

# San Bernardino Community College District

## NEWS and INFORMATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATORS DEDICATE SCHOOL PROGRAM TO NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY**

#### **Elementary Students, Parents and Teachers Share Histories and Cultures of Area Tribes**

**Yucaipa, Calif., and San Manuel Indian Nation (Highland Calif.)** – The annual California's First Cultures: A Celebration at Crafton Hills/Waa't will be held Thursday, Nov. 3 and Friday, Nov. 4. Each day starts at 9 a.m. on the campus of Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa, Calif. The event is held in recognition of Native American Heritage Month and observance of the Native American Heritage Day on September 22.

President Obama annually proclaims November as National Native American Heritage Month and called upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and identifies a day of the month "Native American Heritage Day". \*\*2010 Proclamation Available Upon Request\*\*

The celebration which strives to fulfill this mandate places students within a recreated Indian Village and brings together Redlands and Yucaipa elementary school students with Native American instructors. The San Manuel Education Department and university professors also participate in teaching about the Indian heritage of the San Bernardino East Valley. Students will take part in hands-on lessons covering aspects of Native American culture including basketry, pottery, music, storytelling, and the Serrano Indian language of the San Manuel and Morongo reservations.

**WHO:** San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians; Crafton Hills College; Redlands School Districts and tribal members from the San Manuel, Santa Rosa, and Morongo reservations

**WHAT:** California's First Cultures: A Celebration at Crafton Hills/Waa't  
\* In the Serrano Indian language "Waa't" or Juniper is associated with the Crafton Hills area of Yucaipa

**WHEN:** Thursday Nov. 3 and Friday, Nov. 4, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## CHC & San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Waa't Celebration

**Presentation** circuits by Cliff Trafzer, UCR history professor; James Ramos, Chairman, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians; Jacque Nunez, Juaneño Band of Mission Indians/ Acjachemen Nation; David Largo, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, and Ernest Siva, Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

**WHERE:**

**Crafton Hills College**  
**11711 Sand Canyon Road**  
**Yucaipa, CA, 92399**  
**909 794-2161 (general campus info number)**

### **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, Calif. 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.

### **About Crafton Hills College**

Crafton Hills College is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The College offers more than 35 degree programs and 30 certificate options, providing a variety of educational paths for both transfer and career preparation. Since its opening in 1972, learners of all ages, interests and backgrounds have passed through the doors of CHC, taking advantage of this first step to higher learning. The College, one of the two in the San Bernardino Community College District, currently serves about 5,500 students per semester.

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