NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATORS DEDICATE SCHOOL PROGRAM TO NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HOLIDAY

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

October 31, 2012 Yucaipa, Calif., and San Manuel Indian Nation (Near San Bernardino, Calif.) – The annual California's First Cultures: A Celebration at Crafton Hills/Waa't will be held Thursday, Nov. 8 and Friday, Nov 9. Each day starts at 9 a.m. on the campus of Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa, Calif. The event is held in recognition of National 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". ****2011 Proclamation is Linked/Attached****

The celebration which strives to fulfill this mandate brings together Redlands and Yucaipa elementary school students and Native American instructors with the San Manuel Education Department to teach the Indian culture of southern California. Students will take part in hands on lessons covering aspects of Native American culture including basketry, pottery, music and lessons in the Serrano Indian language and history of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

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. 8 and Friday, Nov.9, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Presentation circuits by; Paakuma' "Shorty" Tawinat, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians Education Committee Chair. James Ramos, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians; David Largo, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, Kim Marcus, Soboba Noli Indian School and Santa Rosa Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, and Ernest Siva, Morongo Band of Mission Indians and San Manuel Education Department Serrano Linguists.
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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