Thanks to a generous grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and in partnership with the American Indian Library Association, SJSU School of Library and Information Science is providing 19 American Indian and Alaska Native students financial assistance, a supportive Circle of Learning, and a culturally relevant approach to graduate education.
Student Benefits

- Scholarships
- Technology
- Professional development
- Peer mentoring
- Professional networking opportunities
- Internships
COL scholars live and work in their local communities while earning their MLIS degrees fully-online.
Circle of Learning Students
Elviria Aquino
New Mexico

Elviria works as a library technician at the New Mexico State Supreme Court Law Library as well as volunteering countless hours to her community and the P’oe Tsawa Community Library. She hopes to concentrate on archival studies and eventually help her tribe preserve and digitize their records.
Lisa Dirks
Alaska

Unangan (Aleut)
Lisa has been working at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation since 2007 and has a strong interest in social science and public health research. She is particularly interested in community involvement in social science research and the incorporation of community based participatory research methods in the dissemination of research results. Lisa holds a B.A. in Anthropology-Ethnology from the University of New Mexico and a Masters in Health Science Administration from Northern Arizona University.
Susan Gehr  
California

Karuk Tribe
Susan is a continuing SLIS student and has been working actively with the Karuk tribe on language preservation. She has been working on processing the Thomas Buckley Papers in the Special Collections of the Humboldt State University Library and on an online dictionary of the Karuk language. Susan holds a B.A. in Women's Studies/Native American Studies and a M.A. in Linguistics.
Amy Moore
Maine

Passamaquoddy Tribe
Amy has a B.A. in Art from Central Connecticut State University and Post Graduate Certification in Museum Studies from Harvard Extension School. Amy currently holds two positions; one as the Library Technical Assistant, Youth Services at Walker Memorial Library and as Administrative Associate at the Maine Medical Center Library.
Indri Pasaribu
British Columbia

Toba Batak from Sumatra

Indri has a B.A. in English and Political Science from Carleton University in Ontario, Canada. Indri has been working as a volunteer at the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs working to debug their automated library system after a data migration.
Gena Peone
Washington

Spokane Tribe of Indians

Gena has a B.A. in Humanities from the University of Washington and has been working at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture for the past seven years. She has extensive experience working with American Indian collections and looks forward to integrating what she learns at SLIS with her museum experience.
Mary Rogers
Montana

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Confederated Salish and Kootenai

Mary is the Database and Historical Records Manager of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Department. She has her B.A. in Journalism from the University of Central Oklahoma and is a member of the Veteran Warrior Society.
Shannon Rosenbaum
Washington

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Shannon is a new graduate from the University of Washington where she earned her B.A. in Anthropology and History. She is the 2010 recipient of the Burke Museum Archaeological Collections Research Fellowship where she has worked on developing a cultural education kit about the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.
Samantha Villagomez  
Wisconsin

Menominee  
Samantha is working as the tribal librarian at Menominee Tribal School. Before becoming librarian, Samantha worked as a substitute teacher at the school. She holds a B.A. in Psychology and a M.S. in Special Education from D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York.
Tawa Ducheneaux
South Dakota

Cherokee Nation
Tawa has a B.A. in Media Arts from the University of New Mexico. As Assistant Director for the Woksape Tipi Library at Oglala Lakota College, a public and academic library and archives for the Pine Ridge Reservation, she has taught library skills classes to college students, assisted with cataloging and archiving and has conducted literacy outreach programs in district communities.
Jerry Flanary
Virginia

Cherokee Nation
Jerry Flanary works in Bookmobile Services for the Norfolk Public Library. He has worked in special projects at the Jean Outland Chrysler Art Library in Norfolk, VA and in the Special Projects Department of the John Vaughn Library at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma. Jerry has a B.A. in Arts in Education and has shown his work at the Cherokee National Museum as well as in many fine arts galleries, museums and publications. He would like to work in cataloging, database creation or preservation for an indigenous nation or archives.
Jennifer Himmelreich
New Mexico

Navajo
Jennifer has a B.A. in Art from Fort Lewis College and is working towards a B.A. in Bi-cultural Studies. She has worked at Durango Public Library, in interlibrary loan at Fort Lewis College’s Reed Library, in the slide library of the Art Department at Fort Lewis College, and as a Library Assistant at Palmer High School in Colorado. She also led community programing and developed exhibits as an Exhibit Technician at the Ak-Chin Indian Community's Him-Dak Eco Museum & Archives.
Valarie Kingsland
Alaska

Inupiaq
Valarie has a BA in Speech Communication and Psychology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She works as an elementary school library aide, and worked as a special education aide and tutor. She operates a non-profit second-hand children’s clothing store that includes both children and parenting books. She donates books and DVDs to the community library. She researched, recorded and continually updates her Inupiaq family tree for her extended family. She is interested in using emerging technology to preserve cultural history and experience. Her career interests are in serving the literacy needs of children and elders in her community.
Merida Kipp
Washington

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Merida has a B.S. in Computer Science from Heritage University in Washington. As the Computer Specialist for Yakama Nation Library, she teaches computer classes, conducts job training for many age groups and is a supervisor for library staff. She worked as an AmeriCorps Team Leader in the Yakima School District. She is pursuing a career in library management.
Tisa Matheson  
Washington

Nez Perce
Tisa works in the cultural preservation field as a Museum Assistant for the Northwest Museum of Art & Culture in Spokane, WA. She has attended Collections Care training and the Visiting Professional program at the Smithsonian. She has a B.A. in Social Science from Lewis-Clark State College and would like to found a non-profit foundation dedicated to preserving, teaching and providing library archival resources for the Plateau cultures.
Jonna Paden
New Mexico

Acoma and Laguna Pueblos
Jonna Paden has a B.U.S. in Linguistics, English and Native American Studies from the University of New Mexico. She worked as a buyer and receiver for the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque and volunteers at the Institute of Pueblo Indian Studies. She would like to work as an archivist or tribal librarian.
Alyssa Peterson
Alaska

Tlingit
Alyssa’s career goal is in archives and cultural preservation. She will receive her B.L.A. in Liberal Arts, concentrating on Anthropology and Northwest Coast Art, from the University of Alaska, Southeast. She has volunteered in school libraries in Kake Alaska and has worked as an intern at the Sealaska Heritage Institute’s Special Collections Department.
Debbie Reese, an author, speaker and consultant on American Indians in children's literature, was an Assistant Professor in American Indian Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, prior to beginning her MLIS with COL. She holds a Ph.D. in Education and taught at public and American Indian boarding schools in New Mexico and Oklahoma prior to her doctoral studies.
Annual face-to-face meetings develop the COL community and broaden students’ career pathways.

Students and staff meet for a full day of COL workshops, network with program mentors and advisors, attend professional LIS conferences and participate in student research forums, poster sessions and conference volunteering.
Year 1 Meeting in San Jose, CA
Year 1 Meeting in San Jose, CA

Spring 2011 students touring the King Library at SJSU with library staff.
Year 1 Meeting in San Jose, CA

Attending a seminar

An after-dinner stroll in Downtown San Jose
Year 2 COL Meeting, ALA New Orleans, LA
Year 2 COL Meeting, ALA New Orleans, LA

COL students and program staff
New Fall 2011 COL students attend a discussion group.
Year 2 COL Meeting, ALA New Orleans, LA

COL students attend Opening Meeting of ALA’s Spectrum Institute.

Remarks by speaker Keith Michael Fiels
Year 2 COL Meeting, ALA New Orleans, LA

COL students and staff attend the annual face-to-face meeting.

COL students attend the Spectrum Professional Options Fair.
Year 2 COL Meeting, ALA New Orleans, LA

COL students and staff meet IMLS Sr. Program Officer Kevin Cherry and IMLS staff at the Exhibitor’s Hall.

COL Students meet SJSU SLIS Director, Dr. Sandra Hirsh at the SLIS Reception.
Year 2 COL Meeting, ALA New Orleans, LA

Liana Juliano, Project Co-Director (AILA) at the AILA Business Meeting

COL Students attend the 2011 AILA Business Meeting at ALA Annual.
Year 2 COL Meeting, ALA New Orleans, LA

Circle of Learning exhibits at the 2011 ALA Diversity Fair

COL Project Co-Director (SLIS) Jane Fisher discusses diversity initiatives.
COL Project Manager, Heather Devine welcomes students and guests to the COL Professional Networking Luncheon.

COL students network face-to-face with COL Advisory Board members and Professional Mentors at the COL Luncheon.
Students discuss course planning with Academic Advisor and Project Co-Director (SLIS) Jane Fisher.

Project Manager Heather Devine assists students preparing to present at the Student Research Forum of the Association of Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums (ATALM) annual conference.
Year 3 Meeting ATALM Tulsa, OK
Year 3 Meeting ATALM Tulsa, OK

COL Scholars Debbie Reese and Valarie Kingsland speak at a panel presentation.

COL Students and Project Co-Director Liana Juliano with co-presenters.
COL students network with tribal library, archives and museum professionals at ATLAM’s Career Options Fair organized by Circle of Learning staff.
COL Staff and Advisory Board

**Project Co-Director** — **Jane Fisher**, Assistant Director for Research and Professional Practice, School of Library and Information Science (SLIS), San Jose State University

**Project Co-Director** — **Liana Juliano**, 2009-2010 President of the American Indian Library Association (AILA), a SLIS alumna, and a part-time SLIS faculty member. Mentor

**Project Manager** — **Heather Devine** (Eastern Shawnee), SLIS alumna, 2009-2011 AILA Secretary

**Project Assistant** — **Sheila Gurtu**, SLIS alumna, and former Evergreen and Franklin-McKinley School Districts school librarian

**Marissa Duarte**, librarian, doctoral student, and researcher in the area of library services to indigenous populations. Mentor

**Carlene Engstrom** (Salish/Kootenai), Tribal Consultant and AILA past president. Mentor

**Susan Hanks**, Library Programs Consultant, California State Library, and AILA past president. Mentor

**Sarah Kostelecky** (Zuni Pueblo), Library Programs Director, Institute of American Indian Arts. Mentor

**Sandy Littletree** (Navajo/Shoshone), Knowledge River Program Manager, School of Information Resources and Library Science, University of Arizona

**Teresa Mares**, Librarian, Noli Indian School, San Jacinto, California, and SLIS student. Mentor

**David Ongley**, Director, Tuzzy Consortium Library, Barrow, Alaska, and AILA past president. Mentor

**Loriene Roy** (Anishinabe, White Earth Enrollee), Professor, School of Information, University of Texas at Austin and Honoring Generations Program Director

**Holly Tomren**, Electronic Resources and Metadata Cataloger, University of California-Irvine Libraries, and SLIS alumna. Mentor

**Kelly Webster** (Oneida), Head, Metadata Services, University Libraries, Boston College, and AILA past president. Mentor
COL Professional Mentors

Paulita Aguilar
John Berry
Naomi Bishop
Marisa Duarte
Jody Gray
Susan Hanks
David Hurley
Liana Juliano
Sarah Kostelecky
Teresa Mares
Leslie Monsalve-Jones
David Ongley
LaVera Rose
Zora Sampson
Kelly Webster
“The bi-weekly workshops, and introducing us to librarians working in the field is really helpful.”

“Eventually I hope to offer my services to my Tribe in helping improve the growth of our tribal library and its service to the community.”

“The program can help with my current career status as well as position me for change in responsibilities and/or employment.”

“I couldn’t decide if I wanted to enter a Master’s program, but this opportunity made it possible.”

“By paying for my tuition and other related expenses, I am more free to seek out internships and focus on my studies.”

“Getting my MLIS is no longer something I can someday hope to do. COL has made it possible.”
For more information about our program please visit the Circle of Learning website:

http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/research/projects/featured-projects/circle-learning

https://www.facebook.com/circleoflearning