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The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan to Repatriate Ancestral Human Remains from Wayne State University, Michigan State Police Post #63 and the University of Michigan

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan – During the week of December 9-13, 2013 the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and its Ziibiwing Cultural Society (Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeway's) will repatriate the ancestral human remains of 44 Native American individuals and 3 associated funerary objects from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan; 1 Native American individual from the Michigan State Police Post #63, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan; and 81 Native American individuals and 6 associated funerary objects from the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropology (UMMA), Ann Arbor, Michigan. The Ziibiwing Cultural Society has been working diligently on behalf of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and in cooperation with the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA), to bring home ancestors and their associated funerary objects from the numerous museums, universities and institutions across the country since the passage of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

NAGPRA requires museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections and to consult with Federally-recognized Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding the return of these objects to descendants or tribes and organizations. Wayne State University posted a Notice of Inventory Completion in the Federal Register on June 17, 2013; the Michigan State Police posted a Notice of Inventory Completion in the Federal Register on September 30, 2013; and the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropology posted eleven (11) Notices of Inventory Completion in the Federal Register on October 31, 2013.

"As a result of NAGPRA, more than 10,000 Native American human remains, one million funerary objects, and thousands of sacred objects have been united with tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.

The National Park Service awards Repatriation Grants to assist Native American tribes, Alaska Native villages and museums with implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which assists in the return of human remains and cultural objects to their native people. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan will receive a FY2014 Repatriation Grant award in the amount of \$8,717 to carry-out all activities associated with the repatriations from Wayne State University, Michigan State Police Post #63, and the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropology.

In the early morning hours on December 9 a small delegation from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan will depart the Isabella Indian Reservation, Mt. Pleasant, Mich. by van for Wayne State University and the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor to retrieve the ancestral human remains of the ancestors and associated funerary objects. The Transfer of Control procedures with both universities will take approximately 3-4 days.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan invites the interested public to join them for the *Recommitment to the Earth Ceremony* to be held on December 13 at 1 pm in the Tribe's Nibokaan Ancestral Cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1995 for the explicit purpose of reburying repatriated Native American ancestral remains and associated funerary objects. The Nibokaan Cemetery is located on the Saginaw Chippewa's Isabella Indian Reservation, behind the Tribal Campground located at 7525 E. Tomah Rd., Mt. Pleasant, Mich. A *Journey Feast* will conclude the ancestral ceremonies and protocols to be held at 3pm on December 13 at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeway's, 6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeway's in Mount Pleasant, Mich. is the Midwest's Premier American Indian Museum. Established in 2004, the Ziibiwing Center is a distinctive treasure created to provide an enriched, diversified and culturally relevant educational experience through its award-winning Diba Jimooyung (Telling Our Story) permanent exhibit, changing exhibits, research center, Ojibwe language immersion room, gift shop and meeting rooms. The Ziibiwing Center is a non-profit cultural center and museum belonging to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan who also own Michigan's only four diamond casino resort, the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, and the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino located in Standish, Mich.

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