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Contact: Joy Pedersen Harkins
805-756-6749; jharkins@calpoly.edu

Chumash Elder Akima Castaneda to Perform Nov. 21 at Cal Poly For Native American Heritage Month

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Chumash elder Akima Castaneda will perform at Cal Poly from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21, in celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

Castaneda's performance, in Chumash Auditorium Room 204, will feature traditional song and dance. He will explore indigenous theories such as "It takes a village to raise a child" and "We all bleed red, regardless of the color of the robe we wear."

He will discuss the similarities all cultures share and, through comedy, he will give examples of the capitalistic mentality and examine socio-economical versus spiritualism with respect to the environment.

Castaneda is a well-known actor and a regular guest on Jay Leno's "The Tonight Show." He recently played himself in "Savages," an Oliver Stone film starring Blake Lively, Taylor Keitsch, Salma Hayek, Uma Thurman and John Travolta, to be released in 2012.

He also appeared in the film "John Carter of Mars," based on an Edgar Rice Burroughs' science fiction novel.

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, Castaneda earned a bachelor's degree in political science and environmental studies from UC Santa Barbara. He served on the original Earth Day Committee in 1970, which was prompted by the hazardous 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara. He was instrumental in initiating the Chicano studies program in the UC system.

The event is hosted by Cal Poly's MultiCultural Center. It is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the center at 805-756-1405.

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