March 16, 2016

Dear San Diego County Students, Educators, and Leaders,

As part of the University of California, San Diego’s 2015-16 California Native American Day (CANA-Day) Celebration, our committee is proud to announce our Annual CANA-Day High School Essay Contest. This year's theme is: Looking to our past to prepare for our future

Included in this packet is a copy of the essay contest application and our promotional flyer. Feel free to duplicate and distribute these materials. The contest is open to all San Diego County students in grades 9-12. It is our hope to have students of all backgrounds participate in the contest, particularly those from San Diego’s Native American communities.

The application deadline is Friday, April 22, 2016. Winners will be notified by May 1, 2016. All entrants are invited to attend UC San Diego’s annual Pow Wow, to be held in May, 2016, hosted by UC San Diego's Native American Student Alliance (NASA). There, all contest entrants will be recognized and prize winners will have the opportunity to present their entries to the audience and will receive their awards. In addition to the cash award, one first prize winner will be eligible to receive a UC San Diego $500 Incentive Scholarship which will be awarded upon being admitted and enrolled at UC San Diego, within four years of high school graduation.

Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at this year’s CANA-Day festivities!

UC San Diego California
Native American Day
(CANA-Day) Celebration Committee

Mario Aguilar
Early Academic Outreach Program

Ross Frank
Ethnic Studies
Lala Forrest  
Native American Student Alliance

Irma Martinez Velasco  
Office of the Chancellor

Edwina Welch  
Cross-Cultural Center

Robin Wilson  
American Indian

Cynthia Davalos  
Office of the Vice Chancellor Student Affairs

Salvia apiana (white sage), traditional medicine of San Diego American Indian Nations
The University of California, San Diego
California Native American Day Celebration
Is Proud to Announce Our Annual

CANA-Day High School Essay Contest

Grades 9-10  1st Place: $250
Grades 11-12  1st Place: $250
A.I.R. Program Member  1st Place: $250
Tribal Member  1st Place: $250

$500 Grand Prize Incentive Scholarship

This year’s celebration theme is:

Looking to our past to prepare for our future

Writing Prompt:  NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES HAVE WAYS OF HONORING TRADITION THROUGH CULTURAL PRACTICES AND EDUCATION. HOW CAN KNOWLEDGE OF OUR PAST HELP US HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE DREAMS AND GOALS OF OUR FUTURE? TELL US HOW YOUR FAMILY AND/OR COMMUNITY HERITAGE CAN HELP YOU PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY. IF YOU ARE ENROLLED MEMBER OF A TRIBE, PLEASE TALK ABOUT WHAT CHALLENGES YOUR COMMUNITY HAS HAD TO OVERCOME.

Using a minimum of two pages, (double-spaced, 12 font size), or an image (that you create yourself, minimum size 8” x 8”, maximum size 17” x 11”)

Submit completed essay and application to:

Via e-mail:  meaguilar@ucsd.edu
Via U.S. Mail: UC San Diego CANA-Day Essay Contest
C/O Dr. Mario E. Aguilar, Early Academic Outreach Program
9500 Gilman Drive MC0305B, La Jolla, CA 92093-0305

For additional information please contact (858) 534-5250 or eaop@ucsd.edu

This contest is open to all San Diego County 9-12 graders. Entrants are invited to attend UC San Diego’s annual Powwow, hosted in May by UC San Diego’s Native American Student Alliance (NASA) where they will be recognized and contest prize winners will receive their awards and have the opportunity to present their entries to the audience. In addition to the cash award, one first prize winner will be eligible to receive a $500 Incentive Scholarship which will be awarded upon being admitted and enrolled at UC San Diego, within four years of high school graduation. Entries become the property of UC San Diego. Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges working with the committee.
## UC San Diego’s Cana-Day 2015- 2016 High School Essay Contest Application

**Entry Postmark Deadline:**  
**Friday, April 22, 2016**

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☐ A.I.R. Program Member  ☐ Tribal Affiliation: ________________________________

Submit completed essay and application to:

Via e-mail:  [meaguilar@ucsd.edu](mailto:meaguilar@ucsd.edu)

Via U.S. Mail: UC San Diego CANA-Day Essay Contest  
c/o Dr. Mario E. Aguilar Early Academic Outreach Program  
9500 Gilman Drive, San Diego, CA 92093-0305

For additional information please contact (858) 534-5250 or [eaop@ucsd.edu](mailto:eaop@ucsd.edu)

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Tips for Writing an Essay

- Don’t expect a perfect essay from the start. A great essay takes many drafts to write, not just 1 or 2.
- Keep all of your drafts, doodles, ideas, and brainstorms together in one folder.
- Give yourself time to think about what you want to say. Write in chunks of time (1/2-1 hour per day).
- Digest what you have written and come back to it again to re-read and revise it as warranted.

Day 1—Get Your Creative Writing Juices Flowing
1. Write the theme on a piece of paper.
2. Under the theme, write the goal of your essay.
3. Write down everything you know about the theme. [This is called brainstorming.]
4. Let your writing rest for a day.

Note: If you are stuck, talk to other people like your family, school mates, or teachers about the theme to get their perspectives. Think about what they have said and how you agree or disagree with them. Repeat brainstorming.

Day 2—Write the First Draft
1. Using yesterday’s work, add another 10-minutes of brainstorming.
2. Read everything you have written. Jot down any additional ideas that come to mind as you read.
3. Highlight anything written that you believe fits the theme and set these pages aside.
4. Write quickly for 30 minutes to produce a complete draft with a beginning, middle, and end.
   [Don’t worry about spelling, punctuation, or grammar; you will have time to revise the draft later.]
5. Ask a teacher, tutor, parent, or all three to review and comment on your initial draft
   (but not to edit your spelling, punctuation, or grammar). Ask them to use only 3 of the following comments:
   - Add an example
   - Add details here
   - Write more about this
   - This part might be left out
   - Good example—this is why it is a good example
   - Good details—this is why these details are good
   - This sounds honest
   - You’ve lost me

Day 3—Review the First Draft
1. Carefully re-read your draft and review and comment on it as if it belonged to someone else.
   Use only three of the following comments:
   - Add an example
   - Add details here
   - Write more about this
   - This part might be left out
   - Good example—this is why it is a good example
   - Good details—this is why these details are good
   - This sounds honest
   - You’ve lost me
2. When you have finished the review, put away the first draft and all of your pre-writes, reviews, and comments for 24 hours.

Day 4—Revise the Draft
1. Look at all of the suggestions you and your reviewer(s) made about your draft.
2. Fill in details and examples, removing parts that don’t seem to fit or moving them to a part of the draft where they do seem to work to meet the competition guidelines.
3. Type a new draft.
4. Ask someone look over your revised draft for content, exactly like the steps for the first draft.

Day 5—Finish the Essay
1. Proofread your draft and edit it, working on the mechanics (grammar, punctuation, spelling, noun-verb agreement, etc.).
2. Ask someone to edit your paper.
3. Make final editing changes and print out and submit the final essay.