

**Louise J. Miranda Ramirez**

**Non-Federally Recognized Representative:** Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation

**Campus Preference:** San Jose

**Qualified:**

Ms. Ramirez is qualified in that she has more than five years of experience in matters of tribal cultural resource protection. She has served as an MLD multiple times. She has participated in many reburials of inadvertently discovered ancestors. Ms. Ramirez has experience consulting with both state and federal agencies on reburials. Currently she works with the OCEN Tribal Council to support current day ceremonies and reburials.

**Chairwoman Letter of Support**

**References**

Dr. Melissa Leal, Monica V. Arrellano recommend the candidate. Enid Boxter Ryce has yet to respond.

**CSU San Jose Committee**

1. Tribal Representative (Non-Federally Recognized): **Vacant**
2. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): Katherine Napoli – Susanville Indian Rancheria (Appointed August 21, 2025)
3. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): **Vacant**
4. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): **Vacant**
5. CSU Representative: **Vacant**
6. CSU Representative: **Vacant**
7. CSU Native American Studies Representative: Kerri J. Malloy (Appointed August 21, 2025)

**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.

**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).

**Please note: All information provided in this application process will be made publicly available pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.**

## 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)*: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:nagpra@calstate.edu).

Incomplete materials will not be considered.

## Who am I?

I can say what I am not, I am not a scholar, professor, author, poet or superhero!

I am a daughter, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and great grandmother. I love my family, friends and people. I have fought to protect them since my late teens. I have nursed the health of my daughter, mother and sister through their medical procedures and more.

I learned to fight for the rights of people with United Farm Workers through my job with Trabajadores Adelante in 1970 and lessons from Cesar Chavez.

I fought for the rights of fellow employees as a job steward at San Jose State University during my 20 years employment, saving/protecting their jobs.

I learned about the need for marrow donors when my daughter was diagnosed with leukemia, then organized the families needing a marrow transplant for their children. My Tiara died never receiving a transplant but for 10 years my family and I recruited marrow donors for others in the Native American community. Never being paid.

In 1996 I began to serve my people on the OCEN Tribal Council. I stopped after a year and decided to take it easy for a while only recruiting marrow donors. To save Native American and Minority patients traveling to Minnesota, Tampa, Miami, New Orleans, San Francisco, Rhode Island and Washington D.C.

I served on the National Marrow Donors Patients Services committee for 2 years. I also served on the American Red Cross Board of Directors local chapter working to increase the diversity of marrow and blood donors. We raised thousands of dollars to pay for marrow donors at Powwow's, and community events. Never being paid.

I, along with my family, won the Grant Hartley Diversity Award from the National Marrow Donors Program in Minnesota. Plus, the President's Fund award from the National American Red Cross in Cleveland, for doing the most in the nation to increase Minority Donors. Which provided additional funding to recruit donors.

In 2006 I began to learn the Esselen language and found a new love. In late 2006 I was asked to serve as Chair of my Tribe due to many problems. I have served since then as chair and fight to the best of my ability for my people. I have been called more names by other local Natives because I care for and stand for my people and OCEN.

I have reburied Ancestor's at John Hopkins Marine Lab, Moss Landing, off Highway 68, Cannery Row, Pebble Beach, Pacific Grove, Monterey, Presidio of Monterey, Monterey Airport, Carmel, Tassajara Fire Remains, Prunedale, Soledad Mission and Carmel Mission as the assigned Most Likely Descendant.

I was assigned as the MLD three times for remains with no reburial land by the NAHC. On behalf of the OCEN Tribal Council we will accept all remains assigned to OCEN and wait for burial land.

I worked for two years with the Pacific Grove Museum to rebury all OCEN Ancestors in their possession.

I worked with five Federally Recognized Tribes and the Department of Army to return and rebury OCEN Ancestors' remains scattered throughout California.

I work with the OCEN Tribal Council to provide ceremonies for current day burials as described by Isabel Meadows notes recorded by John Peabody Harrington. In Esselen and English, we read our prayers teaching our young people about their history and culture. It is for them we do this work.

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Louise J. Miranda Ramirez  
Tribal Chairwoman  
Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation  
(408) 629-5189

## Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation



Previously acknowledged as  
The San Carlos Band of  
Mission Indians  
The Monterey Band  
And also known as  
O.C.E.N. or Esselen Nation  
P.O. Box 1301  
Monterey, CA 93942

[www.ohlonecostanoanesselenation.org](http://www.ohlonecostanoanesselenation.org)

January 7, 2026

NAHC@nahc.ca.gov.

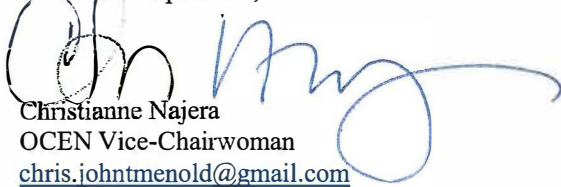
Saleki Atsa,

*The Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation is a historically documented previously recognized tribe. OCEN is the legal tribal government representative for over six hundred enrolled members of Esselen, Carmeleno, Monterey Band, Rumsen, Chalon, Nuestra Sonora de la Soledad Mission, San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo Mission, and/or Costanoan Mission Indian descent of Monterey County. OCEN families were previously recognized as The San Carlos Band of Mission Indians 1852 by Indian Agent Helen Hunt Jackson, The Monterey Band of Monterey at Sur Rancheria by Special Indian Agent, C.E. Kelsey, and today we are known as O.C.E.N. or Esselen Nation.*

Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation Tribal Council submits and approves the nomination request of OCEN Tribal Chairwoman, Louise J. Miranda Ramirez for the California State University Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Implementation and Oversight Committee at San Jose State University, with alternate request of California State University, Monterey Bay.

OCEN submitted its petition #132 for Federal Recognition to the Department of Interior. It has not rescinded its request for Federal Recognition as other Tribes/Nations. Chair Miranda Ramirez is the Great Granddaughter of Thomas Miranda and Maria Inez Agnes Garcia Miranda, the only family identified by name as the Monterey Band of Monterey at the Sur Rancheria, both of Esselen/Rumsen descendants.

Nimasiañexelpasaleki,



Christianne Najera  
OCEN Vice-Chairwoman  
[chris.johntmenold@gmail.com](mailto:chris.johntmenold@gmail.com)

Approved references:

Professor Enid Boxter Ryce  
CSUMB  
[eblader@csumb.edu](mailto:eblader@csumb.edu)  
1 (831) 737- 3566

Monica V. Arellano  
Previous Vice-Chairwoman,  
Muwekma Ohlone Tribe  
[monicavarellano@gmail.com](mailto:monicavarellano@gmail.com)  
1 (408) 205-9714

Dr. Melissa Leal, Ph.D.  
OCEN Tribal Council and Tribal Administrator  
Department of Chair/Faculty - Ethnic Studies at Sierra College  
Dual Enrollment Liaison  
[mleal@sierracollege.edu](mailto:mleal@sierracollege.edu) 1 (916) 949-2939