Congratulations Graduates!

On April 25, 2019 the Native American Cultural Center celebrated the CSU graduates at the end of the year reception. The NACC tutors, peer mentors, front desk, ASCSU representatives, and NACC Presidents Multicultural Student Advisory Committee (PMSAC) representatives were also acknowledged for their hard work and dedication to their students and the office. We also honored recipients of the Native Women in Science Scholarship. This year, we celebrated 19 graduates through the giving of ceremonial blankets and blessing recognize their commitment in continuing their education at CSU. To the graduates, thank you for the years you spent with us and for your leadership, and good luck in your next adventures. Congratulations!
New Native American Recruiter!

During Fall 2019, NACC was excited to welcome back Danita Ordaz (CSU alum 2016) as the new Native American Recruitment and Transition Specialist. Danita will work dually in NACC and the Office of Admissions, focusing on working with prospective Native American students and families. Danita has racked up a lot of mileage traveling across various communities in the United States in the past couple of months. This past travel season alone she visited Montana, Idaho, South Dakota, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Arizona. She has participated in tribally organized events such as the Montana Tribal College Fair Circuit and the Northwest Indian Youth Conference. She also has worked with several community based organizations in urban areas that focus specifically on Native American education such as Denver. Some of these areas are places that have not had college representation from Colorado in the past. Danita is open to collaboration and is always willing to help if you are looking to plan and host a Native education event, workshop or college night in your local area.

“I am not a typical Admissions Counselor. Of course I do all the college access related work that other counselors do. However, as an Indigenous woman I often am reminded of my own relatives when looking at each of my students. I want to make sure each and every single one of them are set up for success. I feel that I am blessed to be able to interact with my students and community in a more meaningful and intentional way. It drives my passion for this work.”
- Danita Ordaz

Summer Programming

As the summer gets started we are busy gearing up for our annual Native Education Forum (NEF) and the Native American STEM Institute (NASTEMI). Both programs serve as an opportunity for Native high school students to visit campus, experience an academic classroom, and connect with Native college students. Each program incorporates components of research and college prep, and we are really looking forward to welcoming students and families to campus! This year for NEF, we anticipate having one of our largest and most tribally diverse cohorts. We have tribal representation from 17 tribes across the United States. For both programs, we look forward to what this year’s group of Indigenous scholars will add to the program and sharing with one another in community.
Jacqueline Voss, generously gave an endowment gift to start the Jacqueline Voss Native American Scholarship for Native American students. Her gift was subsequently matched by the American Indian College Fund Challenge Grant. Dr. Voss is a retired faculty member, who worked in the Department of Psychology and the CSU Health Network. She also helped establish the North Star Peer Mentoring program in 2004, and continued to support the program. They were able to award 10 scholarships to Native students from various majors. Two of these awardees are graduating this year, and the rest are on track to graduate soon. Here are some quotes from awardees:

“Receiving this scholarship helped motivated me to apply to more scholarships because I knew I was worthy to receive scholarships”
- Casey Key, Computer Science major

“This scholarship has helped me immensely this school year due to the amount of financial stress that had been taken off my shoulders. This allowed me to fully focus on my academics.”
- Serena Natonabah, Human Dimensions of Natural Resource major
Upcoming Summer/Fall Events for 2019

June 16 - 22  -- Native American STEM Institute  
June 24 - June 29 -- Native Education Forum  
November 26 -- 37th Annual AISES Pow Wow

*** NACC is celebrating our 40th anniversary this fall! Be on the look out for a calendar of events happening during the Fall 2019 semester to celebrate this milestone!

_NACC is open from 8:00am - 5:00pm during the summer!

*Colorado State University is an equal access/equal opportunity university.*

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Message From the Native Recruiter!

Daanzho! Cualli! Hello! My name is Danita Ordaz and I am the new Native American Recruitment and Transition Specialist. I am Jicarilla Apache and also Tarahumara. I grew up on land in southern Colorado located just at the base of the Wahatoyas (or the Spanish Peaks). I moved to Fort Collins in 2012 when I decided to attend Colorado State University for school. I received my Bachelors in Ethnic Studies (with an Indigenous focus) in spring of 2016 and have worked in higher education since then.

My passion for education really started with my mother. As a pair we persisted through school together and encouraged each other when times were tough. With this experience in mind I knew that after I graduated rom CSU I wanted to be a support and resource for others persisting through school. I also was very involved in the NACC Office during my time as an undergrad, and this space provided me with a lot of social and cultural support that I missed being so far from home. I have now been in this position since October and have received many blessings through the work I do. I see myself as a bridge to help facilitate greater on campus connections for incoming students. I truly have a passion for working with my people and encourage any that wish to reach out to me. I hope to connect with you soon!

-- Danita Ordaz

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To learn how to support programs and services at the Native American Cultural Center please go to [https://advancing.colostate.edu/NACC](https://advancing.colostate.edu/NACC)