



Oct. 17, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Co-Founder of American Indian Movement to Speak at Cal Poly Nov. 15

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly's Provocative Perspective series continues Thursday, Nov. 15, with a talk by Edward Benton Benai, Spiritual Teacher of the Lac Court Orielles Band of the Ojibway Nation. He will discuss "The Ancient Teachings & Traditions of the Ojibway: A Guide to Modern Living."

The free event begins at 8 a.m. in the Vista Grande Café on the Cal Poly campus, and a complimentary breakfast be served at 7:30 a.m.

Benai was the founder of the Red School House, an Indian-controlled school with 150 K-12 Indian students. He is a pioneer in culture-based curriculum and Indian alternative education who believes that education should be built on identity, spirituality, music, heritage and pride.

As author of "The Mishomis Book" (Indian Country Press), Benai has set down the oral history of the Ojibway Nation and presented his life within the family circle. The book is an account of the culture, history and philosophy of the Ojibway.

He learned from the tribal elders who possessed the memories and wisdom of the Ojibway and carefully preserved the ancient traditions. Benai believes, "It is time to talk with our brothers and sisters of other nations, colors and beliefs. The ideas and philosophies of yesterday may be the key to the world family's future."

He has a master's degree in education and is co-founder of the American Indian Movement.

Reservations can be made by calling 756-0327, or e-mailing Liz Cofer at lcofer@calpoly.edu.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities can be made in advance by contacting the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at 805-756-1521.

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