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**New Endowed Chair in Native American Studies Appointed at University of Redlands**

*Generous gift from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Provides Support for  
Native American Studies at the University*

**REDLANDS, CA (August 10, 2011)**— The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the University of Redlands are pleased to announce the appointment of Lawrence Gross, Ph.D., as the new San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Endowed Chair in Native American Studies. Gross, who was selected after a national search, will officially start September 1.

In this new position, which is supported by a generous \$3.7 million gift to the University of Redlands from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Gross will teach and develop courses and provide leadership for curricular and co-curricular initiatives in Native American Studies.

“The People of San Manuel are pleased that we were able to create this important endowment at the University of Redlands,” said San Manuel Chairman James Ramos. “This program is an important link to the future as it will provide Natives and non-Natives alike with an even greater understanding of the history and culture of the First Americans in our region. We are grateful that Dr. Gross is coming on board with his impeccable talent and credentials to build this exciting program.”

Gross, who is of Anishinaabe heritage from the White Earth Band of Ojibwe in Minnesota, brings impressive scholarly and teaching credentials to the position, said David Fite, the university’s Vice President for Academic Affairs. Gross is a highly regarded teacher and scholar who has published extensively on American Indian pedagogy, American Indian veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and the Anishinaabe Indian culture and religion, Fite said.

Gross has previously taught at Montana State University, Iowa State University and the University of Vermont and was a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Diversity Fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He holds a master’s degree in Regional Studies from Harvard University and a master’s degree and Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Stanford University.

“The partnership between the University of Redlands and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians demonstrates our shared interest in a future that embraces the rich traditions and heritage of Native Americans and creates new educational opportunities for students,” said Fite.

“This is an opportune time for this partnership and the Native American Studies program,” said Audrey Martinez, San Manuel Tribal Treasurer and member of the San Manuel Education Committee. “As the regional and national communities develop, it will be beneficial for the future to be charted with factual and accurate accounts of the history and culture of Native Americans.”

As the chair in Native American Studies, Gross will lead the development of an undergraduate curriculum that includes both national and California Native American perspectives, with a focus on local Native American history and culture. The emerging Native American Studies program at the university will include classroom, applied research and experiential learning opportunities in partnership with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

“We are particularly excited to join with San Manuel to foster Native American regional community education, including colloquia, exchanges and other informal presentations,” said Fite.

The gift from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians also supports the “Creating a Passion for Learning” and “Supporting the Educational Journey” programs at the University of Redlands, which will facilitate admissions, college transition and support services for Native American students and their families.

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### **About University of Redlands**

The University of Redlands is a private liberal arts and sciences university consistently ranked among the [best universities](#) in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Since the university's founding in 1907, Redlands has emphasized academic rigor, personal development and interdisciplinary studies. An Education + culture of elevated learning provides students with a [holistic education](#) that results in a unique life transformation. Redlands students learn equally about service, commitment, life and the world. As a pioneer in the burgeoning field of spatial learning, Redlands integrates spatial learning across academic disciplines. At the innovative Johnston Center, students have the opportunity to design their own custom major. Home to one of the oldest accredited music programs in California, the conservatory-style School of Music educates the whole musician. Adults may continue their education with programs tailored for working professionals at the Schools of Business and Education, offering evening degree-completion and graduate programs at eight convenient locations.

### **About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, California. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment. [www.SanManuel-NSN.Gov](http://www.SanManuel-NSN.Gov)