

## \$9 Million Gift from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Galvanizes Tribal Gaming and Law Programs at UNLV



Congresswoman Dina Titus (D-NV) and San Manuel Tribal Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena.

UNLV has announced a \$9 million gift from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians that will position the university as the nation's leading source for education and innovation related to tribal gaming operations and law.

This gift – the largest out-of-state philanthropic gift that the California-based San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has bestowed on an educational or healthcare institution – will support course development and an endowed chair at the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality. It will also provide curricular, faculty, and program support at the William S. Boyd School of Law. The historic agreement will for the first time infuse the unique elements of tribal gaming into the world's leading hospitality and gaming program, and add a tribal gaming emphasis to the nation's only master's degree program in gaming law.

"In the tribe's history, tribal government gaming is the only tool that has worked to meet our economic development objectives," said San Manuel Tribal Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena. "Yet, the full potential of tribal gaming cannot be achieved if we do not also place emphasis on developing Native people to manage our economic developments, including gaming. Therefore, we are making this investment in the partnership with UNLV to educate and prepare our children, grandchildren and future generations to help chart our path to a sustainable future."

A \$6 million portion of the gift will establish the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Endowed Chair in Tribal Gaming at the UNLV College of Hospitality. It will also enhance the college's curriculum by incorporating tribal gaming into existing gaming courses, creating new on-campus and online degree-track courses in tribal gaming, and developing a set of online certificate courses for community members and Native Americans across the nation who are interested in learning more about careers in tribal gaming operations.

"As tribal gaming continues to expand throughout the nation, it is critical for our college to be able to educate both

current and future professionals on the operational nuances of tribal gaming," said Stowe Shoemaker, Dean of the UNLV Harrah College of Hospitality. "This gift not only helps us develop greater expertise in tribal gaming operations, it allows us to make this unique educational opportunity accessible to everyone."

The program, which will emphasize partnerships with other schools and tribes nationwide, will also host an annual, week-long executive education seminar for tribal gaming professionals. The college plans to have faculty in place this fall, with the full tribal gaming program rollout anticipated by Fall 2023.

At the UNLV Boyd School of Law, \$3 million of the gift will support a professor-in-residence, a visiting professor, and a program administrator who will create opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue and research on governance, regulation, and economic development issues.

Funds will also be channeled into a scholarship for a LL.M. student in gaming, with preference given to tribal citizens and indigenous student applicants. The Law School will also develop online courses on tribal governance and gaming regulation, expand its Tribal Law Practicum for students, and conduct an annual workshop or symposium on emerging topics and issues of interest to Native American gaming.

"The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is one of the leaders in tribal gaming in the country, and has made a sustained commitment to philanthropy and research," said Daniel W. Hamilton, Dean of the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law. "We are deeply grateful for their partnership, and look forward to building the nation's leader in developing best practices for tribal gaming law, policy and governance."

## Pechanga Poker and Bingo Players Donate 4,000 lbs. of Food in 'Restock the Shelves' Campaign

Throughout the month of January, Pechanga Poker and Pechanga Bingo, as well as its loyal players, committed to helping Restock the Shelves of the Community Mission of Hope. The initiative collected 4,000 pounds of non-perishable foods. Pechanga guests were just as giving as they were in 2019, and they were rewarded for their generosity with extra game incentives when playing Pechanga Bingo and poker in exchange for bringing the non-perishable foods.

The Restock the Shelves campaign supports the regional assistance organization by replenishing their depleted food supplies after the incredibly busy holidays. The Community Mission of Hope services more than 400 residents and families of Murrieta, Temecula, Anza, Aguanga and beyond each month. Pechanga Resort Casino was the only Southern California casino to participate in this year's Restock the Shelves campaign.

Throughout January, players had the opportunity to bring donations of non-perishable food items in exchange for



valuable incentives. Bingo players who brought in two cans of non-perishable food items received one free earlybird game pack with their buy-in for matinee and evening sessions.

Pechanga Poker players competing in weekday tournaments received a head start on chips for bringing in non-perishables. Those who brought two canned goods received 500 bonus starting tournament chips and those with three or more canned items received 1,000 bonus starting chips.

The Restock the Shelves food donation campaign is put on at Pechanga in conjunction with *Ante Up* magazine and Blue Shark Optics. *Ante Up* and Blue Shark Optics team up with poker rooms in regions across the countries to host Restock the Shelves events each January. This is the Pechanga Poker Room's fifth year participating and Pechanga Bingo's third.

## Jackson Rancheria 19th Annual Giving Season Raises Over \$38,000 for Local Charities

Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort raised \$38,674 for local charity organizations during the 19th Annual Giving Season promotion. From November 29 through December 28, Dreamcatcher's Club Members were able to donate their earned points. For every \$1 in points donated, guests received entries into the 19th Annual Season of Giving drawings. The Jackson Rancheria Band of Miwuk Indians matched the first \$10,000 raised.

The amount raised was split evenly between five local charities. Each charity received \$7,734. This year's recipients were: Interfaith Food Bank; Calaveras Food Bank; The Dennis Dalton Foundation; California Tribal TANF Partnership Amador County; and Amador County Meals on Wheels.

The checks were presented by Crystal Jack, CEO; Mike Turngren, General Manager; and Tribal Council members: Adam Dalton, Tribal Chairperson; Nick Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer; and Robert F. Dalton, General Council Representative.

"The amount of money raised is a testament to the generosity of our loyal guests who shared their winnings," said Crystal Jack, CEO Jackson Rancheria Band of Miwuk Indians. "All of the beneficiaries are non-profit organizations that help those in need in our community."

## Pokagon Band Contributes \$860,000 to the City of South Bend, Indiana and Local Non-Profits



The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi recently announced that it presented checks totaling \$860,000 to South Bend Mayor James Mueller and representatives from several area non-profits at a ceremony at Four Winds South Bend. This annual contribution is part of a voluntary local agreement between the Pokagon Band and the City of South Bend. The City of South Bend along with the non-profits each receive a share of the funds to assist with their operations and programs.

"The Pokagon Band is very fortunate and proud to be able to make these annual contributions to the City of South Bend, the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County, YWCA of North Central Indiana, the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, Jobs for America's Graduates Indiana, the Bowman Creek Project, Beacon Children's Hospital, South Bend Community School Corporation, and South Bend Venues, Parks & Arts for the renovation of Howard Park," said Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Chairman of the Pokagon Band. "These important organizations play a vital role in serving the community and we look forward to seeing what programs and initiatives they have planned for 2020."

"The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi have been a generous partner in our community, and we are grateful for their contributions to improve our city's parks, open spaces, and neighborhoods," said Mayor James Mueller. "We look forward to continuing this great partnership into the future."

The Pokagon Band voluntarily entered into an agreement with South Bend to make annual payments from revenue derived from its Class II gaming devices at its Four Winds South Bend casino. The annual payments are in lieu of property tax payments and provide funding for city services and funding for community development initiatives related to the Band's trust lands in South Bend. One percent of the Class II revenues is paid directly to the City and another one percent is paid to the South Bend Redevelopment Commission to contribute to the improvement of educational opportunities and to address poverty and unemployment in the City. The agreement between South Bend and the Pokagon Band is similar to those in three additional communities where the Pokagon Band's Four Winds Casinos operate including New Buffalo, Hartford and Dowagiac Michigan. ♣