

The main impetus for this panel is to share the primary struggles, needs and successes experienced by TCU faculty and staff, especially in relation to the transition into a pandemic protocol and approach to teaching and learning that is principally performed virtually. Each of the panelists teaches different subjects at three different southwestern TCU's: Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Dine College, and California Indian Nations College. SIPI is a federal installation, staffed primarily by Native individuals, with a native advisory board but federal control, hierarchy, funding, etc.. Dine college is the first TCU founded in the U.S., formerly Navajo Community College, and is governed by the Navajo Nation and funded variously. SIPI and Dine College are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. CINC is a new TCU funded by the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians and is in the process of attaining full accreditation. The panelists will focus on three main areas: institutional and community-based approaches, instructional design and delivery, as well as personal strategies that meet students and the community where they are at. Some of these strategies include promoting indigenous and culturally-sustaining practices while creatively adapting to virtual learning and teaching. The panelists will end with a hopeful discussion focused on the positives of the pandemic for teaching and learning at TCU's.

*Dr. Joshua Frank Cardenas: Dr. Frank Cárdenas is an Academic Coordinator & Instructor at California Indian Nations College and adjunct faculty in American Indian Studies at Palomar College and History at College of the Desert. His Ph.D. is in Language, Literacy & Sociocultural Studies (LLSS) from the University of New Mexico. He is an Onkweonwe raised in Paayaxchi Nive'wuna, CA.*

*Dr. Danielle Lansing (Dine): Dr. Lansing is an Early Childhood Education Instructor & Coordinator at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Lansing has a B.A. and M.A. from UNM, a M.A. from Harvard, and a Doctorate from Arizona State University. Dr. Lansing's prolific career includes more than 15 years with the BIE and has been with SIPI since 2011.*

*Matthew Jake Skeets (Dine): A poet and Instructor of English at Dine College, Mr. Skeets is a graduate of UNM's Native American Studies Baccalaureate program, and has earned a Masters in Fine Arts from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Skeets edits the online publication Cloudthroat and is a member of Saad Bee Hózhó: A Diné Writers' Collective.*

*Jodi Burshia, Ph.D. Candidate, University of New Mexico: (Laguna Pueblo, Diné, Hunkpapa Lakota, Assiniboine and Sioux). As an educator and an educational activist, she has been able to collaborate with colleagues to bring awareness about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) issue to the SIPI campus. In this role, she seeks to empower Indigenous students to envision and attain academic success as a step to pursuing their dreams and passions.*