SERVE VISION:

Envisions Tribal sovereign nations and Indigenous communities as sustainable healthy communities that use healing interventions to provide empowerment, mentorship, and leadership development; to promote cultural preservation and appreciation of Indigenous cultures by recognizing and supporting Tribal sovereignty, and protecting cultural rights and identity of Indigenous peoples.

SERVE MISSION:

Committed to full equity, justice, well-being, and cultural preservation of American Indian/Alaska Native children and families by increasing the numbers of Indigenous social work graduates; fostering inclusive leadership development; developing partnerships between Tribal sovereign nations, indigenous communities, and other stakeholders; and implementing decolonizing social work curricula to reflect community-based, culturally appropriate Indigenous values and the promotion of Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination.

SERVE OBJECTIVES:

1. To increase the enrollment and graduation of Native Americans from social work programs offering Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) degrees in California;
2. To increase the number of opportunities for all MSW students to complete field placements at Tribal agencies, or agencies that work extensively with Tribal populations;
3. To increase partnerships between Tribal organizations and advocacy groups and schools of social work throughout California;
4. To increase capacity and curriculum of the CalSWEC-affiliated schools to train social workers with cultural responsiveness directly related to California’s Native population.

BACKGROUND:

SERVE was initiated in 1981 at UC Berkeley through the American Indian/Alaskan Native Program in Social Welfare. In 1999, SERVE was adopted by CalSWEC and grew into a statewide effort that operated from California State University, Stanislaus, where it helped to form collaborative working relationships with 67 of 110 California Tribal agencies.

In summer 2011, SERVE was expanded and restructured in an effort to strategically increase statewide outreach and development efforts. It now operates from three distinct locations for the state’s Northern, Central, and Southern regions (See map on page 2).
SERVE: Indigenous Social Workers for Change

**Program Regions**

**Northern Region**
- Humboldt State University
- Michelle Rainer
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**Central Region**
- CSU Fresno
- Zachary Zukovsky
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**Southern Region**
- San Diego State University
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SERVE MAY ASSIST WITH/TO:

- Interested Indigenous students apply to BASW and MSW programs within California, including Title IV-E Stipend Programs;
- Connect Indigenous students to placements in Tribal agencies, Rancherias, or agencies that work extensively with Tribal populations;
- Establish field placement sites for interns at Tribal agencies, Rancherias and/or child protection service agencies;
- Trainings on Native American issues in social welfare and child welfare to universities and child protective agencies.

SERVE MODEL:

For successful recruitment and retention of Indigenous (Native American/Native Alaskan) students and preparation of non-Native students, it is essential that all the following areas (*Building Relationships/Partnerships, Decolonizing Curricula, Recruitment, and Field Placements*) are in place to provide an adequate and appropriate support system for students (refer to SERVE Model page).

For more information about SERVE, the Title IV-E Stipend Program, participating schools, and how to apply, please visit http://calswec.berkeley.edu/