# FINDING D-QU

The Lonely Struggle of California's only Tribal College



Finding D-QU speaks powerfully and visually to a dream that has been persistently deferred self-determined higher education by and for Native Americans."

Renee Tajima-Peña — Oscar Nominated Filmmaker, Former Film Critic "Village Voice" and NPR



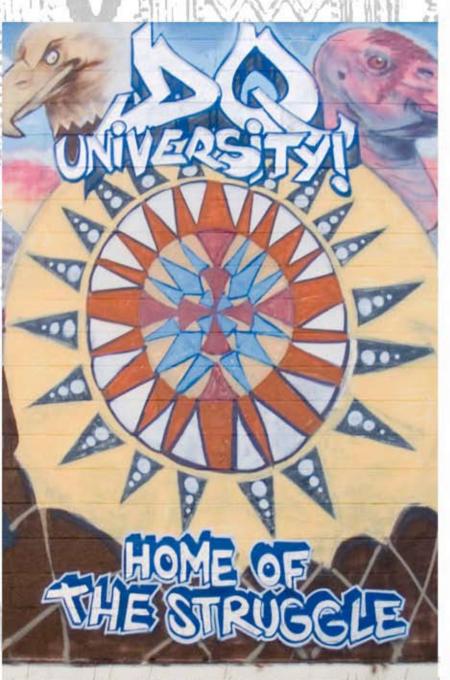












## PRODUCTION CONTACTS

## Christopher Newman

Director, Producer, Cinematographer/DP, Editor Pacific Line Productions 10 Gardenside Dr. #11 San Francisco, CA, 94131 U S A newmanfilm@gmail.com (530) 400-5024 (Cell)

## **Patricia Alvarez Astacio**

Co-Editor 115 Mason St. Santa Cruz, CO, 95060 USO pxalvare@ucsc.edu (831) 428-1942 (Cell)

### Websites and Social Media Links:

vvvv.pacificlineproductions.com"
"vvvv.tvitter.com/findingdqu"
"http://vvvv.facebook.com/#/pages/finding-DQU/
233430679803?ref=ts"
"http://vvvv.imdb.com/title/tt1523279/"

Distributed by:
Third World Newsreel
545 8th Avenue, 10th floor
New York, New York 10018
http://www.twn.org
twn@twn.org

## LOCLINE

In 2005 D-Q University, California's only tribal college, was shut down after a 35-year struggle, but its supporters fight to hold on to a dream that was never fully realized.

TRT: 26.17 minutes

## **SYNOPSIS**

n 2005, D-Q University, California's only tribal college, was shut down after a 35-year struggle. Since then, the school's board of trustees, past students, and community members have tried to reopen the school against all odds. This 30-minute video documentary is structured around a group of occupants who illegally live at the closed D-QU campus amid threats of arrest by the school's board of trustees. Finding D-QU looks at the often-conflictive relationship between the board and the occupants. This current struggle frames the history of the school, beginning with D-QU's establishment in the midst of civil rights activism in the late 1960s. The documentary outlines the original vision of D-QU as a space for self-determined higher education and the hope this dream brought to its many students. The film illustrates the ways in which D-QU's ongoing struggles reflect pressing issues in other American Indian communities.

Finding D-QU provides a lens through which to critically examine the wider American Indian movement toward self-determination and sovereignty in its historical context and as it exists today. Finding D-QU focuses on the historical struggle to maintain a self-reliant educational institution for Indian students and the hardships, successes and failures that come with the movement to reclaim education for Native people. The documentary explores questions concerning past struggles at D-QU, the current situation and the possible future of California's tribal college. The history of DQ-University reveals that the original people of the Americas continue to struggle to decolonize their culture, traditions and educational systems.

## **Programming Descriptors:**

FORMS:Documentary, Short GENRES: Independent, Culture, Social Issue, History, News, Educational NICHES:Native/Aboriginal Peoples, Hispanic, Native American, Student







## november 2009

LO Skins Fest 2009- (Rough Cut)

## January 2010

Slamdance Film Festival 2010- World Premiere

### **March 2010**

Davis Film Festival

## **GDRIL 2010**

Sacramento International Film Festival Humboldt Film Festival Cine Las Americas Film Festival

## **May 2010**

DocMiami International Film Festival Santa Cruz Film Festival

## **JULY 2010**

San francisco frozen film festival

## November 2010

American Indian film Festival
Society for Visual Anthropology film Festival



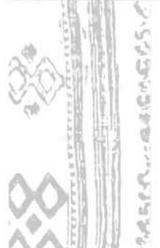
## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

y interest in D-Q University was sparked at an early age. I visited the campus grounds for the first time in the early 1990s on an elementary school field trip. At that time the college was in its heyday, hustling and bustling with students, teachers and a parking lot full of cars. We were led on a tour along with a history lesson of, mostly vanished, local American Indian tribes. D-QU intrigued me for years after that field trip, especially in its juxtaposition to my suburban hometown of Davis, California, just 8 miles away.

It was not until 2007, when I was thinking about making a film for my master's thesis project in the Social Documentation program at UC Santa Cruz that I decided to document something local. From newspaper headlines I learned of D-QU's closure in 2005 and the occupation of the campus grounds by students. After meeting with some of these students in 2007 and doing extensive research into the history of the school my initial 7-minute film blossomed into 26 minutes, two years later.

Finding D-QU is not only a contemporary story about American Indian self-determination but it's also about a community struggling for the right to education. With the economic downturn this past year I have heard stories about other educational institutions that have been forced to shut down. People involved with these schools have told me they see similarities in the story of D-QU and what is at stake if our basic right to education is taken away. As I allude to in Finding D-QU, the greatest defeat is that today's children really lose out in the struggle. It is my hope that this film speaks not only to American Indian audiences but to everyone hoping to keep their dreams alive for the next generation."





## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Christopher Newman is a recent graduate of the Social Documentation M.A. program at UC- Santa Cruz where he produced his first film, finding D-QU. Before graduate school he worked for the Emmy nominated outdoor television show, FLW Outdoors. He has also produced action sports videos for the web and cable television. He currently resides in San Francisco, California.

## CREDITS



#### Co-Editor:

Datricia Alvarez Astacio

### **Additional Camera**, Sound:

Elissa Moon

### Online Editor:

Leif Salvesen

## Droject Odvisors:

Spencer Nakasako B. Ruby Rich Renee Tajima-Deña Mary Beth Dudup

## UCSC Media Lab Support:

Kevin Hoshiko Marc Ramos Toshiro "Tosh" Tanaka

## Featured Interviews (In Order of Appearance):

Christopher Yazzie Consuela Moreno Vargas Rosa Lee Martinez Yomira Moreno Palacios Vincent "Steve" J. Wyatt Susan Reece

Tòmas Reyes Gregory Iron Jack D. Forbes Arthur J. Apodaca

## Others featured:

Lupita Torres Steve Dayan Caske Limòn Maya Tochitl Lorosco

## Special Thanks:

**Amy Lonetree** Rita Montez Martin Quanah Brightman Steve Dayan Esteban Villa Sidonio Brenes Jr. Bernadine Whipple Calvin Hedrick Lisa M. Lafont Jake Dorsey Davis Media Access Victor Maldonado Mrinali Alvarez

Eric and Datty Newman

Rough House Editorial

## **Archival Footage:**

San Francisco Bay Area Television Orchive Vanderbilt Television and News Archive

## **Additional Footage:**

**NewsTrak** KXTV News 10

## **Archival/Found Images:**

Jack D. Forbes Special Collection UC-Davis Shields Library

#### Music:

Dirty Three floyd 'Red Crow' Westerman

## Graphic Design:

Somos La Pera Inc.

## Droduced in association with:

Graduate Program in Social Documentation Community Studies Department UC-Santa Cruz





www.pacificlineproductions.com