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
- 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 works as a librarian 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 worked 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 is working a contract position in health information outreach with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine - New England Region.
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 in records management with a First Nations organization. Previously, she interned in a city archives and volunteered with Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. Working to debug their automated library system.
Gena Peone
Washington

Spokane Tribe of Indians
Gena has a B.A. in Humanities from the University of Washington and currently works as assistant collections manager for Spokane Tribe of Indians. She previously worked at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture. 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 holds a 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 graduated 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 worked on developing a cultural education kit about the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. She was sponsored by AILA as a 2012 ALA Emerging Leader.
Menominee

Samantha teaches at Menominee Tribal School. She previously 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. She is the archivist of Oglala Lakota College, a public and academic library and archives for the Pine Ridge Reservation. Previously, she taught library skills classes to college students, assisted with cataloging and archiving and has conducted literacy outreach programs in district communities.
Jerry Flanary is a library information specialist at the University of Arizona, Tucson. He previously worked 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 completed 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 programming and developed exhibits as an Exhibit Technician at the Ak-Chin Indian Community's Him-Dak Eco Museum & Archives. She was sponsored by AILA as a 2013 ALA Emerging Leader and has interned with the Smithsonian Libraries at the Vine Deloria Jr. Library, part of the NMAI-CRC in Suitland, MD.
Valarie Kingsland
Alaska

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. She is the library administrator for Yakama Nation Library, and previously worked as a computer specialist for the library. 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 before becoming an archivist intern at the Institute of Pueblo Indian Studies. She would like to work as an archivist or tribal librarian.
Alyssa Peterson  
Oregon

Tlingit
Alyssa’s career goal is in archives and cultural preservation. She received her B.L.A. 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

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

COL students and program staff
New Fall 2011 COL students attend a discussion group.
Students attend Opening Meeting of ALA’s Spectrum Institute.
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 staff at the Exhibitor’s Hall.

COL Students meet SJSU SLIS Director, Dr. Sandra Hirsh at the SLIS Reception.
Liana Juliano  
Project Co-Director (AILA)  
at AILA Business Meeting

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

Circle of Learning exhibits at the ALA Diversity Fair

Jane Fisher, COL Project Co-Director (SLIS) 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 Jane Fisher, COL Project Co-Director (SLIS) at the Assoc. of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums (ATALM) Conference.

Project Manager Heather Devine assists students preparing for the Student Research Forum at ATALM.
Student Research Forum, 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.
Heather Devine and Jane Fisher present certificates of appreciation to Advisor and Mentor Susan Hanks.

COL Students, Advisors, Mentors and Staff and IMLS Officers view COL Film featuring accomplishments of scholars in local communities.

Year 4 Meeting ATALM, Albuquerque, NM
Year 4 Meeting ATALM, Albuquerque, NM
Students presented their work at the Student Research Posters Session

COL students led many sessions at ATALM
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 teacher 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
<table>
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<tr>
<th>COL Professional Mentors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paulita Aguilar</td>
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<td>John Berry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naomi Bishop</td>
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<td>Marisa Duarte</td>
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<td>Jody Gray</td>
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<td>Susan Hanks</td>
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<td>David Hurley</td>
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<td>Liana Juliano</td>
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“The bi-weekly workshops 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

For more information about our program please visit the Circle of Learning website:

http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/col

https://www.facebook.com/circleoflearning