

# **Native American K-12 Education Seminar – Thursday, April 2, Washtenaw Community College**

## **Native America Education Seminar:**

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00a.m.-2:15 p.m., Towsley Auditorium & MLB 150  
Washtenaw Community College

This is a Diversity Education seminar prepared by Native American educators particularly for K-12 education administrators, K-12 faculty, Higher Ed. education faculty and students, and others interested in increasing the inclusion of Native history and culture instruction from a Native perspective – in all levels K-12.

The Thursday, April 2 seminar: will open with a Native Blessing, include an introduction into the possible benefits of increasing the Native perspective (for non-Natives), feature explanations of local (Ziibiwing) prepared instructional modules that may be used in any school curriculum K-University, include a presentation of United Nation policies and initiatives to honor Indigenous peoples, as well as offer the opportunity for all to discuss: how Natives perceive possible alternatives to mainstream education, as well as explore potential benefits of inclusion of Native values and perspectives to the American “mainstream” way of life. A possible outcome: *increasing frequency of inclusion and depth of Native pedagogy from a Native perspective in K-12*. To register for this event: [KThomas@wccnet.edu](mailto:KThomas@wccnet.edu)

**Note:** there will be a similar Panel discussion on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (9:30a.m.-Noon) Panel for Native Higher Education faculty, administrators, and students. The panel will center its discussions on how colleges/universities might change their curricular and administrative traditions to accommodate Native cultures, values, and create a balance to Euro-centric Higher Education formulae and accommodate Native students and faculty. To register for this event: <http://goo.gl/sJ28lL>.

Every attempt will be made to conduct each event according to the traditions of the Native American elders, presenters, and sponsors of each event.

## **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Bldg. WCC – MLB – 150/105/Towsley Auditorium**

9a.m. Coffee and community

9:30 Introduction of Elders and Honored Guests – Native ritual blessing &

Opening: American History and Native Cultures – the State of our Education

10-11:30 a.m. Judy Pamp, Assistant Director of the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, will present: ***“Closing Gaps & Creating Opportunities: American Indian History & Curriculum in the Classroom”*** - Educational Curriculum Modules for Schools & Colleges;

11:30-12:30 MLB 105 - Lunch with educators (& “talking circle” open discussion on a.m. session)  
MLB 150 – Student Discussion: special “student film presented by University of Michigan CSP students “Native Interviews from the Rez” & “Red Nation Rises”  
<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10152456634446701&fref=nf>– Pizzas  
Provided courtesy: American Indian Services.

12:30-2p.m. Dr. Kay McGowen, Professor, EMU will give a summary of her talk to the United Nations: ***“Native Americans at the United Nations”*** – a summary of recent United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

2-2:15p.m. Closing Blessing – and Gift “Giveaway” Native tradition.



## **Native American Higher Education Panel**

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>: University of Michigan  
Hussey Room/Michigan League (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) 9:30 a.m.-Noon**

On Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> CRLT and CSP will be hosting a Native American Higher Education panel discussion and video-recording production. The event is designed to bring Native American elders, faculty, administrators, and students to a “talking circle” with non-Native academic personnel to discuss issues of cultural equity as concerns Native student and faculty both at the University of Michigan and in university’s generally.

The panel will center its discussions on topics concerning Native student and faculty visions of learning and academia including: how the University might create or adapt policies and curriculum to better facilitate inclusion of Native topics and visions in its current structure, as well as modulate its curricular and administrative traditions to accommodate Native cultures and create a balance to current Euro-centric Higher Education formulae.

Outcomes of this event include the feasibility of ritualizing this dialogue to an annual event prior to the Ann Arbor Dance for Mother Earth (Powwow), the creation of a summary of the event in professional quality video, as a document of Native self-determination in Higher Education with the goal to increase Native cultural and intellectual presence and student/faculty success (defined in Native terms) at the University of Michigan or Higher Education institutions generally.

Every attempt will be made to conduct this event according to the traditions and aesthetics of the Native American elders and presenters at the event.

**9:00a.m.** Panelists initial video “entrance interview”:

Personal intro: (name, affiliation, short path to education), and: what is most needed to create an environment of inclusion for Native culture, faculty, and students in the University?

**9:30 a.m.** Coffee and community

**10a.m. –Noon** Opening Native Blessing/flute piece

University of Michigan Panel Discussion –  
***Native American Inclusion in University Curriculum & Policy:  
Where we are --- and where do we want to be?***

Panel Elder – Warren Petoskey, Panel Leader: Kay McGowan (EMU), Panelists: Fay Givens, (American Indian Services) Kay Woodiel, (EMU); Kyle Powys Whyte, (MSU); Judy Pamp, (Ziibiwing Center); Susan Sturock, (Saginaw-Chippewa); Alphonse Pitawanakwat, Sandra Momper, (U. of M.), and Andrea Wilkerson, (UofM NASA Student Representative).  
Production Moderator: Michael Naylor (WCC/UofM)

**Noon-1p.m.** Student “Chat” - Pizzas -- for Native and non-native students and guests to socialize.

**Noon – 1:30** Lunch for panelists and invited guests

Exit Interview: ----candid statement - What “tangible” next step should be taken: to increase awareness of Native culture in the University or make the University more appealing to Native students and/or faculty?

Format: Each panelist will speak to one of the topics below - Brief (5 min.) statement on chosen topic.  
Open to panelists to discuss each topic (10 minutes) Open to room (10 minutes). [Approx. 25 min. per topic]

**Panel Questions:**

- Given the history of colonization, its companion “cultural imperialism,” and the general mistrust amongst Native people for non-Native institutions, what specifically must the University consider to build or increase a lasting trust, including: that they wish Native students (and faculty) to succeed on Native terms (in addition to their own)?
- What are the primary University (Western academic) traditions that are most oppositional to respectful Native traditions? In what way do Native faculty and students feel dishonored by current University traditions (i.e. policies in admission, curricular development and delivery, assessment, etc.)?
- What are primary benefits— the non-Native University community might benefit from a more intensive and immersion-oriented inclusion of Native ways? How might University formulae be required to change to accommodate visions of success, learning, teaching, and fulfillment on Native terms?
- If extending dignity, respect, and equity of opportunity to all non-Natives institutions (the University included) is desired: What are the most important or immediate steps needed to be taken by the University -- to restore dignity, accurate portrayal of history, balance of Native values to non-Native...across the University/education cultures? What are the barriers in our Native societies that make it difficult for our Native youth to attend and succeed college (or Native faculty to achieve tenure/success) – and how might University’s address these concerns?

**Exit Interview: (Panel members after lunch)**

- Would you like to see this panel and Native Education events prior to the Ann Arbor Powwow continue annually? If so - what would you like to see/add or explore moving forward? How might we administer to seeking funding, organizing future events... in the best interest of influence change in Education?

This event is co-sponsored by: the University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning & Teaching (CRLT), Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP), the Language Resource Center (LRC), and the Center for Global and Intercultural Study with assistance from Eastern Michigan University Native Student Org.; Detroit American Indian Services; the Native American Student Organizations EMU/UofM (NASO/NASA); and the Ziibiwing Center (Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe).

