

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Nia Gregory, citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Yuchi, and Chicana, Associate Professor of Native American Studies in the Ethnic Studies Department at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton



"I was struggling in undergrad to find purpose. I changed my major a few times and learned to despise academic counseling; it almost always ended with me crying and being told I am missing something or I shouldn't have taken that class even though I was following their advice. I was a microbiology major but chose to take an elective, ETHN 151: Native American Women. I took this purely to give me joy that I was lacking in the academy. I was being taught by a Native woman! She was a physical, mental, and spiritual representation that I didn't know was out there. She was valued, respected, and peacefully powerful. I was both shocked and intrigued. Ethnic studies changed my life."



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Nia Gregory is an Associate Professor of Native American Studies in the Ethnic Studies Department at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, CA. She is dedicated to advancing Indigenous worldview, knowledge and advocacy through education. Nia is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Yuchi, and Chicana.

Nia Gregory is a proud alumna of Sacramento State, where she earned her degrees in Ethnic Studies with a concentration in Native American Studies before pursuing her graduate work in Equity Education.

Before joining academia, she served as the Executive Director of Education for a local Tribe, where she worked on initiatives related to cultural preservation, language revitalization, and educational equity for Native youth

Her teaching interests are in Native representation, decolonizing education, children's literature, law & policy, educational equity, and rematriation. Her scholarship centers on uplifting Indigenous voices as a tool for resistance and healing, challenging colonial narratives in curriculum, and fostering culturally affirming learning spaces for Native students. She has collaborated with educators and Tribal communities to promote inclusive curricula that honor Native histories, languages, and perspectives.

When she's not teaching, Nia enjoys spending time with her relatives, visiting community, playing with her critters, gardening, reading and mentoring students.