

Abel Gomez

CSU Representative

Campus Preference: San Francisco

Qualified:

Ph.D. Religion, Syracuse University 2021

Dissertation: Sacred Sites, Ceremony, and Belonging in Ohlone Territory: A Case Study of Indigenous Survival

Master of Philosophy of Religion, Syracuse University 2018

M.A. Religious Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia 2015

Thesis: Beneath and Above the Worlds of the Spirit Are Alive: Religion, Place, and Ohlone Cultural Revival

While Dr. Gomez does not hold a degree directly listed in the statute, he has direct experience with Ohlone tribal communities pertaining to repatriation and reburial. Dr. Gomez has served as an Assistant Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies since 2022 and as a Lecturer in the Department of Native American Studies at San Francisco State from 2020 through 2021. Dr. Gomez was an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma. He is currently writing a book titled *Living on Indigenous Lands: Protecting Sacred Sites and Enacting Solidarities*.

Reference

Kerri J. Malloy, Gregg Castro, Natalie Avalos, Alisha M. Ragland, and Valentin Lopez (Amuh Mutsun) recommend the candidate.

Current CSU San Bernardino Committee

1. Tribal Representative (Non-Federally Recognized): **Gregg Castro** – Association of Ramaytush Ohlone (Appointed November 7, 2024)
2. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): **Laverne Bill** – Grindstone Indian Rancheria (Appointed August 1, 2024)
3. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): **Sean Scruggs** – Fort Independence Indian Reservation (Appointed November 7, 2024)
4. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): Vacant
5. CSU Representative: **Robert Collins** (Appointed November 7, 2024)
6. CSU Representative: **Vacant**
7. CSU Native American Studies Representative: **Vacant**

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):

<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/> Anthropology	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Studies
<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> History (with a focus in California)	<input type="checkbox"/> Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Science	<input type="checkbox"/> Sociology
<input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____

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*): _____

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: _____ Title: _____

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Nominee Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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.

Incomplete materials will not be considered.

Abel R. Gomez is Assistant Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies at San José State University. His research and teaching examine the relationships between sacred sites, ceremony, gender and sexuality, Indigenous cosmologies, and (de)colonization. Dr. Gomez engages in ethnographic research about and with Ohlone tribal communities in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay regions to theorize enduring meaning of homeland and coalitions to protect sacred sites. He serves as a steering committee member for the Native Traditions in the Americas Unit of the American Academy of Religion.

Dr. Gomez has worked within the field of Native American and Indigenous studies for seven years. As a PhD student, he taught in the Native American and Indigenous Studies program at Syracuse University. He was a lecturer in American Indian Studies at San Francisco State and from 2021-2022 was an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Native American Studies at the University Oklahoma. From 2022-2025 he was Assistant Professor of Native spiritual traditions in the Religion Department at Texas Christian University, working actively with Native American & Indigenous Peoples Initiative on campus. Dr. Gomez holds a PhD in Religion from Syracuse University, where his doctoral research wove together religious studies, Indigenous studies, anthropology, and human geography to analyze movements to protect sacred sites in Ohlone homelands.

Dr. Gomez's scholarship is published in *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, and *Political Theology*. His book *Living on Indigenous Land: Sacred Sites, Ceremony, and Solidarities* is under contract with University of Washington Press. The book examines the ongoing cultural, political, and ceremonial meaning of homeland for diverse Ohlone tribes and families, based on decades of ethnographic research and interviews with dozens of Ohlone leaders and community members. His public-facing scholarship is featured in numerous online publications, podcasts, and on YouTube. Dr. Gomez's community work includes collaborations with local tribes and organizations such as the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS). A first-generation queer Latinx scholar from a Mexican and Central American immigrant family, Dr. Gomez was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Ohlone homelands.

Abel R. Gómez, PhD

Abelrgomez.com

Abel.gomez@sjtu.edu

Assistant Professor, Native American and Indigenous Studies
Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
San José State University
San José, California 95129

EMPLOYMENT

2025 – present, Assistant Professor, Native American and Indigenous Studies
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
San José State University

2022 – 2025, Assistant Professor, Native American and Indigenous Spiritual Traditions
Department of Religion, Texas Christian University
Affiliated faculty, Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies
Affiliated faculty, Women and Gender Studies

2021 – 2022, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma

2020-2021, Lecturer
Department of American Indian Studies, San Francisco State University

EDUCATION

2021 Ph.D. (with distinction) Religion – Syracuse University
Dissertation: *Sacred Sites, Ceremony, and Belonging in Ohlone Territory: A Case Study of Indigenous Survival*
Certificate of Advanced Studies, Women's and Gender Studies
Certificate of University Teaching
Comprehensive Exams: History of Religions and Anthropology of Religion;
Indigenous Religions and Indigenous critical theory; Race, Place, and Memory
2018 M. Phil. Religion – Syracuse University
2015 M.A. Religious Studies - University of Missouri, Columbia
Thesis: *Beneath and Above the Worlds of the Spirit Are Alive: Religion, Place, and Ohlone Cultural Revival*
2013 B.A. Philosophy and Religion - San Francisco State University
Minor: Anthropology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Native American and Indigenous Religions, Decolonial and Indigenous Feminisms, Two-Spirit Critique, Native California, Globalization, Place, Race and Ethnicity, Ethnography,

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Living on Indigenous Lands: Protecting Sacred Sites and Enacting Solidarities (In-Progress)

Journal Articles

Accepted. Anthony Trujillo, Abelardo de la Cruz, Dana Lloyd, **Abel R. Gomez**, Sarah Dees, and Elisha Chi. “Teaching with Native American Religions for Social Justice,” *Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion*.

2024. “(Re)riteing the Land: Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, Amah Mutsun Land Trust, and Indigenous Futurity in California,” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*.

2024. “Religion Scholarship on Indigenous Lands: Potentials, Perils, and Limits of Engaged Scholarship,” *The Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*.

2023. “‘We Survived This’: California Missions, Colonialism, and Indigenous Survival,” *Political Theology*.

Book Chapters

Accepted. “Towards Good Relations: Learning about Native Religions Through Relationship.” *Native American Religions* edited by Dana Lloyd, Routledge.

2022 “What does it mean for Indigenous religions to be ‘place based’?” *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, ed. Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos, Equinox Publishing Ltd.

2022 “Is Neo-Paganism an Indigenous religious tradition?” *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, ed. Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos, Equinox Publishing Ltd.

Book Reviews

2025. Review of *Native Alienation: Spiritual Conquest and Violence of California Missions* by Charles A. Sepulveda. Seattle, University of Washington Press, 2024. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

2019. “(Re)writing, (Re)righting, (Re)riteing Hupa Womanhood: Cutcha Risling Baldy and The Flower Dance Revitalization.” Review of *We are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women’s Coming-of-Age Ceremonies* by Cutcha Risling Baldy. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2018. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*, Equinox Publishing Ltd. VOL 47, NO 3–4.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

2024. "Renewal Dance." Interview for Magic in the United States Podcast, Season 2, episode 5. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/renewal-dance/id1708579118?i=1000657763610>

2023. "Living on Indigenous Lands: (Re)Considering Relations with Occupied Lands." *Contending Modernities*. <https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/theorizing-modernities/living-on-indigenous-lands/>

2023. "Critical Theory for Political Theology 2.0: Indigeneity." *Political Theology Network*. <https://politicaltheology.com/indigeneity/>

2022. "Two-Spirit Indigenous Peoples Building on Legacies of Gender Variance: What Two-Spirit Peoples Can Teach about Transgender Identities, Religion, and Indigenous Communities." *The Revealer*. <https://therevealer.org/two-spirit-indigenous-peoples-building-on-legacies-of-gender-variance/>

2021. "The Matter of Shellmounds: Preserving Sacred Sites." Interview for Challenging Colonialism Podcast, Season 1, Episode 2. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-matter-of-shellmounds/id1571419094?i=1000541720488>

2021. "What Are Indigenous Religions? Part 2." Interview for Keeping it 101 Religion Podcast, Season 4, Episode 4. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/what-are-indigenous-religions-part-2/id1494843031?i=1000539842348>

2021. "Sacred Sites, Indigenous History, and Spanish Colonialism." Interview for Classical Ideas podcast, episode 196. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sacred-sites-indigenous-history-spanish-colonialism/id1268915829?i=1000512048345>

2021. "Postapocalyptic Communities: Tribal and Religious Organizations Respond to COVID-19." *The Revealer*. <https://therevealer.org/postapocalyptic-communities-tribal-and-religious-organizations-respond-to-covid-19/>

2020. "Indigenous Peoples Day comes amid a reckoning over colonialism and calls for return of Native land." *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/indigenous-peoples-day-comes-amid-a-reckoning-over-colonialism-and-calls-for-return-of-native-land-147734>

2020. "Statues topple and a Catholic church burns as California reckons with its Spanish colonial past." *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/statues-topple-and-a-catholic-church-burns-as-california-reckons-with-its-spanish-colonial-past-142809>

2019. "Intro to Indigenous Religions." *YouTube*, uploaded by ReligionForBreakfast. <https://youtu.be/izuL0Wquvkw>. Short educational YouTube video created through media partnership with Sacred Writes and Religion for Breakfast, an initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

2019. "San Francisco Pride, Nation's Largest LGBT Celebration, Takes Place on Indigenous Ohlone Land." *Medium.com –Noteworthy – The Journal Blog*. <https://blog.usejournal.com/san-francisco-pride-nations-largest-lgbt-celebration-takes-place-on-indigenous-ohlone-land-dd4475f47fd5>

PRESENTATIONS

2025. Panelist. "Teaching Indigenous Relationalities." Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, Oklahoma City, June 28.

2024. Respondent. "Kumeyaay and California Native Spirituality: Weaving Past, Present, and Future with Juan Reynoso." Native Traditions in the Americas and Religion and Cities Units, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 24.

2024. Panelist. "Teaching with Native American Religions for Social Justice." – Native Traditions in the Americas Unit American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 24.

2023. "(Re)Riteing the Land: Indigenous Ceremony and Futurity in Northern California." Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Conference, May 11.

2022. Respondent, "Visibility/Invisibility: Native American Recognition and Sovereignty." American Academy of Religions – Native Traditions in the Americas Unit, American Academy of Religion, November 19.

2022. "Native American Religions, Interfaith, and (De)colonization." American Academy of Religion – Academic Relations Committee, November 21.

2021. "'We Survived This': Ohlone Narratives of Colonialism and Belonging at Mission Dolores." Critical Mission Studies Conference, November 13.

2021 "#SaveTheWestBerkeleyShellmound: Sacred Sites and Indigenous Futures in Ohlone Territory." Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, June 2021.

2020 "Defending Indigenous Sacred Places: Perspectives from Ohlone Territory/San Francisco Bay Area." Religion and Cities Unit, American Academy of Religion, December 1.

2020, Invited Panelist, "Decolonial Futures: Religion as a Source of Resistance." *Raising Our Voices* conference of the American Anthropological Association, November 13.

2019 “(En)Gendering Indigenous Ceremonial Revival: Restoring Good Relations,” “Author Meets Critics: Cutcha Risling Baldy’s *We Are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women’s Coming-of-Age Ceremonies*.” Native Traditions in the Americas Unit, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 22.

2016 “Shellmound Peace Walk: Prayer, Pilgrimage, and Activism in Ohlone Territory.” American Academy of Religion – Native Traditions in the Americas Section, San Antonio, November 21.

2015 “Honor the Past to Shape the Future: Ohlone Women, Spirituality, and Indigenous Revitalization.” 14th Annual Graduate Student Symposium on Religion, Florida State University, February 20.

2014 Invited Panelist: “Religion in the Public Sphere: A Discussion of Diversity, Difference, and Civility in an Increasingly Interconnected World.” Missouri Scholars Academy, University of Missouri, June 11.

2014 “The Ancestors Will Return: Ghost Dance as a Ritual of Resistance.” 15th Annual American Indian Studies Association Conference, Arizona State University, February 6.

2013 Invited Panelist: “Indigenous and Queer: Two Spirit Identity in Native America” presentation for Native American Heritage Month and Transgender Awareness Week, University of Missouri, November 11.

2011 “The Holy Queer: Shamans, Healers, Warriors, Dancers, and Ritualists Ancient and Modern.” Western Regional LGBTQIA Conference. University of California, Berkeley, March 5.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025 – present, Instructor of Record

Native American and Indigenous Studies Program, San José State University
Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies, Fall 2025

2022 – 2025, Instructor of Record

Department of Religion, Texas Christian University
Native American Religions, Fall 2022 – Fall 2024
Native American Religions, Genders, and Sexualities, Fall 2022
Indigenous Resurgence and Ceremony, Fall 2024

2021- 2022, Instructor of Record

Department of Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma
Introduction to Native American Studies, Fall 2021
Gender and Sexuality in Native North America, Spring 2022

2020 –2021, Instructor of Record

Department of American Indian Studies, San Francisco State University
American Indian Religion and Philosophy (online), Summer 2021
American Indian Religion and Philosophy (online), Spring 2021
American Indian Religion and Philosophy (online), Fall 2020

2018 –2021, Instructor of Record

Department of Religion, Syracuse University
Religions of the World (online), Spring 2021
Religions of the World (online), Fall 2020
Religions of the World, Spring 2019
Sacred Sites and Indigenous Peoples, Fall 2018
(Meets with Native American and Indigenous Studies 300)

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2024. “California Indian Two Spirit Visionaries Gathering,” a collaboration with Bay Area American Indian-Two Spirits (BAAITS) through the Center for Religion and Cities’ “Good Life Project Initiative” - \$15,000 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuI3ty2grS0>

2020. Covid Relief and Restoration Initiative for Center for Religion and Cities. Direct aid and recording of oral histories. <https://www.religionandcities.org/relief>

- \$3000 granted for Amah Mutsun Land Trust
- \$3000 granted for Sogorea Te’ Land Trust

INVITED TALKS

2025. Keynote speaker: “Latiné Global Solidarity Series: Conversation with Dr. Abel Gomez” focus on Latinx-Indigenous Solidarities, sponsored by Hispanic Scholars Program, virtual lecture, April 7.

2023. “Native American Religions, Public Scholarship, and Relational Accountability.” For “The Scholar of Religion in the Public Sphere.” Boardman Symposium hosted by the Department of Religious Studies at University of Pennsylvania, February 9-11.

2022. “(Re)Riteing the Land: Land-Based Ceremonial Resurgence in Native California,” Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies at University of Iowa, December 2.

2021. “Understanding Indigenous Religions: Insights from Religious Studies and Indigenous Studies,” Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies at University of Oklahoma.

2020. “Queer SF, Indigenous SF,” Indigenous Peoples’ Day Lecture, First Mennonite Church of San Francisco.

2020. "Disease, 'Discovery,' and Survival in Native California." Public talk for Mother Earth's Pandemic: The Doctrine of Discovery (virtual conference) hosted by Indigenous Values Initiative and American Indian Law Alliance.

2019. "Living on Ohlone Land: Building Respectful Relationships," Sponsored by the Bay Area Reclaiming Community in San Francisco

INTERVIEWS

2023. "Fighting erasure together: marginalized communities share similar histories and can make greater progress together." Interview for *Dallas Voice*.

<https://dallasvoice.com/fighting-erasure-together/>

2021. "How Indigenous Religions Can Widen the Interfaith Circle." Interview with Monique Parsons for Interfaith America. <https://ifyc.org/article/how-indigenous-religions-can-widen-interfaith-circle>

2019. It's Just a Talk Podcast, "Episode 020-- Two Spirit People Pride featuring Abel R. Gómez." Apple Podcasts. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-020-two-spirit-people-pride-featuring-abel-r-gomez/id1436570379?i=1000442131480&fbclid=IwAR1V54A73Lix02CqZY3wSsIHDZpcilg4_AkB-3PcH8hUlgG9I1ful_uoMjg

2012. *De Colores Spirit Warriors*. Dir. Berenice Dimas. Queer Woman of Color Film Festival. Film.

AWARDS & HONORS

2025. Junior Faculty Career Enhancement Fellowship, Institute for Citizens and Scholars/Mellon Foundation (\$35,000 +\$1500 research funding) – declined to take position as Assistant Professor at San José State University

2024. TCU Research and Creativities Fund (RCAF) and Junior Faculty Summer Research Program (JFSRP) Awards (\$10,500.00)

2024. Faculty Summer Research Grant (AddRan College of Liberal Arts, TCU, \$5000)

2020. Research Fellowship, CSRC Covid-19 Research on Relief and Restoration Work – Center for the Study of Religion and the City, Morgan State University

2020. Sacred Writes Public Scholarship Fellow.

2019-2020. Graduate Fellowship – Syracuse University Graduate School, Syracuse University (2019-2020)

2019. Research Grant – Center for the Study of Religion and the City, Morgan State University.

2019. Summer Fellowship – Department of Religion, Syracuse University

2018. Summer Fellowship – Department of Religion, Syracuse University

2017. Toni Taverone Graduate Paper Prize - “Decolonizing the Chicana Spirit: Indigenous Religion and Chicana Feminism.” - Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Syracuse University

2017. Theta Chi Beta ΘXB Honors Society - Syracuse University

2013 – 2015. Thurgood Marshall Graduate Fellowship – University of Missouri Graduate School

2013. Community Leadership Award – Queer Resource Center at San Francisco State University

2013. Dedicated Member Award – La Raza Student Organization at San Francisco State University

LEADERSHIP/SOCIAL JUSTICE TRAINING

2019. KIAROS Blanket Exercise: Witness to Injustice Facilitator Training [An interactive exercise that introduces Indigenous and U.S./Canada relations]. Buffalo, NY.

2011-2012. Collaborative Leadership Training with Suzanne Sterling and Ravyn Stanfield. San Francisco, CA.

2009. Permaculture Design Certification. Earth Activist Training with Starhawk and Erik Ohlsen. Cazadero, CA.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Steering Committee, Native Traditions in the Americas Unit (2019 – present)

Center for the Study of Religion and the City
Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland

Advisory Board (2022 – 2024)

Learning Lab Director (2024 – 2025)

Native American and Indigenous Peoples Initiative

Texas Christian University

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Scholarship
Reviewer (2023 – 2025)

Native American and Indigenous Peoples' Day Symposium
Texas Christian University
Planning Committee (2024 – 2025)

Native and Indigenous Students Association (NISA)
Texas Christian University
Faculty Adviser (Fall 2023 – Spring 2005)

Magic in the United States podcast, funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Humanities Advisor (Summer 2023 – 2005)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Reading and speaking proficiency)
French (Reading proficiency)

REFERENCES

Kerri J. Malloy

Assistant Professor, Native American and Indigenous Studies Program

Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

San José State University

kerri.malloy@sjsu.edu

408-924-5861

Alisha M. Ragland, NAGPRA Tribal Liaison

Lecturer, Department of Anthropology

San José State University

alisa.ragland@sjsu.edu

408-924-5703

Natalie Avalos

Assistant Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies, Department of Ethnic Studies

University of Colorado, Boulder

Natalie.Avalos@colorado.edu

303-492-6842



Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences | One Washington Square | San Jose, CA 95192

September 5, 2025

The California State University
Office of the Chancellor

Native American Heritage Commission
State of California

Re: Nomination of Dr. Abel R. Gomez to San José State University NAGPRA Committee

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Program at San José State University, I am nominating Dr. Abel R. Gomez for appointment to San José State University NAGPRA Committee. Dr. Gomez has worked in the field of Native American and Indigenous Studies for seven years, including as a lecturer in American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University, an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma, and Assistant Professor of Indigenous spiritual traditions at Texas Christian University.

Dr. Gomez has extensive profession and personal ties to the tribes in the San Francisco Bay Area developed over his decades of living in the region. His scholarship and community involvement are actively based on the relationships he has formed with the tribes, native organizations, and individual tribal citizens. His appointment to the SJSU Campus NAGPRA Committee would strengthen the relationship between the campus and local California Indian community.

He earned a PhD in Religion from Syracuse University and completed a dissertation focused on movements to protect sacred sites within Ohlone territories. Dr. Gomez's work has been published in *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* and various public media. Beyond the university, Dr. Gomez's collaborations with local tribal nations and organizations such as the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS) reflect his commitment to community-engaged scholarship and solidarity.

The Native American and Indigenous Studies Program at San José State University is pleased to put forward the nomination of Dr. Abel R. Gomez for appointment to the campus wide NAGPRA committee.

Should you have further questions or need assistance, please contact me at the email below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerri J. Malloy".

Kerri J. Malloy, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies
Director, Ethnic Studies Collaborative
kerri.malloy@sjsu.edu