**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Clovis Unified’s Native American Student Success Conference returns Nov. 19**

Groups of students representing all intermediate and high schools in Clovis Unified School District will attend the second annual Native American Student Success Conference Nov. 19 at Clark Intermediate School.

Students will be treated to tribal rhythms with the theme of this year’s conference, “Harmonizing Heritage: The Role of Music in Native American Student Success.” Emmy award winning filmmaker and dancer Kenneth Shirley returns as the keynote speaker for the conference. Shirley is the CEO of Indigenous Enterprise, LLC, an entertainment company dedicated to amplifying indigenous voices and promoting culture through a blend of dance, film and storytelling.

Two breakout sessions will follow the keynote with one dedicated to Native dances featuring local dancers as well as some from Indigenous Enterprise, including a Traditional Dancer, a Grass Dancer and a Jingle Dress Dancer. The other session will be an opportunity to “Meet the Mentors,” led by local community partners whose work span the fields of law, cultural advocacy, photography, engineering and the arts.

The conference was created through the efforts of the Clovis Unified Native American Advisory Committee, which is composed of staff, parents and students as a way the district’s Native American students to learn together while celebrating their culture.

“Music and dance play such an integral part in Native cultures, and this year we wanted to celebrate that and give our students an event that engages them with this expressive part of their heritage," said event organizer Robyn Snyder, director of CUSD Supplemental Services.

The conference kicks off the full slate of motivational events in the district which includes Clovis Unified’s Asian American, African American and Latino Student Success Conferences that will be held later this school year.

**WHAT:**          **Clovis Unified School District’s Native American Student Success Conference**

**WHEN:          Tuesday, Nov. 19**

8:45 a.m. (Multipurpose Room) – Opening Session, Native Cultural Welcome, Keynote Speaker Kenneth Shirley (learn more about the speaker: <https://store.indigenousenterprise.com/pages/our-team>)

10:15 a.m. (Multipurpose Room and Gym) – Breakout Sessions

Noon (Gym) – Lunch and Closing Session

**WHERE:**       Clark Intermediate School, 902 Fifth St., Clovis

**PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:**

Alta Sierra Intermediate, Clark Intermediate, Granite Ridge Intermediate, Kastner Intermediate, Reyburn Intermediate, Buchanan High, Clovis High, Clovis East High, Clovis North High, Clovis West High, Gateway High, Clovis Online School

**CONTACT:** Clovis Unified event organizer Robyn Snyder

***MEDIA – Those interested in covering the event, please check in with Clark Intermediate main office before heading to the Multipurpose Room or Gym. Organizers recommend the opening session or lunch/closing session as best media opportunities for coverage. Thank you!***

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