

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Arts Council of Kern Common Ground Program

661-324-9000
 info@kernarts.org
 kernarts.org/common-ground

CSUB Indigenous Faculty & Staff Association

661-654-2782
 dsilva@csub.edu
 csub.edu/people-and-culture/culture-and-belonging

Native American Student Support & Success

661-395-4979
 dsilva@csub.edu
 bakersfieldcollege.edu/services-and-resources/nasssp

Owens Valley Career Development Center

760-873-5107
 info@ovcdc.com
 ovcdc.com

Tejon Indian Tribe

661-834-8566
 office@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov
 tejonindiantribe.com

Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

661-327-4030 ext. 2043
 BAIHPcommunity@Bakersfieldaihp.org
 bakersfieldaihp.org

Cherokee Community of Central California

661-859-4322
 rgrose@ymail.com
 cherokeecommunityofcentralcalifornia.yolasite.com

Nuuicunni Native American Intertribal Cultural Center and Museum

760-549-0800 or 760-379-4350
 nuuicunni@earthlink.net
 nuuicunni.com

Owtsan House

661-437-3330
 kerncountymuseum.org

Tubatulabal Council

760-299-3048
 rgomez@tubatulabal.org
 tubatulabal.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS

Arts Council of Kern
 Common Ground
 Bakersfield College

Native American Student Support & Success Program

Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

California State University, Bakersfield
 Department of English

Indigenous Faculty and Staff Association

Kegley Institute of Ethics

Office of the Provost

California State University, Bakersfield

Sigma Tau Delta

Walter W. Stiern Library

Kern Council of Teachers of English

Kern High School District

Kern Learn

Kern River Yokuts Tribe

Native & Indigenous Coalition

North of the River Recreation & Park District

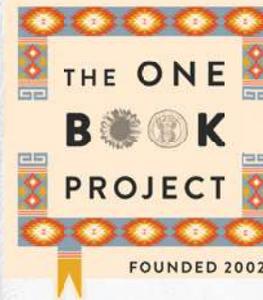
Tejon Indian Tribe

Interested in becoming a partner
 for next year's One Book Project?

Visit KCLonebook.org to learn more
 about the program, and email
info@kernlibrary.org to get involved.

EVENT BROCHURE

Events are FREE and open to the public.



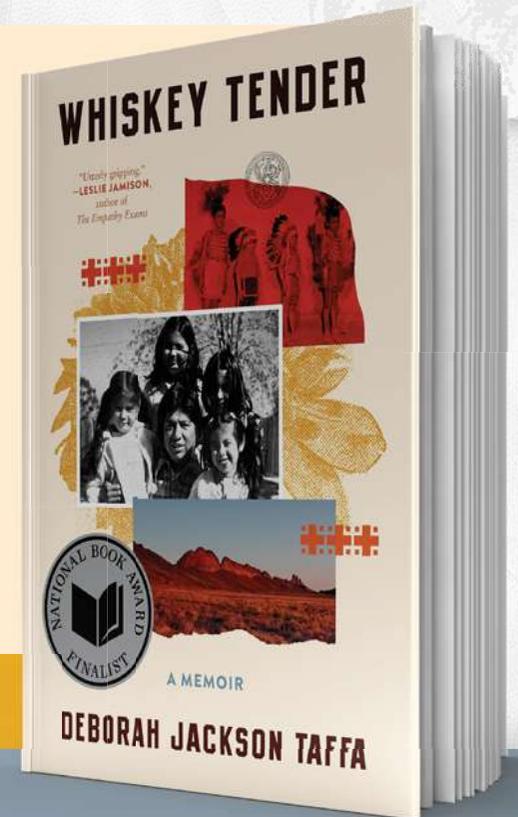
This October and November, the One Book Project invites the entire community to engage in discussions, educational programs, and entertainment centered around the themes of *Whiskey Tender: A Memoir* by Deborah Jackson Tafta.

The initiative aims to bring the community *together to bridge cultural divides* and promote understanding of our *diversity*, all while supporting literacy and learning throughout Kern County.

ABOUT THE TITLE

Deborah Jackson Tafta, born to a Quechan father and a Latina mother, grew up between the Yuma reservation and the borderlands of New Mexico. Shaped by her family's experiences with assimilation policies, she navigated conflicting cultural identities while confronting silence around Native history. In *Whiskey Tender*, she blends personal stories with Indigenous history, exploring family, resilience, and the fight to reclaim her heritage.

For event listings & resources visit
KCLonebook.org



701 Truxtun Avenue
 Bakersfield, CA 93301
 661.868.0701



KERN COUNTY
 LIBRARY
 GROUNDED IN LITERACY

The One Book Project is presented by Kern County Library and California State University, Bakersfield, Office of the Provost.

WELCOME!

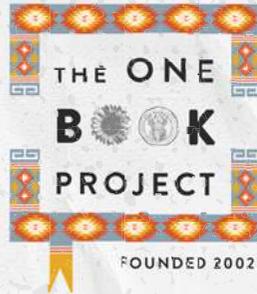
The Kern County community is invited to connect through conversations, educational programs, and engaging events centered on a single book's themes. This year's One Book selection, *Whiskey Tender: A Memoir* by Deborah Jackson Taffa, examines identity, resilience, family history, and the lasting impact of assimilation policies on Native communities.

Children, teens, and adults can join in by exploring fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels featured in our One Book companion title and readers' advisory lists.

All Kern County Library locations will host programs such as book discussions, storytimes, crafts, and other interactive activities.

Through partnerships with educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and local agencies across the county, we provide welcoming spaces for community members to engage in One Book Project activities and meaningful discussions.

Stay up to date on programs, events, and conversations by visiting us at KCLonebook.org.



THE ONE BOOK PROJECT

About the One Book Project

Since 2002, the One Book Project has sought to promote a culture of reading and discussion in our diverse communities throughout Bakersfield and Kern County. Annually, the Kern County Library and California State University, Bakersfield lead the One Book Project effort to bring community members together through events and discussions related to the themes in one thought-provoking title. The One Book Project is meant to connect people across cultural divides to foster understanding through a collection of theme-related titles to support reading and literacy for all age groups in our community.

Accessing One Book Titles

All One Book titles are available for checkout in print, eBook, eAudiobook, or Book on CD from the Kern County Library.

Join the Reading Challenge

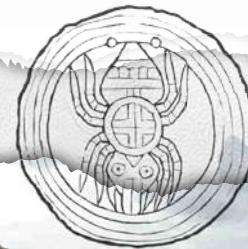
Readers are encouraged to join our online One Book Project Reading Challenge on Beanstack, where participants can win digital badges and prizes by completing activities. With Beanstack, it's easy to record reading sessions and manage family accounts.

Scan QR code to sign-up for the Reading Challenge



"I may have been born into a poor reservation world, but Dad said we came from a family of tribal leaders, and I was destined to do great things. I had the beauty and talent to rise above my half-breed status. I was destined for a better life, and Sadie had walked thirty miles to kiss me because she smelled my bright future on my cheeks."

—Deborah Jackson Taffa



LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Ages 0-5

Lamont Branch Library 8304 Segrue Rd., Lamont • 661.845.3471

Toddler Time - Grinding Corn Sensory Station

Tuesday, October 7.....10:30am

All Ages

Kern River Valley Branch Library 7054 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella • 760.549.2083

Voices from the Land: Native Music Listening Station

Wednesday, October 1.....10am

Voices from the Land: Native Music Listening Station

Saturday, November 1.....10am

Lamont Branch Library 8304 Segrue Rd., Lamont • 661.845.3471

One Book 2025 Project Discussion

Tuesday, November 18.....4:30pm

Choctaw Presentation

Friday, November 21.....3:30pm

Rathbun Branch Library 200 W China Grade Loop, Bakersfield • 661.393.6431

One Book 2025 Project Discussion

Friday, November 21.....5pm

Ridgecrest Branch Library 131 E Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest • 760.384.5870

Maturango Museum Docents Present: First Peoples

Thursday, October 16.....3:30pm

Let's Learn: Choctaw History, Traditions, and Culture

Friday, October 17.....3:30pm

R/C Book Lovers

Thursday, October 23.....12:30pm

Southwest Branch Library 8301 Ming Ave., Bakersfield • 661.664.7716

Choctaw Culture Event

Saturday, November 15.....12pm

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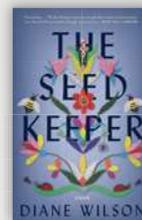
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ONE BOOK COMPANION TITLES FOR ALL GENRES AND AGES

ADULT FICTION



The Seed Keeper
by Diane Wilson

YOUNG ADULT FICTION



Warrior Girl Unearthed
by Angeline Boulley

TEEN GRAPHIC NOVEL



Moonshot
by Various Artists

MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL



Eagle Drums
by Nasu'raq Rainey Hopson

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK



Remember
by Joy Harjo

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK



Buffalo Fluffalo
by Bess Kalb

Whiskey Tender & One Book Companion titles are available for checkout in print, eBook, eAudiobook, & book on CD from the Kern County Library. Sign up for our One Book eNewsletter to also receive reader's advisory titles.



**SHE DROVE ME HOME
IN SILENCE.**

**BACK THEN, THERE WAS
ALWAYS SILENCE.**

**I COULDN'T SPEAK UP,
I REALIZE NOW,
BECAUSE PROTEST
REQUIRES HOPE.**

-DEBORAH JACKSON TAFFA
WHISKEY TENDER: A MEMOIR

All Ages

Beale Branch Library 701 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield • 661.868.0701

Wednesday, October 8.....4pm

Saturday, October 11.....12pm

Buttonwillow Branch Library 101 N Main St., Buttonwillow • 661.764.5337

Saturday, October 4.....12pm

Saturday, November 1.....10am

Wednesday, November 12.....2:30pm

Wednesday, November 26.....15pm

Frazier Park Branch Library 3732 Park Dr., Frazier Park • 661.245.1267

Wednesday, October 1.....10am

Saturday, November 1.....10am

Holloway-Gonzales Branch Library 506 E Brundage Ln., Bakersfield • 661.861.2083

Wednesday, October 1.....10am

Wednesday, October 22.....4pm

Saturday, November 1.....10am

Wednesday, November 5.....4pm

Wednesday, November 19.....4pm

Lamont Branch Library 8304 Segrue Rd., Lamont • 661.845.3471

Thursday, October 9.....3:30pm

Mojave Branch Library 15555 O St., Mojave • 661.615.1003

Saturday, October 11.....12:30pm

Saturday, November 1.....12:30pm

Rathbun Branch Library 200 W China Grade Loop, Bakersfield • 661.393.6431

Thursday, October 23.....4pm

Southwest Branch Library 8301 Ming Ave., Bakersfield • 661.664.7716

Wednesday, October 1.....10am

Wilson Branch Library 1901 Wilson Rd., Bakersfield • 661.834.4044

Wednesday, October 1.....10am

Saturday, November 1.....10am

STORYTIMES

Preschool Storytime Ages 0-5

Frazier Park Branch Library 3732 Park Dr. Frazier Park • 661.245.1267
 Thursday, October 17.....11am

Family Storytime Ages 6-11

Beale Branch Library 701 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield • 661.868.0701
 Saturday, November 1.....12pm

Holloway-Gonzales Branch Library 506 E Brundage Ln., Bakersfield • 661.861.2083
 Saturday, October 4.....1pm
 Saturday, November 1.....1pm

Kern River Valley Branch Library 7054 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella • 760.549.2083
 Saturday, October 4.....2pm
 Saturday, November 8.....2pm
 Saturday, November 15.....2pm

Lamont Branch Library 8304 Segrue Rd., Lamont • 661.845.3471
 Friday, November 14.....3:30pm

Mojave Branch Library 15555 O St., Mojave • 661.615.1003
 Saturday, October 11.....12pm
 Saturday, November 1.....12pm

Southwest Branch Library 8301 Ming Ave., Bakersfield • 661.664.7716
 Saturday, October 11.....10:30am
 Saturday, November 15.....10:30am

Wilson Branch Library 1901 Wilson Rd., Bakersfield • 661.834.4044
 Friday, October 17.....4pm
 Friday, November 21.....4pm

PREMIERE EVENTS

Get Involved.
 Join the community discussion!

One Book Project Kickoff Event Wed. | October 1 | 11am-1pm

Resilience Through Storytelling: Identity, Memory & Native Presence

This event is free and open to all.

Join us as we kick off the 2025 One Book Project with *Whiskey Tender: A Memoir* by Deborah Jackson Taffa (Quechan [Yuma] and Laguna Pueblo), a moving story of identity, survival, and intergenerational strength. Enjoy lunch (first come, first served), experience the drumming of the Two-Crows BAIHP Singers, learn more about the book, take part in our “What’s Your Story?” writing activity and craft session, and explore resources featuring Native organizations and community partners.

Kickoff Event Agenda:

11:00 - Opening Blessing & Welcome	12:00 - Drum Group and Lunch
11:20 - Keynote Reading & Reflection Circle	12:30 - Resource Fair & Author Spotlight Booth
11:30 - Cultural Expression Tables & Activities	1:00 - Closing Remarks & Refreshments

Hosted by: Bakersfield College, Native American Student Support Services Program (NASSSP), The First Renegades Student Organization, Kern County Library, and community partners.



BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE



 Bakersfield College, Levan Center, 1801 Panorama Dr. Bakersfield, CA 93305

A Film Screening of History and Resilience Wed. | Oct 1 | 1pm

This event is free and open to all.

This historical Western film tells the story of the conflict between Indigenous people of the American Southwest and the expansion of settlers and the U.S. military during the late 19th century. It explores themes of cultural survival, resistance, and the struggle to maintain traditions in the face of overwhelming change. The narrative follows the clash between two very different worlds, portraying the hardships, resilience, and moral complexities faced by both sides during this turbulent period in history.



 NOR Recreation & Park District, Rasmussen Senior Center, 115 E. Roberts Ln. Bakersfield, CA 93308

PREMIERE EVENTS Get Involved. Join the community discussion!

History of the Tejon Tribe Sat. | Oct 4 | 11am

With Octavio Escobedo III, Chairman of Tejon Indian Tribe

Chairman Octavio Escobedo, III of the Tejon Indian Tribe will present on the tribe's historical background, cultural significance, and impact in Kern County and California. He will also discuss their current endeavors as it relates to economic development, education, housing and healthcare along with a brief update on the tribe's project, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tejon.



For further information on the tribe please visit, www.tejonindiantribe.com



About The Guest Speaker

Octavio's involvement in Tribal Government began in 2013. He has served as an Executive Committee member-at-large, Vice Chairman, and is now in his ninth year as Chairman of the Tejon Indian Tribe. During this time, he has developed a deep understanding of the challenges that Indian Country faces daily and has been instrumental in moving the Tribe forward to economic development and social initiatives. Octavio's vision along with the perseverance of the Tejon Tribe has forged an exciting partnership with Hard Rock International. Come join us to learn more about the tribe, its history, and its future.

Beale Memorial Library, Auditorium, 701 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93301

Kegley Institute of Ethics Campus Conversation Thurs. | Oct 9 | 12pm

From Policy to Practice: The Impact of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) at CSUB and Across CSUs

ZOOM and IN-PERSON; Free and Open to the Public



Part of the Kegley Institute of Ethics' Community Conversations series, this panel discussion will bring together voices from across the CSU system and within CSUB to reflect on the impact and implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Topics under discussion will include ongoing efforts to implement this important legislation as well as future directions for action in our wider communities and within CSUB. Free and open to the public.

To join this event, go to the following Zoom link: <https://csub.zoom.us/j/85838273482>

CSUB Walter W. Stiern Library, Dezember Room, 9001 Stockdale Hwy. Bakersfield, CA 93311

Founding Mentors



Deobrah Taffa Jackson
Published Non-Fiction/Memoir Author, Freelance & Staff Writer

A citizen of the Quechan (Yuma) Nation and Laguna Pueblo, earned her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Iowa. She has taught at Webster University and Washington University in St. Louis and helped create Missouri's Native American Heritage Program as a board member of the Missouri Humanities Council.

Her debut, *Whiskey Tender*—the 2025 One Book Project selection—was a 2024 National Book Award Finalist, longlisted for the 2025 Carnegie Medal, and named a Top 10 Book of 2024 by *The Atlantic*, *Time*, and *Audible*. It also appeared on “best of” lists from *The New Yorker*, *NPR*, *Oprah Daily*, and more, and was Amazon Editors' Best Choice.

Editor Emeritus of *River Styx*, her writing has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *Boston Review*, *Salon*, *Prairie Schooner*, and multiple anthologies. A recipient of awards and grants from the NEA, PEN America, MacDowell, Tin House, and others, she is currently working on her second story collection.

Leslie Stall Widener
Published Children's Book Author, Illustrator, Book Designer, Story Contributor, and Editor

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma tribal member and registered Choctaw artist, serves as Native Fund Chair for *We Need Diverse Books* and is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She has illustrated six Choctaw picture books published in English and Choctaw by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, as well as *Imagine the Moon* (Plum Street, 2017). Her nonfiction author debut, *Kindred Spirits: Shilombish Ittibachuffa* (Charlesbridge, 2024), expands her contributions as both author and illustrator for educational publishers. Originally from Tulsa, she has made Texas her home since 1980.



Andrea Page
Published Young Adult, Juvenile and Children's Author, Educator, and Speaker

A *Hunkpapa Lakota* children's author, educator, and speaker, has published *Sioux Code Talkers of World War II* (2017) and *Who Was Wilma Mankiller?* (2025), with *Gabriel's Winter Count* forthcoming in 2026. She also creates educator guides, compiles Native book lists, and teaches at the *Highlights Foundation*. A longtime member of SCBWI, RACWI, and the *Children's Literature Assembly of NCTE*, Andrea lives in Rochester, NY with her husband and enjoys connecting with authors and young readers.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Journey to Progress: 2025 One Book Project Art Exhibit

October 15 - November 15 | Open Daily 8am - 10pm

Free and Open to the Public!

CSUB's Third Annual One Book Project Art Exhibit will feature works that illustrate the artists' unique and personal journeys to progress. All members of the CSUB community participate, and their work will be on display at the Walter Stiern Library, 2nd Floor, from October 15 to November 15, 2025.

Native Literary Mentorship Program

Kern County Library, CSU Bakersfield and Bakersfield College are excited to launch the first Native Literary Mentorship Program in conjunction with the 2025 One Book Project.

Currently enrolled CSUB and BC student writers, poets, graphic novelists, and illustrators with a tribal affiliation are encouraged to apply to be paired with a published Native American author for a 1-hour one-on-one Zoom session scheduled in November to receive personal feedback on your creative work and discuss your publishing goals. Additionally, ALL applicants will be invited to the initial 1-hour Introductory Q&A Zoom session with EACH founding member!



Interested students must submit an application form online or by scanning the QR Code.

Program Schedule

October 10: Deadline for students to submit applications.

October 17: Decision committee meets on Zoom or Teams to select students and form mentor-matches.

October 18-20: Winning students are notified, and participation is confirmed.

October 21: Taffa's visit to CSUB—students and mentors are invited to afternoon reception in library,

November 1: Zoom dates are scheduled for each Mentor's 1st Personal Journey and Q & A Zoom Session Session #1 before November 10th [based on Mentor availability]

Invites are Sent to ALL applicants for each Mentor's Session

Mentors will schedule their Session #2 one-on-one session directly with their student.

Total (3) Mentor Sessions.

November 10-29: Authors schedule Zoom meetings with their students one-on-one. Additional help or session is up to the Mentors' discretion.

PREMIERE EVENTS

Get Involved.
Join the community discussion!

Meet & Greet with Deborah Jackson Taffa Tues. | Oct 21 | 7pm

Author of Whiskey Tender: A Memoir

FREE and Open to the Public.

Don't miss the chance to meet the author in person at the exclusive book signing event! Grab your copy, get it signed, and enjoy a unique opportunity to connect. Join us and be part of this special moment! Discussion, Q & A and Book Signing.



CSUB Walter W. Stiern Library, Dezember Room, 9001 Stockdale Hwy. Bakersfield. 661.654.3172

Native Cultural Showcase Sat. | Oct 25 | 11am

Join us from 11 am to 2 pm and experience the work of a wide variety of native artisans, as well as tribal representatives from many cultural and service organizations in Kern County! Meet Artist Lori Myers, teacher of the Tlingit Indian from Sitka, Alaska and a jewelry and bead artist and many more! At Noon, Guest Speaker, Gene Albitre, whose tribal affiliation is Diegueno, will present on the significant role animals played in the survival of Native American culture. He will share his rawhide, leather tooling materials, and handmade drums and demonstrate how he creates the items. His emphasis on the importance of preserving the legacy of Native American peoples and educating others on the history and significance of Native American culture in modern times.

The "Common Ground" Initiative allows the Arts Council of Kern to connect the community with Indigenous roots and arts. Common Ground artists visit local museums, schools, pow wows, community events, festivals, and county libraries throughout Kern County. They share their stories and show their art forms, as well as demonstrate and teach their cultural skills.



Beale Memorial Library, Auditorium, 701 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93301

PREMIERE EVENTS Get Involved. Join the community discussion!



Kern Yokuts Women Sat. | Nov. 15 | 11am

With Dee Dominguez

Women from four Kern River Yokuts Tribes who were master basket weavers stood up to submit legal court depositions seeking the return of part of their ancestral lands where their families could live safely and call home including a brother-in-law who was said to have submitted the strongest deposition. Two of them had relatives who were signers of Treaty D which encompassed the Kern River from the East side of the valley to the west end of the valley establishing their reservation. They also provided lifelong documentation of where villages stood, and described our food supply, relationships with neighboring Tribes, and cultural activities.

About The Guest Speaker

Delia 'Dee' Dominguez is a member of the Yowlumne Yokuts, Ventureño Chumash, and Kitanemuk. Dee is a traditional basketweaver, traditional and contemporary storyteller, tribal history researcher, family genealogist, current and past board member of the California Indian Basketweavers Association. She currently works supporting environmental issues like Bring Back the Kern, human rights groups like United Liberation Front, Dolores Huerta Foundation, United Farm Workers Union-Cesar Chavez. She has also received training from the National Lawyers Guild as a Legal Observer to assist in protecting rights to legally protest, and organized classes for 'Know Your Rights' with the National Lawyers Guild.

Currently, she is concentrating on Kern River Yokuts history and feels fortunate to do public educational presentations at the Kern River Parkway Foundation's Hart Park Peacock Adobe. Dee was born and raised in Bakersfield, California, and continues to live in the Eastside in the same house her grandparents lived in. She also has a home in the Los Angeles area in the town of Covina. Her adult working life was in the Los Angeles area where she retired after almost 37 years working with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Social Security Administration, and the U.S. Treasury.



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PREMIERE EVENTS Get Involved. Join the community discussion!



Panel Discussion Sat. | Nov. 22 | 11am

Bridging Traditional Healing & Modern Medicine

Join us for an educational panel discussion exploring how cultural wisdom and modern healthcare can work together to support well-being in all aspects of your life: Emotional, Spiritual, Physical, Mental. This event features insights from a clinical psychologist, a cultural coordinator, and a registered dietician, each bringing unique perspectives on integrated care. Panelists will discuss the value of traditional healing practices and how they can complement evidence-based medical approaches. Attendees will gain practical strategies for fostering culturally respectful and collaborative healthcare environments.

Panelists Include:

Dr. Carson Chambers, Ph.D.

Director of Behavioral Health, Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

Dr. Carson Chambers is a Clinical Psychologist at BAIHP with nearly a decade's experience of working with tribal communities. He formerly worked with the Tule River Tribe before joining BAIHP, catering his focus from Native Americans from the reservations to those living in urban settings. He is committed to culturally rooted mental health care in Indian Country.

Juan "Jesse" Behill

Cultural Coordinator, Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

Jesse Behill is the Cultural Coordinator at BAIHP and proud member of the Chalon and Chumash tribes of California. At BAIHP, he leads some Talking Circles and Wellbriety support programs which give participants moments of reflection and collectively shared wisdom. Jesse is also a keeper of various traditional songs, stories, and prayers. He's dedicated to preserving and passing on Native cultural practices.

Cheryl M. Garone, MS, RDN, CCS, CLE, DPPLC

Registered Dietitian, Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

Cheryl is a Registered Dietitian with BAIHP with over 25 years' experience with clinical and outpatient Medical Nutrition Therapy. She teaches at Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield. Cheryl believes in food as medicine and empowering wellness through nutrition. She's a firm believer in the phrase, "We are what we eat."



Bakersfield American
B·A·I·H·P
Indian Health Project

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