Santa Rosa Rancheria (Tachi), Kings Co., Tejon Rancheria, Kern Co., Picayune Rancheria (Chukchansi)Madera Co., Table Mountain Rancheria, Fresno Co.

September 2016-Present- Tule River Indian Tribe of CA.-Native American Archeological Monitor

- Carry out site surveys where ground-disturbing work is proposed for Tribal and non-tribal parties.
- Identify local historic sites, including ceremonial and village sites, and share information as needed to inform others of the cultural importance of preserving these sites.
- Log activities and findings at respective sites.
- Attending local meetings, including NAGPRA meetings.
- Participate in Government-to-Government consultations through section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- Facilitate Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation (NAGPRA) consultations with UC Berkeley, US Davis, and Chicago Field Museum.
- Consult on CA. AB 52. Consultation with PG&E on various projects (Kernville Historic cemetery),
- Consulted on Burn Area Emergency Response Team (BAER) assessment.
- Participated in the “Advocating for our Ancestors” Annual repatriation conference (2018) and attended quarterly meetings with USFS Sequoia, Western Divide, and Sequoia-Kings National Park Service.

May 2015-May 2016- Oak Pit Restaurant-Lead Supervisor

Supervise the day-to-day activities of the Restaurant and Bar area. Provide Excellent customer service to all Patrons. Supervise servers, cooks, and Hosts. Ensure that shift financial Drop and deposit are accurate and complete.

April 2014-December 2014- Tule River Graphics- Marketing Manager

Oversee sales and production for printing projects and provide excellent customer service to all patrons.

November 2013-April 2014- Oak Pit Restaurant- Host/Busser

Provide Excellent Customer service, schedule reservations, clean tables, sanitize restrooms, and wash dishes.

EDUCATION

2007-2009- Coastline Community College

Courses completed: Introduction to Mass Communication, Succeeding in College, Logic/Critical Thinking, Ecology, Health, Food and Nutrition, Geology, Introduction to Sociology, Marriage and Family Counseling. Completed 27 Units/GPA 3.22

1995- Porterville Union High School- High School Diploma

CERTIFICATES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

June 2022-Arizona State University, Indian Legal Program

Indian Law & Policy Seminar completion

April 2022- The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

“What is section 106”

October 2021- Montana & Associates PLLC.

Tribal Historic Preservation Monitor Training

February 2020- Montana & Associates PLLC.

Drafting THPO ordinances and laws

February 2020- Environmental Protection Department of the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of Ca. Basic Cultural Resource Monitoring Training

November 2019-Tribal Emergency Management Association
Community Emergency Response Team Training

August 2019- Global Leadership Network
Global Leadership Summit Workshop completion

July 2018- Trimble Terra Sync and GPS Pathfinder Office
Native American GPS training

December 2017- National Indian Justice Center
Sacred Sites, Monitoring and NAGPRA

October 2017- Cal-State University, Fresno, Department of Anthropology
Basic Archeological field techniques

September 2016-Montana & Associates PLLC.
Tribal Archeological Monitor Certification

Boards/Committees/Volunteer work

Tribal Education ad hoc committee, Tule River Health Board Grievance and Finance Committee, Casino relocation board member, Tribal water litigation board member for State and Federal rights, Inter-tribal outreach, Cultural historian and storyteller, Traditional ceremonial practitioner, and teacher.



TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE OF CALIFORNIA

September 23, 2024

Felix Christman
340 N. Reservation Road
Porterville, CA 93257

Your Council Presentation Form, CPF # 0607-2024 on 09/23/24 The Tribal Council has:

Approved Denied Tabled for more information to _____ YOUR REQUEST:

Request support and tribal nomination to CSU Fresno NAGPRA Committee through
Tribal Letter and/or Resolution.

Upon Motion of: Neil Peyron Seconded by: Amanda Sierra

The vote was 6 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstentions

Comments:
Tule River Tribal Council has decided to
motion to nominate and support Felix Christman to the CSU Fresno NAGPRA Committee.

Sincerely,

Amanda Peyron

Amanda Peyron
Administrative Assistant