



*Inés M. Talamantez*

*October 31, 1930 - September 27, 2019*

# *Our Dearest Inés,*

“As young girls run and dance vigorously to assure themselves of long, healthy lives, and to assure the tribe’s well-being; they are not dancing just for themselves alone, they are dancing for all of us.”

Inés M. Talamantez, PhD, Preface, *The Apache Pollen Path: Mescalero Female Initiation Ceremony*

Inés Maria Talamantez, Professor of Native American Religious Traditions, was a masterful teacher and mentor, who inspired creativity, community, accountability, critical engagement, and academic freedom. At UCSB (also Harvard, Dartmouth, the University of Southern California, Wellesley, and Carleton), Inés fostered an exceptional circle of students. Beyond her lasting imprint at UCSB (where she directed undergraduates, PhD students, and colleagues in Native American Religious Studies), she mentored students across the country. She inspired them to rethink the academy, to make it inhabitable for the responsible study of Native religious traditions. While protecting space for her students, she also invited scholarship from diverse marginalized communities, including first-generation college students, Native and non-Native minority students, and LGBTQ students. She loved her students fiercely, and her love was made manifest in her ability to fill them with confidence in their ability to uncover and tell their own stories, the stories of their communities, and the stories of the ancestors.

She was proud to be an activist and a fighter, and she is one of the most important mentors and role models ever to work at UCSB. Her legacy lives on in her scholarship, her students, and the community, all of which have been transformed and uplifted by her dííyi.



# *A Celebration of Life*

1 NOVEMBER 2019  
SBCC "GREAT MEADOW"

OPENING

WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
of CHUMASH LAND

OPENING PRAYER

CHUMASH SINGERS

SHARED REFLECTIONS

Pete Zavalla  
Henry Yang  
Marc McGinnes  
Deborah Guerrero  
Adele Menichella

VIDA VIVIVA-- LIFE LIVED

performed by  
Mary Eubanks

HUMMINGBIRD DRUM

CLOSING

INVITATION FOR REFRESHMENTS AND COMMUNITY

OBSERVE THE SUNSET





*A Mindful Invitation*  
*Una invitación consiente*  
Inés Talamantez

It is the sun with its *bitole*, rays, that brings us new life  
It is the moon's radiance that watches over us during the night  
It is the female rain that gently washes away our fears  
It is the breeze that caresses our skin making us strong as we walk on the land  
On this sun day I offer my thoughts for all of our journeys to succeed.  
This is hard labor  
The ancestors knew we were coming  
They left work for us  
Now we carry their wisdom forward.  
Know who you are, *sabe quien eres*  
Know your land, *conoce tu tierra*  
Learn your language, *aprende tu idioma*  
Follow the beliefs of your people, your spiritual culture  
Do not let spells affect you.  
Like every other achievement of human thought  
We have emerged culturally and religiously  
We are still exploring the possibilities for future growth  
Seeking and testing, we take time to measure our generations and know  
that through working together we continue to build decent conditions  
for our people  
This is our obligation  
Never give up.

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*Vern thanks you for coming to celebrate the  
life and work of Dr. Inés M. Talamantez,  
and with much appreciation to Lola  
Mondragon, Felicia Lopez, Ryan DeCarsky,  
and Elena Rios for organizing and realizing  
this celebration.*

