Lorenda T. Sanchez  
*Executive Director, California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc.*  
2020 Recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Lorenda T. Sanchez (Northern Paiute) has dedicated more than 45 years to enhancing the lives of Native Americans through the administration of job training. In that time, more than 125,000 individuals and their families have benefited from Ms. Sanchez’s unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Native Americans. Her legacy is proof that Ms. Sanchez’s top priorities are to provide service to Native American communities and to improve the conditions that persist throughout Indian Country.

Since 1977, Ms. Sanchez has served as Executive Director of California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc. (CIMC), the largest Native American social and human service organization in the nation. In this role, she has strengthened CIMC’s commitment to building partnerships with each new administration in Washington, DC. Ms. Sanchez also strengthened collaborations with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Division of Indian and Native American Programs and maintained a strong voice and significant role for CIMC in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act implementation. With Ms. Sanchez at the helm, CIMC creates meaningful solutions that are relevant for the social, economic, and employment and training needs of Native American people and their communities.

For decades, Ms. Sanchez and CIMC have provided vital opportunities for Tribal and Native American communities, such as work experience, employment training, entrepreneurial opportunities, elder care, child care, and other support services. Under Ms. Sanchez’s leadership, generations of Native Americans have been empowered to “achieve excellence, revitalize their communities, and embrace the challenges of the 21st century.”

Ms. Sanchez is proud of her Northern Paiute heritage, and her “most cherished accomplishment” is that her six children have pursued higher education, and the four who have attained their degrees (two graduated from Sacramento State, one from Stanislaus State and one from UC Berkeley) are committed to work in ongoing service to Native American communities. Lorenda Sanchez has dedicated her career to improving the lives of the native people of the Americas, and her work has made a positive impact on generations of Native Americans.