

Katherine Gomez

Non-Federally Recognized Tribal Representative: Tubatulabal of Kern River Valley

Campus Preference: Bakersfield

Qualified:

Katherine Gomez has served as a council member and NAGPRA representative for the Tubatulabal of Kern River Valley since 2018. In her time as a councilmember, she has supported tribal cultural resources protection. Additionally, she has individually participated in repatriation and reburials on behalf of the Tribe from both private and state entities.

References:

Joseph Williams, Louis Gill, and William Garfield recommend the candidate.

Chairman Letter of Support

Current CSU Bakersfield Committee

1. Tribal Representative (Non-Federally Recognized): **Vacant**
2. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): **Floyd Franco Jr.** – Tule River Indian Tribe (Appointed August 1, 2024)
3. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): **Curtis Alcantar** – Tejon Indian Tribe (Appointed August 21, 2025)
4. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): **Larea Lewis** – Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Appointed October 16, 2025)
5. CSU Representative: **Vacant**
6. CSU Representative: **Vacant**
7. CSU Native American Studies Representative: **Dr. Maria Gutierrez de Jesus** (Appointed April 17, 2026)

**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

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.

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.

Incomplete materials will not be considered.

My name is Katherine Gomez, and I am honored to serve as a Council Member for the Tübatulabal Tribe of the Kern River Valley. My uncle, Robert Gomez, has been our tribe's Chairman for many years, inspiring me from a young age to become involved in tribal affairs. Over time, my passion for our tribe and community grew, and as a young adult, I began working with organizations that support those same values and goals. I have three children and two grandchildren, and I am dedicated to passing these values on to them. I have also taken part in traditional dances, cultural events, and repatriation ceremonies, and worked alongside others dedicated to preserving our land, culture, language, and songs.

Serving on the Council has been a profound honor for me. In this position, I have helped coordinate cultural events, supported tribal governance, and promoted communication within our community. My dedication to the Tübatulabal Tribe goes beyond tradition—I am committed to amplifying our people's voices and safeguarding our heritage for future generations.

Professionally, I serve as the Director of Human Resources at The Open Door Network, where I promote employee well-being and foster organizational growth. Managing my professional duties alongside my dedication to the tribe has strengthened my leadership skills. I am thankful for the chance to support both my community and colleagues daily.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Katherine Gomez

References

Joseph Williams
916-709-5494
josephwilliams488@gmail.com

Louis Gill
661-599-1998
lgilljr@gmail.com

William Garfield
559-306-3547
william.garfield@usda.gov



Tubatulabals of Kern Valley

P.O Box 833
Weldon, CA 93283

March 31, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

With great pleasure and enthusiasm, I would like to recommend Ms. Katherine Gomez, for the position of California State University, Bakersfield, Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act, (NAGPRA) Campus Committee Member.

Katherine has been involved in Native American affairs, programs, projects and employment in various forms from volunteer, employment and leader for many years. She has displayed an enduring affinity towards Indian affairs. These relationships have always been to promote and sustain Native Cultural Heritage.

Several years ago, when the Tübatulabal Tribe, repatriated remains, she played an active role in re-interning the remains in a proper and appropriate ceremony based on traditional cultural heritage. In recent years, as a tribal board member, Katherine has participated in working and ensuring that the tribe repatriates' items of cultural patrimony from colleges, museums and other entities. She currently serves as the Tribe's Coordinator, with the Tejon Tribe's Cultural Program for NAGPRA repatriation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or desire more information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Gomez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Gomez
Chairman