



Wixarika Research Center

Summer 2026 Newsletter

We hope this newsletter finds you well and extend a warm welcome to those who have recently subscribed to receive our updates. In this Summer 2026 newsletter, we will share updates on the students participating in our scholarship program, report on the progress of our beekeeping project in collaboration with the Tamaatsi Páritsika Community High School in Tuapurie and, provide an update on our online archive.

Scholarship Program

We would like to thank everyone who has donated to support this valuable program, and we are especially grateful to those who have been making monthly donations, and to the International Friendship Club of Puerto Vallarta, which has been a key partner for this scholarship fund. Your generosity has enabled us to complete eight years of support for Wixárika university students!

Each year, scholarship recipients submit a questionnaire regarding their academic and personal experiences, and report how they utilized their scholarship. Below, we share a couple of their messages:

“Your help represents more than just financial support; it represents peace of mind, motivation, and the opportunity to keep moving forward when circumstances become difficult. Thanks to this fund, we can continue preparing ourselves to one day return to our communities and contribute something positive to our people.” – Eduardo Robles Carrillo, Mesa del Tirador, Jalisco, International Business / Autonomous University of Nayarit

“One of the greatest challenges during this academic year was maintaining a balance between my academic, personal, and emotional responsibilities. There were moments of fatigue and worry—especially due to the demands of my degree program and financial difficulties, but I learned to be stronger and more perseverant. Despite the obstacles, I pushed forward with dedication, keeping my focus on my goal of completing my studies and becoming a nurse capable of helping others.” – María de Jesús Hakaima Carrillo López, Tutuyecuamama, El Nayar, Nursing / Autonomous University of Nayarit



Perla Rivera de la Cruz (Paso de Alica, Nursing Universidad Tecnológica de la Sierra



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During the 2025–2026 academic year, 11 scholarship recipients completed their studies. The cohort consisted of five women and six men who earned degrees in the following fields: four in Indigenous Education, one in Mathematics, one in Forestry Engineering, one in Education and Technical Innovation, one in International Business, one in Business Administration, one in Nursing, and one who graduated as a medical doctor specializing in Surgery and Obstetrics. The graduates come from Wixarika communities in Durango, Jalisco, and Nayarit.



Tutuu Rivera Carrillo receiving her recognition with Tzelie Ramírez
Photo: ©Tracy Barnett

Several scholarship recipients have earned notable recognition for their academic achievements and community work. Tutuu Geraldine Rivera Carrillo (Tateikié, Psychology / ITESO), who expects to graduate in December 2027, received the 2025 Jalisco Affidamento Award for defending women's bodily autonomy and political rights for reproductive care, particularly in her community of San Miguel Huaistita.

Isaías Navarrete Chino (Kuruxi Manuwe / Forestry Engineering, Chapingo) was part of our first cohort of scholarship recipients. After several years of work, he embarked on a master's degree in Socio Environmental Studies in the prestigious FLACSO program in Quito, Ecuador. This coming academic year, Isaías will begin fieldwork in his community, focusing on agroforestry traditions and Wixarika epistemology.

This year, each scholarship will increase from \$8,000 to \$10,000 pesos to help students manage the rising costs of transportation, food, and housing. We are deeply grateful to a long-time supporter of the scholarship program whose special donation made this increase possible. While the scholarship amount remains modest, it has made a meaningful difference by helping students purchase equipment and uniforms, and cover food, transportation, and internet expenses. If you would like to support this fund, please do not hesitate to [contact us](mailto:contact@wixarika.org).



Wixarika Research Center

Tamaatsi Páritsika Community High School Beekeeping Project

Thanks to support from the Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative of the Americas (IRI), we have been able to commit to the development of a beekeeping initiative in collaboration with the Tamaatsi Páritsika Community High School and Etnoeco Cultura y Medio Ambiente A.C., a non-profit organization in Jalisco specialized in environmental education, civic participation, and the management of local and sustainable economies. Jorge Camberos and Xóchitl Magallón of Etnoeco have almost four decades of experience working in rural areas and in Wixarika territory, and in 2022 and 2023 they participated in our agroecology workshops in Wirikuta.



Jorge Camberos presents to students at the Tamaatsi Páritsika school. Photo: Diana Negrín

Tamaatsi Páritsika is an autonomous high school located in Nueva Colonia, within the Tuapurie community (Santa Catarina Cuexcomatitlán). The school was founded in 2009 by local youth with the support of traditional authorities and community members. For its first 15 years, classes were held in a building constructed in the mid-1980s for a community weaving workshop created under the guidance of WRC co-founder Juan Negrín and the Tuapurie community. In 2015, as the final initiative led by Juan Negrín before his death, we secured funding from the Canadian cosmetics company LUSH to design and build a solar-

powered wood-drying kiln. This was the first structure erected on the site where the high school campus now stands. Currently, the solar panels donated over a decade ago provide an average of 90% of the high school's energy needs.

Since 2022, we have received support from Chacruna Institute's Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative. IRI is a small grants program dedicated to facilitating seed funds with clear objectives that support ecological and cultural programming in Indigenous communities in the Americas. In 2022 and 2023, IRI provided support for our agroecology workshops that we coordinated in Wirikuta, and in 2024, IRI's support enabled us to fund the purchase and installation of broadband internet for the high school's new campus.



Wixarika Research Center

In May 2026, in coordination with Tamaatsi Páritsika's Agroforestry curriculum and with the support of IRI, fruit trees and botanicals were planted for the school's "living pharmacy" to expand the integrative educational design under the leadership of the school's director, Carlos Carrillo. During the spring of 2026, we simultaneously coordinated the first phase of the beekeeping project in consultation with Etnoeco and Carlos Carrillo.

On June 19, Etnoeco and WRC held their first in-person workshop at the high school to re-introduce beekeeping with a focus on ecological, biological, cultural, and economic benefits. Over the coming months—and once the school year begins—Etnoeco and WRC will continue to organize training modules and support the selection of a suitable site for the apiary and the start of its installation in early 2027.



The Wood drying oven and solar panels
at Tamaatsi Páritsika
Photograph: Diana Negrín



Students present their ideas on where beehives could be located the community. Photo: Diana Negrín



Honey tasting with Xóchitl Magallón
Photo: Diana Negrín



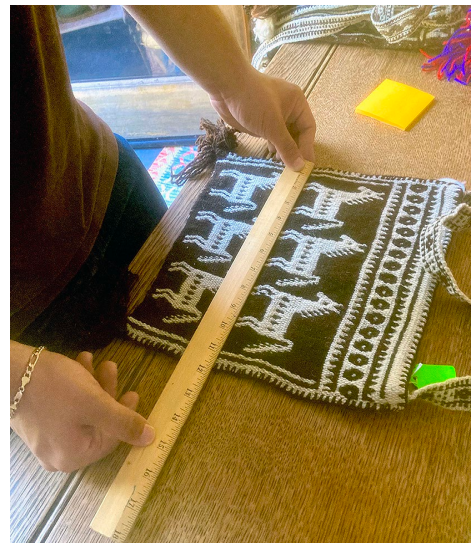
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Online Archive

In addition to our scholarship fund and our support for community initiatives that promote and preserve Wixarika culture and territory, we are dedicated to fostering free public education about Wixarika culture through a free, bilingual online archive that offers content on art, history, anthropology, and territorial defense, as well as a section on current events. We are continuously expanding our archive of interdisciplinary materials. The best way to explore the material we have posted is by using the drop-down menus to access the content available for online reading or for downloading. We constantly update and refine the content in our art, video, archive, and news sections. Our homepage always highlights top stories, and all articles are posted in chronological order. We have also created a dedicated page for news related to Wirikuta, which can be found at the bottom of the news drop-down menu.

The modern art section features the biographies and art works of the six key artists who comprise the Negrín collection, while the sections dedicated to sacred and traditional art, as well as photography, are still under construction. With the assistance of Antonio Pacheco, a recent UC Berkeley graduate, our director, Yvonne Negrín, is currently photographing and cataloging the textiles she and her husband, Juan, collected over five decades. We will soon select some of the finest examples to add to the collection shown on our website.

The Wixarika Research Center is a (501)(c)(3) non-profit organization founded and registered in the state of California in May 2001. Please consider supporting our work with a monthly or one-time donation. If you wish to contribute to a specific aspect of our work, please let us know with a note on your donation form. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



Antonio Pacheco measuring a kuitsuri, wool shoulder bag.
Photograph: Diana Negrín.

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We are grateful for your support / Pamipariyutsi