

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

EXPERT PANEL & TALKING CIRCLES

MENTORSHIP & PEER LED PROGRAMMING

NUMBER OF YOUTH ATTENDED: 40+
AGE RANGE YOUTH ATTENDED: 15-26
TRIBAL NATIONS REPRESENTED: HOOPA, YUROK, KARUK, BEAR RIVER, CHIMARIKO, WAILAKI, POMO, YUKI, ROUND VALLEY

During Lonnie Anderson's week-long visit, we hosted several impactful events to inspire and empower youth. Lonnie shared his powerful story of resilience and community with over 20 youth from various local tribes at the Youth Ambassador Young Women's Leadership Group (NCIDC). Later, he visited Humboldt County Juvenile Hall, and then with students at Hoopa Valley High School, where his storytelling and art resonated deeply. The visit to the Hoopa Valley culminated in a healing talking circle led by Yvonne Guido (2FNAFS), FSL staff, and Hoopa Senior Youth Ambassadors at the Il-Tuq Center, where youth, elders, and staff shared wisdom and experiences. These events created lasting connections and healing for over 40 youth and community members.

Food For Indigenous Futures 2024

Rou Dalagurr Food Sovereignty Lab & TEK Institute



Native American Studies
Cal Poly Humboldt

Native American Studies
ROU DALAGURR
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY LAB &
TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL
KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTE
Cal Poly Humboldt

elevate
YOUTH CALIFORNIA

Youth Council Contribution: Photography

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER & LAB PHOTOGRAPHER: KIMORA VANPELT
HUPA & YUROK
AGE: 19



Kimora VanPelt joined the Youth Council in 2024 - and brought her artistic eye to the lab, capturing community events through photography and designing event flyers. Kimora's work is being used broadly, including in this report and our upcoming magazine publication. Having local Native photographers in cultural spaces is essential, and Kimora's work has made a lasting impact. They have gained mentorship, explored the university; learning how to navigate the system to get paid for their work, and brought levity to our spaces. They connected with inspiring creatives like artist Lonnie Anderson, photographer Lloyd, Chef Sara, and Dr. Cinthya—who bonded with Kimora over her upcoming kayaking trip to Chile! We're grateful for Kimora contributing her talents to the lab, and happy to have them on the Youth Council.

Food For Indigenous Futures

ABOUT FIF

The Food for Indigenous Futures project is building a community and youth-informed curriculum to connect with cultural practices in health, wellness, traditional ecological knowledge, and food sovereignty. The program includes youth workshops, events, and school-based curriculum for Native American High School students alongside opportunities for Native American youth to create and implement programs and projects for food sovereignty, food justice, health & wellness. Funded by the Elevate Youth Grant through the Sierra Health Fund.

Building on the good work from 2023, in 2024 we hosted a range of impactful events focused on community, cultural learning, and youth engagement. Our Youth Council came together for multiple Talking Circles and Listening Sessions. We deepened our relationship with Indigenous foods through the Sue-Meg Youth Indigenous Foods Workshop, the CPH HAPAY Berry Jam Workshop, and the Huckleberry Gathering Workshop. We attended celebrations like Dee-ni Day and Ner-er-Nerh Day honoring traditions and strengthened community ties. Our Chef in Residence Workshops brought hands-on culinary experiences, while American Indian College Motivation Day inspired the next generation of students. We also facilitated knowledge-sharing through an Expert Panel & Community Peer Support session with Lonnie Anderson, and our Film Screenings provided opportunities for storytelling and discussion. Through these events, we continue to cultivate spaces for learning, connection, and cultural expression. Food for Indigenous Futures project has facilitated and collaborated on many community events.







FIF OUTCOMES



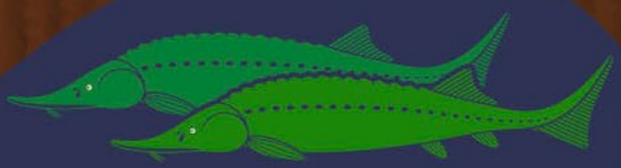
SUCCESSES

In 2024, we successfully moved our programming into the Rou Dalagurr Food Sovereignty Lab and TEK Institute on campus. Having access to this custom space has allowed for many successes, including increased hands on activity opportunities for our Youth Council members as well as the many young people who engage in our broad programming. The Youth Council successfully created multiple cultural-based gifts for the local community, including healing salves, teas, and canned preserves. Additionally, we had the honor of welcoming cultural bearers like Chef Sara and Lonnie Anderson, who have contributed greatly to our vision. This new space serves as a home base for students, fostering a built-in community that encourages mentorship and leadership while allowing young people to explore new opportunities. It also strengthens connections to culture and food, offering a positive alternative to substance use.

CHALLENGES AND PLANNED SOLUTIONS

This year, transitioning fully into our on-campus space presented significant challenges, particularly within a system that has historically excluded Native students and programs. A key example was our effort to compensate our Youth Council Photographer with an honorarium—an exciting milestone that was met with months-long payment delays due to restrictive university policies, despite our funds being ready. Similar barriers affected payments for expert panelists, film series guests, and community partners, as CSU-wide software changes and strict payment limits created additional hurdles. With strong demand for our programs from both local and broader communities, our limited staff—especially student staff—have been stretched thin. In 2025, we will continue working with the university to streamline payment processes, explore external partnerships to improve financial flexibility, and prioritize wellness for our team, as something as simple as payment procurement adds significant workloads to our already busy team..

FIF BY THE #'s



HOW MANY YOUTH ON THE COUNCIL?

13 YOUTH

ESTIMATED 2,000 YOUTH SERVED

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

HOW MANY REGIONS REPRESENTED?

8 INDIGENOUS NATIONS

YUROK

HUPA

KARUK

K'ICHE

WIYOT

YAMONIM MAIDUM

RESIGHINI RANCHERIA

SUSANVILLE INDIAN RANCHERIA

AGES 15-26

AGE RANGE OF YOUTH SERVED

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- YOUTH LISTENING SESSIONS
- YOUTH TALKING CIRCLES
- FOOD SOVEREIGNTY LAB STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- COLLEGE MOTIVATION DAYS
- EXPERT PANELS
- TRADITIONAL MEAL SHARING
- GATHERING TRIPS
- FOOD PRESERVING WORKSHOPS
- GARDEN DAYS