Congratulations to our 2022 Graduates!

With all the changes and Covid on campus the past two years this was our first in person graduation since 2019. It was exciting to see our students achieve their goals, we were proud to see how they have grown over the years, and sad to know we will not be seeing them weekly in the house. We had 33 students participate in our Spring 2022 All Native Grad which was held in the Van Duzer Theater on May 12th @ 6:00pm.

With so many students participating in All Native Grad these days we have had to outsource our sash making. We would like to extend our thanks to Genevieve Markussen for her craftsmanship. We are hoping that this next semester we can start a weekly ITEPP sewing/beading group to put ITEPP patches and dangles on for next spring’s ceremony.
HSU now Cal Poly Humboldt

Backed by a historic state investment, Humboldt State University is pursuing an ambitious vision for becoming the state’s third polytechnic institution and the first in Northern California. We’re adding in-demand new academic programs, building new facilities, and growing our enrollment. It’s an enormous opportunity for students, and could revitalize the North Coast economy for generations to come.

This investment will be transformational for HSU, and we will be deliberate, respectful, responsible, and forthright as we accept the investment by the people of California in this incredible university and this amazing region. This is our moment. This is our time as a campus and community to become the place we have always envisioned.

The opportunity is enormous for both HSU and the region. Humboldt State is already the largest employer in the area and has an estimated annual economic impact of $459 million. Humboldt State is poised to add at least 10 new programs by 2023 and double our enrollment over the next seven years. Our expansion will give more students access to high-demand programs. We will help meet the STEM workforce needs in our region and throughout California, and we will invest in applied research in climate resilience, fire management, renewable energy, and other vital areas.

As Humboldt State pursues these changes, we remain committed to access and reducing equity gaps. We will continue local outreach, expand on donor-funded scholarships for local students, recruit students from North Coast tribal communities, assure spots for students who earn an Associate Degree for Transfer, and expand efforts to increase college-going rates on the North Coast.

California and our world are facing complex and unprecedented challenges. With the support of our many friends and partners, Humboldt State is moving boldly to educate the change makers, professionals, and leaders that are needed.

- The historic state investment will support Humboldt State’s comprehensive plan to quickly build out new STEM programs and double enrollment. The investment will add academic programs, provide quality housing for students, fund fast-tracked renovations of science and laboratory facilities, and enhance computing and telecommunications infrastructure.

- The new state funding will also help revitalize the economy in the North Coast region. There will be significant economic impact from increased student enrollment, construction, and hiring. Broadband expansion will also serve the region’s K-14 schools and libraries, while increasing the number of tech-related jobs.

- In pursuing its polytechnic vision, Humboldt State will build upon its longstanding commitment to sustainability and provide solutions to the problems California faces today.

What differences are between CSU Humboldt and Cal Poly Humboldt?

A polytechnic embraces a “learn by doing” approach to education. Academic programming is broad in natural sciences, applied sciences, technology and engineering. It has a strong liberal arts curriculum. It emphasizes hands-on learning, helping students apply what they learn to prepare graduates for that next step in life, whether that’s a career or graduate school.

In other words, it’s everything we already are; however, with a formal designation, we have the state funding and resources to provide you a bigger and better educational experience over the next several years.

For more info: https://www.humboldt.edu/polytechnic/prospective-student-faq
Adrienne Colegrove-Raymond, 
Hoopa Valley Tribe 
1992 Cal Poly Humboldt Alumni

He:yung/Kileh, It has been a pleasure serving as the Director of ITEPP for the past 8 years. What a whirlwind it has been. It started with the 2015 student protest and Native Forum occupation, which resulted in the campus publicly acknowledging that the campus resides on unceded Wiyot land, redefining Native student success and reclaiming the Native Forum as a designated Indigenous space. Shortly thereafter, the Annual California Big Time & Social Gathering, Indigenous Peoples Week, and Native Graduation Celebration were transferred to state funding and placed under the direction of ITEPP. ITEPP became responsible for tracking all Native students attending Humboldt by disaggregating data. In 2017, ITEPP was moved from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs, which was quite an adjustment. Fortunately, ITEPP’s historical culturally responsive advising model was recognized as the goal for the Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence. In 2018 we hosted the California State University (CSU) Native Initiative statewide meeting. And, as an executive member of the CSU Native Initiative we were able to increase orientation and professional development opportunities for ITEPP students. In 2019, in collaboration with the Council of American Indian Faculty & Staff hosted the Tribal Leader Summit as an introduction to President Jackson, the first Cal Poly Humboldt president of Native descent. In 2021 we were recognized for our Indigenous Participatory Leadership model.

This year I joined the president’s team as Special Assistant to the President for Tribal Relations & Community Engagement. In this new role I will be supporting the president’s outreach to tribal nations, community and leading key initiatives. Current projects include readjustment of data collection of Native students in the CSU, tuition waivers for tribally enrolled students, increased internship opportunities, economic development partnerships with tribes and securing culturally specific space on campus for support programs. I will continue to work with ITEPP, INRSEP, NAS, Child Development (AIE), Social Work, Goudi’ni Native Arts Gallery, and all programs supporting Native students. As a member of the Council of American Indian Faculty and Staff (CAIFS) I will continue to listen to all voices and opinions on issues facing our community. CAIFS is the strength of the campus and is most powerful when we share, partner, consult, and collaborate. In this position I hope to be an asset to Native students, programs and communities. As the third Cal Poly in the state, I am certain we will remain the college of choice for Native students. Ts’ehdiyah, Adrienne Colegrove-Raymond
Paula “Pimm” Tripp-Allen, Karuk Tribe
1996 ITEPP Alumni

Aiyukii ITEPP Family, I hope you are all having a beautiful summer. I have been so grateful for my summer so far, spending time in places and among people that are good for my heart and soul. I have spent time at ceremony, very thankful to be able to attend both Flower Dance and Brushdance this summer, and also this past month I have spent more than a few good days at the river which in my opinion is one the best ways to spend a summer day, splashing and lounging with the kids and grandbabies! In case you hadn’t heard yet, I also wanted to be sure to share with you all that I am transitioning away from ITEPP and will be taking a new position as a Senior Advisor with the Humboldt Area & Wild Rivers Community Foundation as of this Fall. I have been associated with the Foundation for over two decades now in various capacities and I am very excited about this new opportunity, but it is definitely bittersweet to be leaving ITEPP. I have truly enjoyed and been blessed to have worked with all the students, staff and community members over these past years at ITEPP. In some ways there have been so many changes on campus and at ITEPP in that time, but the best part was always the ways it stayed the same - all the student energy at the beginning of each semester, all the thoughtful discussions about big issues across Indian Country which always gave me hope for our future, and all the laughter, and sometimes tears, that made the ITEPP feel like a family. I have been honored to see nine graduating ITEPP classes and during that time also got to watch my own daughter earn her degree and ITEPP sash, and walk across the graduation stage with her son in tow. I often told people that he was the fifth generation in my family to be connected to Humboldt, from my grandmother who was a founding member of ITEPP, to my parents and then myself, and then my oldest daughter and first grandson who spent much of his 1st year on campus with his parents and at ITEPP hanging with his ITEPP aunts and uncles. There are so many more stories and memories I want to share, but I will save them for when we run into each other and want to reminisce about all the good times we had. To each of the ITEPP students, know that it was truly my privilege to get to know you, to watch you grow and find your own path in your educational journey and I wish you all the best as you continue on your way, you got this! To my amazing ITEPP and CAIFS colleagues, you were all truly the best, what a powerhouse of indigenous thought and energy! I was always inspired and happy after spending time with you all and I hope we get to continue to find ways to work together because I know there is still lots of good work to be done. And I look forward to seeing all of you at Big Time next year!
We are happy to announce that Sasheen Shailee Colegrove Raymond, who is of Hoopa and Yurok descent and an enrolled member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, has accepted the position of ITEPP Director. Sasheen is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Pepperdine Graduate School of Psychology and Education. She received her master’s degree in Organizational Leadership from Claremont University and her undergraduate degree in Native American Studies from Cal Poly Humboldt. Prior to transferring over to ITEPP, she worked in the office of Admissions, where she developed a strategic plan for Native student outreach. Prior to that, she worked in the Social Work Department as a graduate coordinator.

Her scholarly research focuses on leadership development, mentorship, and Indigenous epistemologies in higher education. She hopes to assist in shifting oppressive educational systems to provide equitable and valuable experiences for Native students. Her emphasis will be on meaningful assessment and research highlighting the resilience and strengths of Native people honoring traditional knowledge.

Sasheen is excited about her new role and hopes that students, alumni, and community members stop by to visit and have a cup of coffee or tea. She will work to maintain and strengthen the legacy of the many leaders that have established ITEPP as a model program for Native students.

My name is Rose Gibbens, I am the new Academic Advisor for ITEPP. I am the granddaughter of the late Lorraine and Ricard O’Rourke, Helen and Paul Gibbens and the daughter of Patti & Roger Gibbens. I grew up on the Yurok reservation and am a Yurok tribal member I am also an ITEPP alum. I previously worked in the Cultural Centers at Cal Poly Humboldt and formerly as the Head Start Manager for the Yurok Tribe where I worked with Tribal children and families. At Cal Poly Humboldt, my student success at was fostered by ITEPP staff and Native peoples on campus. ITEPP felt like a home, a safe space where there was a familiarity and people going through the same struggles as myself. As someone who knows the importance of the program and staff at ITEPP I am looking forward to fostering a culturally welcoming environment and approach that contributes to the success of Native students and families in higher education.
I returned to finish my degree at Humboldt in 1998, with three littles in tow. I was lucky enough to become a student assistant for ITEPP as Graphic Specialist in the Curriculum Resource Center (CRC). I did things like: create Language posters/Cards for Hupa, Karuk, Tolowa, and Yurok; create graduation announcements for seniors; created the 1st ITEPP webpage, and gave cultural presentations in the local Elementary & Middle schools.

After my graduation from HSU/ITEPP in 2001 I became the third ITEPP CRC Coordinator. The CRC grew from a student donated lending shelf of books, to a Teaching & Curriculum Resource Center, to a Cultural Resource Center with 7,000 pieces on, about and by Natives peoples trying to focus on Northern California Natives and providing students access to books used in our Native Faculties courses.

ITEPP was moved in 2006 from two houses (Spidell & Hopkins) on Harpst Street to Brero House off of library circle. Thanks to Center of Indian Community Development (CICD) moving into the Behavioral Social Science Building (BSSB) so ITEPP could keep our “Home away from Home” atmosphere. This is when my academic advising ramped up to students across all departments & majors.

Well now it’s 2022 and I am celebrating my 21st year with ITEPP. Yes much has changed, and all the visionaries I have worked with over the years have since retired. I have lost one of my three children, but have gained a granddaughter (who is now 8). I still feel today as I did in 1998, Lucky that I can be a part of ITEPP, a place that creates a “Home away from Home” for our Native Students who are trying to become people that lead our communities into the future.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your lives.
**Wes Crawford, Yurok Tribe**  
1996 ITEPP Alumni  
I’ve been home in Hoopa, CA. teaching since graduating HSU. I’ve taught at Hoopa High school and Hoopa Elementary over the years. I am currently teaching PE/Health and Cultural Connections. I’ve coached golf, basketball and baseball and still play softball whenever I can. Co-Parenting three fantastic children: Naress is 14 and will be an 8th grader, Kaytlyn is 15 will be a sophomore and Trey is 18 and will be starting his college experience at Stanford.

**Felicity Cross, Yurok Tribe**  
2021 ITEPP alumni  
Aiy-ye-kwee, I graduated in 2021 from the ERE program with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering and a minor in GIS. In fact, I was part of the last graduating class of Humboldt State University. Since then, I have been working fulltime with the Yurok Tribe’s Geographic Information Technology department analyzing data and making fun maps. I have spent my Fridays working part-time with a local engineering firm helping design septic systems for the tribal community, measuring flows and becoming familiar with the engineering work world. In my free time, I have been busy adding abandoned dogs to my family, and now have a total of 4 perfect pups. During my time with the GIT department, I have had the honor of presenting on Indoor mapping technology at the international ESRI User Conference. I have recently accepted an ofer for a Restoration Engineer position with Yurok Tribes Fisheries Department. I am thrilled to be part of their Design and construction team that take an active role in saving fish and creating improved river ecosystems. I look forward to helping restore the river reaches after the Klamath Dams are removed!

**Joe Davis, Chairman, Hoopa Valley Tribe**  
ITEPP Alumni  
A longtime volunteer for youth programs on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, Davis, an ITEPP Alum, has served as the Tribe’s Recreation Director, Planning Director, and as a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council. In the spring of 2021, Davis realized his lifelong goal of being elected Chairman of the Hoopa Valley Tribe. Chairman Davis is thankful for the opportunities provided by ITEPP and is very committed to the protection of the Hoopa Valley Tribe’s fishing rights and natural resources on the largest reservation in California where he lives with his wife Kayla and two daughters Randee age 2 and Jordyn Shana age 1.

“Without ITEPP, I would not have made it as far as I have. I am very thankful for ITEPP and the staff there that really cared. I hope to see the program continue to flourish for generations to come.”
Rich England, Yurok Tribe  
1994 ITEPP alumni  
I am living in Oregon. I am an LCSW (Licensed clinical social worker) and I have a consulting business. I often work with California Indian Legal Services, Tribes, and counties throughout the United States. I’m currently a social services advisory committee for the Yurok Tribe. My wife and I enjoy boating, RVing, and traveling. Life is Great!

Jennifer George-Lane, Hoopa Valley Tribe  
2000 ITEPP Alumni  
He:yung, My name is Jennifer George-Lane and I am honored to be your new KTJUSD Superintendent. I am the oldest daughter of the late Mervin L. George, Sr., and Laura Lee George, and sister to Melodie George-Moore and Mervin L. George, Jr. I am also the very first Hupa Tribal Member and second Native American to ever hold this position in the history of this district.


My goals as superintendent are: to establish a positive school climate at each of our schools, develop and maintain healthy school budgets, bridge the gap that currently exists between the tribes and district, and follow through on the construction of the new I-Tech building at Hoopa Valley High School.

My biggest support throughout my career has been my late grandmother, Kathryn Jackson, my mother and father, my late college mentor, David “Boy Blue” Risling, Jr., my high school Indian Club Advisor, Joe Giovanetti, and my 4th grade teacher, Patricia Self. Each of these people encouraged me at different stages of my life and I forever thank them for it.

My advice to fellow ITEPP students hoping to aspire to be a superintendent is this: the road is long and can be rough, but if you stay true to your dreams and keep moving forward, new opportunities can arise at the drop of a hat. Never say never.
Laura Lee George,  
Karuk Tribe  
1984 ITEPP Alumni

Since retiring from the directorship at HSU/ITEPP in 2000, I spent six years as the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services at Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District (KTJUSD) and I also served one year as the Acting Superintendent retiring a second time in 2006. Then from 2007 until 2020, I was appointed by California State Superintendents of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson and Jack O’Connell, and served as President of their American Indian Education Oversight Committee. Since 2015 I have served as a Trustee on the School Board for KTJUSD where my term will end this December. (And yes Melodie, I will stay retired this time!) As I reflect on my professional career in American Indian Education, I have the following thoughts.

Yes, there has been progress and change, but there is so much more to accomplish.

At KTJUSD back in the 1990’s, we had to threaten a lawsuit to get our first ITEPP teacher hired. Today there are many American Indian teachers and a few administrators in the district. Maggie Peters is the first Yurok tribal member to be the principal at Hoopa High School. Jennifer Lane has come back from retirement after a 32-year career at KTJUSD and is now the first Hoopa Tribal member at the helm of KTJUSD serving as the Interim Superintendent. At Cal Poly Humboldt it is great to see a cadre of local American Indian professors in charge of the Native American Studies Department and at the Child Development Department!

What I see today is that there is still a critical need for knowing our own indigenous histories and colonization experiences and their inclusion in the curriculum ... especially textbooks used in American schools. All students need a fundamental knowledge of U.S. history that includes federal Indian law, sovereignty, treaty rights, etc. I hear educators get bogged down in how to teach Indian “culture.” We need to know similarities and differences between cultures, but we need to include teaching about history, language, citizenship, science, art, mathematics, etc. from a Native American perspective.

I also see a need to debunk the “us vs. them” mentality with schools. At KTJUSD we are looking for ways to “decolonize the brown act” or at least make the school board more accessible for dialogue with the community. The grievance procedures need to be aligned with community cultures especially in small rural areas where it is impossible for school trustees to not know what is happening and be unbiased when grievances get to their level. We have asked Yurok Tribal Chief Judge, Abby Abinanti to assist in this effort.

With regards to local history, I have been involved with the Hoopa Valley Historical Alliance (HVHA) for a number of years in renovation efforts of the Adobe House built in 1860 in Hoopa at Fort Gaston. We have been successful in getting the Adobe House listed on the National Register of Historical Sites and have plans to house an educational interpretive center that includes local history from local sources. A lot of groundwork has been accomplished, but the project is in dire need of fresh energies especially after the last three years of the pandemic. Hopefully, the project can get back on track! If you are interested, let me know.

My retirement days are filled with laughter and cheer from my three children, fourteen grandchildren, and six great grandchildren (with two more on the way)!
Genevieve “Gina” Jones, Owens Valley Paiute
1994 ITEPP alumni

Manahuu! I am the Director of the Owens Valley Career Development Center - Career Education Program located in Bishop, CA. I have been employed with OVCDC since 2002, recently celebrating my 20-year anniversary at OVCDC. I am a former elementary-middle-school teacher, graduating with my BA from Humboldt State University’s Indian Teacher Preparation Personnel Program in 1994. My first teaching experience was at the Margaret Keating Elementary School in Klamath, CA and then at the Big Pine Unified School District in Big Pine, CA.

I was elected as Tribal Chairman for the Big Pine Paiute Tribe on two different occasions. Recently I served as the Tribal Council Secretary for the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley, where I am an enrolled member.

I have 2 adult children that live in Eureka, CA. Elizabeth Lewis and Jaclyn Bissonette. Jaclyn received her Master’s Degree in Social Work at HSU in 2021. I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, Gena-23, Leona-5 years and River Requa-15 months. I look forward to the time I get to spend in Humboldt County visiting my two daughters and the cool, mild weather that Humboldt offers. HSU and Humboldt County continues to be a “family tradition” for me and my family.

Antoinette Martinez, Chumash
1994 ITEPP alumni

Haku! Hello! I am Antoinette Martinez, and I am Chumash. I am proud to say that I am a graduate of Humboldt State University, now Cal Poly Humboldt. I graduated in 1994 with a BA in psychology, minors in Cellular Molecular Biology and Native American studies, and completed my MD at the University of North Dakota INMED (Indians into Medicine) program. I am a Family Medicine physician with additional training in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and have been a medical provider at United Indian Health Services, Inc, since 2008.

My path to medicine was a little long, as I did not believe that I could be a physician. I always wanted to be one, but it took time to get there. After realizing that this was possible, I also decided to participate in the ITEPP program while attending HSU. ITEPP served as the support system that studies show many American Indian and Alaska Native peoples thrive in. For myself, it was my “home base” where a support network of academic counseling, opportunities to share stories, visit, and laugh with others with social and club activities. This is where I began my path to integrate my native upbringing and culture with Western medicine.

I currently provide primary care services at United Indian Health Services, Inc. When people ask me what the best thing is about my work, I tell them there are many highlights. First, I love taking care of families, most especially with pregnant women and delivering the babies! It watching them participate in the local ceremonial dances, fully realizing that they will carry on the traditions and practices of our tribal communities. Recently, at a local ceremony, I saw many children that I had delivered, and felt pure joy.
Antoinette Martinez Continued

watching them participate. There are many other memorable experiences that I have had as a doctor, and I hope to continue for many, many years.

During the COVID outbreak, I realized how short life is and that I need to help grow more native healthcare professionals. Currently, I serve as the Co-Director for the University of California Davis School of Medicine Tribal Health PRIME (Programs in Medical Education) which is beginning their first year cohort of Native community health scholars. These students will become physicians in four years, and then go on to specialize in the type of healthcare they will provide. My work also includes broad efforts on a state and national basis to help tribes and American Indian/Alaska Native communities to help with this effort. Locally, I work with and precept premedical and medical school students, as well as Family Medicine residents.

I am a member of the California Medical Association JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) committee, and actively involved with the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) as we look at expanding work to increase native healthcare professionals, and to support our students and communities. How do I do all of this? I try to keep my priorities and values in focus, stay active in cultural activities and traditional ceremonies, and enjoy my family, my children, Matt and Eva, and my grandchildren, Gabe, Josh, and Addy. Finally, I will be forever grateful for all that I have been gifted with from my family and friends, the community here, and the Cal Poly Humboldt (formerly HSU) native programs. If you ever want to contact me, you can always reach me through United Indian Health Services, inc., and I would love to speak with you.

Liz Lara-O’Rourke, Hupa/Yurok/Chilula 2012 ITEPP alumni

Graduated from the Humboldt State University (HSU) with a BA in Communication, Cum Laude in 2012. While at Humboldt she was selected by faulty and fellow scholars for membership in Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association Honor Society. She then attended the Clinical Leadership Institute through the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California and graduated from the program in 2014. Her project was adapting Customer Service Training to be more culturally appropriate. This training has since been used at United Indian Health Services (UIHS) for all incoming staff members. She then attended the University of San Francisco and received her Master’s in Public Administration and was placed on the Dean’s List in 2018. During her studies, she worked at United Indian Health Services as a Health Promotion and Education Manager and Tribal Public Health Director. She gives much credit to ITEPP for the support she received. ITEPP staff offered advice, assistance with most anything, and.... FOOD! ITEPP helped her to feel connected and comfortable at HSU. During this past year, Liz has also taken on the role of Public Information Officer and the Chief Executive Officer at UIHS. She is using her Communication Degree from Humboldt State to share information about COVID-19, health care and cultural topics. She also hosts live Facebook Chats with guests to discuss important health issues and concerns. Her daughter, Chu-cheesh is an ITEPP’r! She will graduate May 2023. She is very thankful for the program and knows that her daughter is receiving the same GREAT support and assistance that she did.
Shaylynne Masten,
Yurok Tribe
2015 ITEPP alumni

Hehl kelew (hey to you all). Nek-naw Shaylynne Masten (my name is Shaylynne Masten). Nek-Pue-lee-k-laa’ esee wee’ (I am a Yurok person). I graduated from Humboldt State (Cal Poly Humboldt) with my Masters in Social Work degree in 2018! Since November of 2018, I have been at Two Feathers Native American Family Services and my current role is the Youth Prevention and Promotion Program Director. I get to oversee and help develop cultural and youth programming for our local Native youth and I am honored that my job provides space for me to be able to give back to my community and learn my culture.

I was born an Auntie and currently have 34 nieces and nephews with 2 more on the way! That said, I live my life to serve the next generation! In June, 2019 I gave birth to my first baby and have transitioned into the best role yet, MOMMA! I continue to look forward to where life will take me and I am hopeful and excited for what's next!

Jessica Mosier,
Hupa/Sioux/Yurok
2003 ITEPP alumni

He:yung, just a little update since graduating so many years ago. I live and work in the Hoopa Valley for K’ima:w Medical Center, and serve on boards and committees for the Hoopa Valley Tribe. I have four children, one nephew, one handsome Grandson with another Grandchild and my first Great Niece coming at the end of the year.

Working through the pandemic definitely has had its challenges and was a change of pace after all of my years working in the Administrative and Quality Department of the medical center. Glad we are moving to more normalcy in regard to the pandemic. I took this time to enjoy more beading and regalia making time with my daughter.

Life definitely has been life changing over the last year as my family experienced the devastating loss of my beautiful niece Awok Mercidez. Our family continues to respect and love this life a little more; choosing to live each day to the fullest.

I wish all the future ITEPP students lots of success, the staff and program were invaluable while I attended HSU.
Morek “Annie” O’Rourke, 2016 ITEPP alumni

Is currently teaching English and Yurok language at Hoopa Valley High School, while raising her daughter Morek Avery Erickson.

One of her goals is teaching and preparing the next generation of ITEPPers.

Maymi Preston-Donahue, Karuk, Yurok, Paiute, Pitriver 2017 ITEPP alumni

MSW from HSU, BA from SOU, I am currently pursuing licensure toward being a LCSW as an ASW. I am also a Karuk language apprentice under Master Speaker Julian Lang as well as a language teacher in Orleans and Somes Bar elementary schools.

Native language revitalization is a long-term passion of mine and I believe it will play a big role in the healing of the People as it has done so much for myself and my family.

Our traditions, language, songs, families, dances, the health of our rivers, the people on the lands, it all comes together to build us up. We are all connected and I truly believe together we can heal!

I am so happy to be a part of the Two Feathers team as I see mental health and healing encompasses so much more than just therapy. I value two Feathers’ commitment to Native Peole and their ability to re-imagine models that truly were not designed to help Native people and to work past differences in order to reach the whole Community. Yootva (thank you)!

Upcoming Webinars

Indigenizing Hip-Hop
Mato Wayuuh (Oglala Lakota) he/him/his
Talon Bazille Ducheneaux (Cheyenne River Lakota/Crow Creek)

August 12, 2022
1 PM (Available on demand afterwards)
Free. Registration required.

Professional Development

2022 Indigenous Peoples’ Day Teach-In Series

October 1, 2022

https://americanindian.si.edu/rk360
Mary Rigosa & David Sanders
1983 ITEPP alumni

After teaching at Jack Norton Elementary School for 33 ½ years, I retired in 2018. During my time at JNES I was able to teach with fellow ITEPPers and friends, Kay Inong, my bestie Patti Gibbens, and my husband David Sanders. I learned a lot about Yurok Language and culture which inspired me to learn about my own Nomlaki Language and culture.

Currently I’m the chair for my tribe’s cultural committee and enrollment committee. Dave, our daughter Ellen, and I are working to revitalize Nomlaki Language. We attend weekly language classes and language conferences.

I want to thank ITEPP staff and board for helping me achieve my childhood goal of becoming a teacher. ITEPP brought me to the Yurok Reservation, where I was accepted, and developed so many lasting friendships, including the best friendship ever with Patti Gibbens.

Dave wants to thank ITEPP for starting him off on his teaching career, through the BTEPP program (bilingual teaching), and all the support and friendships at ITEPP. That also led to our wonderful opportunity to work with the Yurok Elders of the Pecwan community and create a Yurok Language conversation book, of which we are very proud. He retired in 2020, after 33 years with Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District, teaching for 10 years at Weitchpec Elementary, 17 years at Hoopa Valley Elementary, and 4 years at Jack Norton School Elementary. He served on the KTTA (teacher’s union) executive committee as an officer and negotiator for most of those years. Now he remains involved in the community; is President of Friends of The Kim Yerton Memorial Library in Hoopa; working on his own writing and research; and building a new house for us.

Julia Jones
Hoopa Valley Tribe
2022 ITEPP Alumni

Julia Jones, a William Randolph Hearst Scholar for the CSU, has shown a commitment to community service and to integrating her studies in Native American Studies and Sociology through volunteering and working for various community projects that serve Native American youth. For the past two years, she has served as a Teaching Assistant for NAS 104 assisting Dr. Kaitlin Reed as part of the Place Based Learning Communities. Her involvement in the NAS 104 Intro courses has contributed to the retention of students at Cal Poly Humboldt and her mentorship of these students has been a key part of their success in the classroom. Julia also assisted Dr. Reed in transitioning the course to a primarily online platform throughout the pandemic. Her ability to navigate this change was incredibly admirable throughout the pandemic and her dedication to finding new ways to engage students through online learning was indispensable to our department.

To read more: https://osa.humboldt.edu/
Tina Sataraka
Talofa Lava!
2019 ITEPP Alumni

Since I graduated with a BA in Social Work, I moved back to my hometown - San Francisco.

I have had several jobs along the way. I've worked at the Boys and Girls Club, Postal Office, and as a Residential Counselor working with girls from the age of 12 to 17 who were survivors of human trafficking.

My current job (also my longest) is being a Case Manager at Safe Harbor Shelter. I work with individuals who are experiencing homelessness in San Mateo County. Working in this field, where you're of service to the community, is very difficult, but also very rewarding. I work with individuals from all walks of life. I plan to continue working with Samaritan House at Safe Harbor Shelter in hopes that I can do both full time work and go back to school either part or full time. I want to pursue my education in the social work field and hope one day I can open up my own practice that serves the Pacific Islander (but not limited to...) community in the Bay Area.

I recently lost my grandmother this past December and it was truly devastating, but knowing what my grandma taught us - she wouldn't want us staying down in our feelings. It was a hard transition because on top of working and taking care of my family, I also had to push forward in planning my wedding that's about to happen in September; so I guess you can say a lot has happened since I've graduated. Much love to my grandma for planting the seed of strength and perseverance in myself and my family.

In two months I am about to celebrate my marriage with my partner of over 9 years then hopefully pursue my goal of furthering my education in social work. I hope that my partner will surprise me by taking me on a cruise for our honeymoon because he told me I can't plan it...which gives me anxiety but hey trust right haha.

Take care y'all! OneLove :)

Outstanding Student of the year 2022

Princess Colegrove
Hoopa Valley Tribe
2022 ITEPP student

For Princess, every moment of her time and every fiber of her being is oriented to what might be called “community service” in this award context, but is perhaps better captured by the concept “indigenous revitalization and community healing.” She has been actively serving her community since she was at least 16. As an enrolled Hoopa tribal member (also Yurok/Karuk), she has been a role model and mentor, giving presentations and workshops on cultural practices and healing in myriad venues, and publishing and working formally in these areas as well. She is currently a senior park aide and interpreter at Sue-Meg State Park, where she teaches visitors (both virtually and in-person) about the native history and uses of the land; she herself has been actively involved in native practices and ceremonies in this sacred land throughout her life. Indeed, the “community” she “serves” includes the land.

To read more: https://osa.humboldt.edu/
Duane Sherman Sr.
Hoopa Valley Tribe
2002 ITEPP Alumni

Duane Sherman Sr. is an enrolled member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, grew up on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation and graduated from California State University at Humboldt with a degree in Native American Studies and Political Science.

Mr. Sherman previously worked for the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Department as well as the Pauma and Hoopa Police Departments, having graduated from the College of the Redwoods, State Police Academy, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center FLETC in Georgia, as a Criminal Investigator.

Duane was elected to the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council. Serving as an elected Tribal Council Member, then as the Vice Chairman, and later as the Chairman and CEO of the Hoopa Valley Tribe. In the past, he has served as a Chief of the Hoopa Vol. Fire Department, Director of Adult Vocation and Technical Education, and Director of Emergency Services. Mr. Sherman also chaired the Board of Directors for the Kimaw Medical Center and the Hoopa Valley Indian Housing Authority. Duane has worked with several Tribes in Riverside and San Diego Counties. He has served as a Chief of Police and Tribal Administrator. Mr. Sherman has also served as the Tribal Liaison to the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services in Sacramento, he has been active in fighting for water and the protection of natural resources for most of his career. Today, Mr. Sherman serves as the Director of Emergency Services here in Northern California.

Terria Smith,
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla
2008 ITEPP Alumni

Miyaxwhen ITEPP!

The years following my incredible educational experience at Humboldt have been quite an extensive journey professionally. But the short story is: After graduation I interned with the Chips Quinn Scholars Program, worked for my hometown newspaper for two years, completed graduate school at UC Berkeley, interned for NPR West, worked for a Native-focused television network for three years, and now... For the past seven years, I have been serving as the Editor of News from Native California magazine and the Director of the Berkeley Roundhouse which is the California Indian publishing department at Heyday. My time as an ITEPPer definitely prepared me for this position as it gave me lots of exposure to people from many different tribes across the region. I will always be grateful to the program.

In my personal life, there has been a lot there too. I have done a bit of traveling in these years, most notably to Cuba where I met my husband five years ago. This past fall, my father - who was the driving force behind my becoming educated - passed away. We are heartbroken. But before he left us, my oldest child let him know that she was accepted into Humboldt.
Jade (Gibbens) Tyner, Yurok Tribe
2006 ITEPP alumni

I am a proud member of the Yurok Tribe and was raised at Kepel on the Yurok Reservation just five miles upriver from my ancestral home at Morekw.

I attended Jack Norton and Orleans Elementary and graduated high school from Hoopa High. After high school I moved to Redding to enroll and earn my AA from Shasta College. I then transferred to Humboldt State University (HSU) and earned my BA in Psychology with a minor in American Indian Education. I went on to complete my Master of Arts in School Psychology with a Pupil Personnel Services Credential. I began my career at Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District as the district school psychologist for 9 years before relocating to Redding in 2017 to work with Anderson Union High School District as the Psychologist on Special Assignment. In 2022, I completed my Tier 1 Administrative Credential and recently accepted a position with Trinity County Office of Education as the Director of Special Programs and Rise Principal. I will also be working to direct and support mental health services to schools in Trinity County.

My passion is working toward equitable access to education for all students and to ensure accurate representation, of all student groups, in the curriculum.

My favorite things to do are spend family-time with my husband and two boys. I also enjoy visiting with family and friends along the Klamath River and attending the High Mountain Dance with my dance family. It is important to me that I pass along the culture, language and spirituality of the Yurok people to my two sons and impart unto them the importance of working toward balance of all things.

Abby Abinanti
1970 Humboldt Alumni

Chief Judge for the Yurok Tribe and the first Native American woman to pass the California bar, was our alumni speaker at this year’s commencement.

We are honored to have had her there and can’t wait to see the amazing things our future generations of alumni will accomplish.

“Your job now as you go forward today is to be a good ancestor... And what you need to know is - you don’t control what the person next to you is doing, but you have total control over what you do.”
My name is Brit Vigil-Burbank and I come from the Yurok villages of Pen-won and 'O-ket'-oh (among others) and the Hupa village of Me’dildin. I am Yurok, Hupa, and Tolowa. I love to work on teaching and learning Yurok and Hupa language. My children’s names are Kulani, Ikaika, and Kealoha Burbank and my husband’s name is Keoki Burbank. I love my family and I keep them near to me. I earned my undergraduate degree in Native American Studies Language and Literature (BA) from HSU and later my MS in Educational and Instructional Technology. I currently work for the Yurok Tribe in the Yurok Language Program as the Yurok Language Distance Learning Coordinator where I get to create all types of digital learning content, Yurok language games, apps, website design, graphic designs, Yurok language cartoons and animations, videos, and digital curriculum. You can check it out if you are interested in learning Yurok language at www.yuroklanguage.com. I like to play volleyball and macrame on the side.

My husband, Keoki, works for Two Feathers Native American Family Services and Warrior Institute where he teaches young people the importance of working hard and respecting themselves by living in a healthy way, respecting each other by teaching them to work together, and respecting the environment by taking them out to learn about fishing, hunting, and appreciating our natural world. He really likes sports, gardening, fishing, and hunting.

Our children like to play together and love each other very much. Ikaika especially likes to climb and swim. Kealoha is very into playing outside in the water.

I hope all who read this are doing well.
Andrew Lewis Andreoli
February 22, 1945 – June 10, 2022

One of ITEPP’s first graduates, Andy Andreoli, has passed on to a place where the Hupa’s dance forever, the birds sing and flowers bloom in perpetuity. Andy has left a legacy in his life-long work for Indian Education reform.

Andy was born to Edith Baldy Fogus on February 22, 1945. Soon after Andy was born, his mother was admitted to a tuberculosis sanitarium leaving Andy to be raised by his grandmother Nellie Baldy and aunt Winnie George in Hoopa, California. Andy was an enrolled Hoopa Tribal member and attended grammar and high school in Hoopa through graduation in 1963. During his high school years, Andy played football, was the ASB president, and played drums with his cousin/brother Merv George, Sr. in their band called the Offbeats. He later played bass guitar in the Merv George Band where they recorded a couple of record albums. Andy was drafted into the army serving two years in Germany.

Andy graduated from Shasta JC and was admitted to the first cohort of students at Humboldt State in the Indian Teacher Education Program where he earned his teaching credential in History. During his career, Andy taught at College of the Redwoods, D-Q University and served as the project director of Northern California Indian Education Project for Humboldt County Schools. Andy also served as the director of ITEPP on three different occasions where his former students said, “He was one of the coolest professors a Native student could have.” He served as an American Indian Education consultant for the California Department of Education from 1975 to 1991 where he supported the Indian Education Centers throughout California. He later served as the manager for the American Indian Education Office at the California Department of Education.

Andy is survived by his wife, Tamara, five children, and grandchildren. Walk on in peace our friend, don’t look back, we will continue the reform efforts for Indian education that you started.