

Biography of Erica M. Pinto

Chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village of California

Erica M. Pinto serves as Chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village of California ("JIV"), one of the 13 tribes of the Kumeyaay Nation. Serving for more than 27 years on the JIV Tribal Council, Chairwoman Pinto has been elected consecutively since 1997. In 2015, she became the first woman elected Chairperson of JIV.

Ms. Pinto also serves as Chairwoman of the California Tribal Chairpersons' Association ("CTCA") and Vice-President of the Southern California Tribal Chairpersons' Association ("SCTCA"). She is a Board Member on the Board of Directors of the Southern Indian Health Council ("SIHC"), alongside other elected Tribal leaders in the region, helping to improve the quality of healthcare in San Diego Native communities.

Closer to home, Ms. Pinto serves as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors for the Jamul Indian Village Development Corporation, the entity that owns and manages the Jamul Casino and JIV's other economic enterprises.

Chairwoman Pinto serves on several state transportation committees and is co-founder of the Acorn to Oaks tribal program, which organizes activities focused on culture, youth development, health and fitness, and technology – all designed to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy, while promoting education and family togetherness.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Ms. Pinto grew up with her three brothers on the JIV and Viejas Band Reservations, where she witnessed the hardships of her people. Her mother, who has been active in Tribal government for several decades, instilled in her the importance of respecting our ancestors and giving back to JIV, lessons she carries with her to this day.

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