

**Robert Levi**

**Federally Recognized Tribal Member, The Torres Martinez Cahuilla Indians**

**Campus**

**Campus Preference:** San Bernadino

**Qualified:**

Mr. Levi is an elder, an educator, a teacher of bird songs, and the current CSU San Bernadino Elder in Residence. In this role he has served on the universities' CalNAGPRA Committee for more than four years. Also, he has supported the CSU repatriation coordinator by serving as a liaison to local tribes fostering repatriation relationships and consultations. Furthermore, on behalf of the Torres Martinez Cahuilla Indians Mr. Levi has participated in consultation with State Parks and assisted the tribe's cultural department in both identification and preservation of cultural resources.

**Chairman Letter of Recommendation Included**

**References Contacted:**

Assembly Member James Ramos, CSU San Bernadino President Tomas Morales, and CSUSB Associate Vice President Student Success and Educational Equity Dr. Molly Springer recommend the candidate.

**CSU San Bernardino Committee**

Tribal Representative (Non-Federally Recognized): Kimberly Johnson – Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians (Appointed November 7, 2024)

Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): Vacant

Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): Vacant

Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): Vacant

CSU Representative: Danny Sosa Aguilar (Appointed November 7, 2024)

CSU Representative: Vacant

CSU Native American Studies Representative: Vacant



Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete

Incomplete

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

**Committee Type:**    ☐ Both    ☐ Systemwide Committee    ☐ Campus Committee

**Nominee Name:**

Preferred Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

**Position Sought:**    Tribal Nominee    CSU Nominee

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CSU or NAHC Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

### NOMINATION FORM

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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.

The CSU and NAHC will continue to receive and solicit Campus NAGPRA Oversight Committee nominations on an ongoing basis. Submit the following nomination materials to [nagpra@calstate.edu](mailto:nagpra@calstate.edu).

## 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*)



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

Campus Committee (*Preferred Campus*): Cal State San Bernardino

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: Joseph Mirelez Title: Chair

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Email: Joseph.Mirelez@torresmartinez-nsn.gov Phone: 760-423-2243

### **Nominee Information**

Name: Robert Levi Title: Professor

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Email: robert.levi@csusb.edu Phone: 951-206-3107

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](mailto:nagpra@calstate.edu).

Incomplete materials will not be considered.

Robert J. Levi, II  
Biography

Citizen of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, Mr. Levi is currently a CSUSB Watson College of Education faculty member. And as CSUSB's first Elder in Residence, Mr Levi brings together CSUSB and local California Indians both on reservations and in the urban areas. During his four years at CSUSB he has been appointed to the university's CalNAGPRA Committee, is the American Indian Student Organization Faculty/Staff Advisor, is working closely with San Bernardino Title VI Program and is assisting Riverside Unified School District's American Indian Parent Advisory Committee and is writing Ethnic Studies/AB 1703 curriculum for various California school districts.

His main concerns deal with Indian education. A retired AP/CP US History teacher from Upland High School, his 38 yrs of teaching includes teaching at Sherman Indian High School and Riverside's Notre Dame High School.

He has earned a BA in History from San Diego State University, with a Major in Constitutional History with two minor emphases in Westward Expansion and American Indian History (Class of 1980). Currently he is finishing his MEd in Curriculum Design and Instruction from San Diego State University. Mr Levi received a Ryan Single Subject Credential from the University of California, Irvine, 1982.

Mr Levi's involvement in creating and promoting American/California Indian History can be traced to his developing a five week high school American Indian History course, culminating in his classes attending a Pow Wow at the University of California, Riverside. He was the California Teacher's Association's (CTA) American Indian/Alaskan Native Caucus Chair. Mr Levi has presented CTA workshops ("Save the Indian, Kill the Man") and is a certified Cadre Trainer. He is a mentor for Cal State Northridge's Ethnic Studies Education Pathways Project, recently he was the California Indian Elder in Residence at Cal State San Bernardino from 2021 to 2024. Currently he has accepted an Adjunct Faculty position in the Watson College of Education and in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at CSUSB, where he will be a Field Supervisor for Social Science Student Teachers and an Ethnic Studies (American Indian) instructor in both Education and Ethnic Studies courses.

Culturally, the Levi family holds strong convictions to Desert Cahuilla traditions. His father, Robert J Levi, Sr, along with three other Cahuilla elders have preserved and taught Cahuilla Bird Songs. These social songs have revitalized not only the Cahuilla culture but other tribes throughout the Southern California, Arizona and Nevada. At 68, Mr Levi is learning Ivillu'at, the Cahuilla language.

Married for 35 years to Mary (Lomayesva) Levi (Hopi, ), the couple has two children, Allaura and Robert III. Mr and Mrs Levi live in Alta Loma with their Belgian Malinois, Mo.





THE TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS

P.O. Box 1160

Thermal, CA 92274

(760) 397-0300 – FAX (760) 397-8146

Committee Members  
CSUSB CALNAGPRA Committee  
California State University San Bernardino  
5500 University Parkway  
San Bernardino, CA 92407

Dear Committee Members,

I am honored to submit this letter of recommendation in support of Robert Levi Jr.'s appointment to the CSUSB CALNAGPRA Committee. Robert, a member of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and a retired AP/CP U.S. History teacher at Upland High School, has dedicated 38 years to teaching, including at Sherman Indian High School and Riverside's Notre Dame High School. Recently, he has been named the inaugural Elder/Culture Bearer In-Residence, demonstrating his deep commitment to cultural preservation and education.

Robert has demonstrated a profound understanding of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and its critical role in the ethical stewardship of ancestral remains and cultural artifacts. His extensive experience in community engagement, cultural resource management, and collaboration with tribal communities has consistently reflected his deep respect for indigenous heritage and his ability to navigate the complexities of repatriation efforts with sensitivity and professionalism.

Moreover, Robert's leadership skills and passion for education make him a valuable asset to the committee. His ability to bridge the gap between academic institutions and indigenous communities is essential in fostering meaningful dialogue and ensuring that CSUSB remains a leader in ethical and responsible cultural stewardship.

I have no doubt that Robert Levi Jr. will make significant contributions to the CSUSB CALNAGPRA Committee. His dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to cultural heritage preservation will undoubtedly benefit the committee's mission and objectives. I strongly endorse his appointment and am confident that he will serve with distinction.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information regarding Robert's qualifications and contributions.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph DL Mirelez

Chairman

Torres Martinez,

Desert Cahuilla Indians

Josephmirelez@torresmartinez-nsn.gov

(760)4232243



## Three References:

1. California Assembly Member James Ramos, please contact Vanessa Brierty - 909 889 7145 [Vanessa.Brierty@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Brierty@asm.ca.gov)
2. CSUSB President Tomas Morales - 909 537 5002 [tmorales@csusb.edu](mailto:tmorales@csusb.edu)
3. CSUSB Associate Vice President Student Success and Educational Equity and Former CSUSB Co-Director CalNAGPRA Committee Dr. Molly Springer - 217 766 7034 [Molly.Springer@csusb.edu](mailto:Molly.Springer@csusb.edu)

**Robert J. Levi, Jr.**

**6934 Elmhurst Ave.**

**Alta Loma, CA 91701-5117**

**Cell Phone – (951) 206 – 3107/email – kaweya80@gmail.com/robert.levi@csusb.edu**

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**Native American Heritage:**

**Tribal Citizen - Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians**

**Non-Enrolled - Dine Nation, Window Rock, Arizona**

**Education:**

**1981 University of California, Irvine – Single Subject Credential – Social Science**

**1977 to 1981 San Diego State University – Major: BA US Constitutional History**

**MEd, Candidate - Curriculum Design and Instruction**

**Minors: Westward Movement and American Indian History**

**1975 to 1977 Riverside City College**

**Work Experience:**

**2024 to Present - Faculty Member, Watson College of Education, CSUSB**

**2022 to 2024 - California Indian Elder in Residence, CSUSB**

**CalNAGPRA Committee Member, CSUSB**

**2018 - Retired from Upland High School**

**2017 to Present - Curriculum Developer for Ethnic Studies, AB 1703 and AB 1821**

**Districts Contracted - Alford Unified, Castro Valley Unified, San Bernardino City and**

**County, San Diego County, Santa Ana Unified, Riverside City and County**

**1988 to 2018 Upland High School, Upland, CA – AP/CP US History Teacher**

**1993 to 2018 Upland High School – Summer School – CP US History Teacher**

**1983 to 1988 Notre Dame High School, Riverside, CA– Advanced Placement (AP)/CP US History Teacher**

**1983 to 1992 Freshman and Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach – Notre Dame High School and Upland High School**

1980 to 1983 **Sherman Indian High School**, Riverside, CA – College Prep (CP) US History Teacher

1977 to 1979 Title IV: **Indian Education Program Evaluator: Northern California Section**

**California Teachers' Association Experiences (1988 to 2018):**

2015 to 2018 - Representative – Civil Rights for Educators Committee

Liaison – Native American Heritage Commission

Chair – American Indian/Alaska Native Caucus

Co – Chair – Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC)

EMAC Cadre Trainer – “Building for Success”

2016 - Joint Ethnic Conference - Presenter – “Save the Indian, Kill the Man”

2017 – Upland Teachers' Association Delegate - Regional Assembly: National Educators Association, Boston

2018 – California Teachers' Association Delegate – Regional Assembly; National Educators Association, Minneapolis, MN

**Native American Cultural Activities:**

Lifetime - Desert Cahuilla Bird Singer

1999 to Present – Editorial Board Member Malki Museum Press

2005 to Present – Member National Indian Education Association

2005 to Present – Member California Indian Education Association

2018 – Presenter – American Indian History Curriculum for High School, University of California, Irvine

2018 – Member – Task Force on Native American Student Recruitment and Retention Committee,  
California State University, San Bernardino

2022 to 2024 - California Indian Elder in Residence, CSUSB

2018 to 2024 - CalNAGPRA Committee Member, CSUSB

2022 - Present - Ethnic Studies Curriculum Developer Castro Valley Unified School District

2022 - Present - Ethnic Studies, (Native American Experience) Curriculum Developer

San Diego County, San Bernardino County, San Bernardino City, Alvord Unified,  
Riverside County, Riverside City

2022 - Present - Professional Development Presenter Ethnic Studies, Santa Ana Unified School District

2024 - Present - California Indian Advisor California Parks Services, Lake Perris

**Personal:**

Married – 35 years

Spouse – Mary H. Levi (Hopi/Miwok)

Children – Daughter: Allaura A. Levi – Office Manager Arizona Realty, Tucson, Arizona

Son: Robert J. Levi, III – Music Engineer/Assistant Brewer Solorio Brewing Co. LLC/

Traditional Cahuilla Bird Singer