

Northwestern



**CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN  
AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH  
2024 ANNUAL REPORT**



Since 2015, the Mellon Foundation has played a critical role in the establishment and continued sustainability of the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research.

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**Land Acknowledgement**

Northwestern is a community of learners situated within a network of historical and contemporary relationships with Native American tribes, communities, parents, students, and alumni. It is also in close proximity to an urban Native American community in Chicago and near several tribes in the Midwest. The Northwestern campus sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Three Fires, the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa as well as the Menominee, Miami and Ho-Chunk nations. It was also a site of trade, travel, gathering and healing for over a dozen other Native tribes and is still home to over 100,000 tribal members in Illinois.

**On the Cover:**

Quillwork medallion with copper coin center and bone beads. This piece was created by Aaron Golding (Seneca) where he learned from Madalene Big Bear (Bodwéwadmí), CNAIR artist in residence during a series of workshops over the course of two weeks. One of Madalene's goals in her residency was to bring back the practice of Potawatomi quillwork through harvesting porcupine quills, dyeing quills, and teaching different methods of quillwork.

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Boozhoo, Posoh, Shekoli, Ahau,

The Center for Native American and Indigenous Research is pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report. We are grateful for the generosity of our affiliated faculty, students, administrative leaders and the many departments and programs that have shared leadership and stood in circle with us.

The Native American and Indigenous presence on the Northwestern campus continues to grow and we were excited to welcome four scholars in AY24. Dr Bryan Brayboy, dean of the School of Education and Social Policy, a member of the Lumbee Nation, has been an outstanding leader throughout his career in Higher Education. Dr Stephanie Fryberg, a member of the Tulalip Tribes of Washington, has also joined the Psychology Department in Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. Her scholarship and the RISE Center continue to have a tremendous impact in Indian Country. In the fall of 2025, Dr. Fryberg will take the helm as CNAIR's next director. Dr Megan Baker (Choctaw Nation) and Dr. Elspeth Geiger (Anishinaabe, Mackinac band descent), were both hired with appointments in Anthropology.

Along with these new hires, we welcomed some of Indian Country's top Native scholars to share their work and visit with our students and faculty (page 18). Throughout this past year we hosted and cosponsored over **40** Indigenous focused programs and visitors demonstrating the commitment and support for Indigenous issues and methods across the Northwestern community. We are so appreciative of our partnerships.

In two of our partnerships this year we planned and hosted two large gatherings. In the fall of 2023, we joined the Field Museum and Block Museum to co-host *Centering Indigenous Practices in Museums* (CIPiM), inviting practitioners from throughout the Great Lakes to convene and exchange knowledge (page 28). In January, we planned and hosted a two-day gathering, *100 Years Back, 100 Years Forward: Sovereignty, Community and Indigenous Futures*, with Pritzker School of Law. It included four panel presentations sharing the depth and breadth of legal issues and policy influencing the past 100 years since the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and more importantly the directions Indian Country is shaping moving forward (page 32).

We are also proud of CNAIR affiliated faculty and their many accomplishments this past year (page 25). As the range and number of research projects grows, the impact of their work is what we dreamed possible for an Indigenous research center (page 30). As a relatively young center, we continued to work on strengthening our protocols, practices and infrastructure to support community-based and community driven research.

Once again, we ended our year with the CNAIR Research Symposium. In our 6th year, this was by far our most successful. There were over **25** research presentations including posters, mini-presentations and round table discussions, **3** project highlights, **4** panels and **3** keynote speakers, and over **140** attendees including Tribal legislators, educational leaders and Tribal College students (page 14).

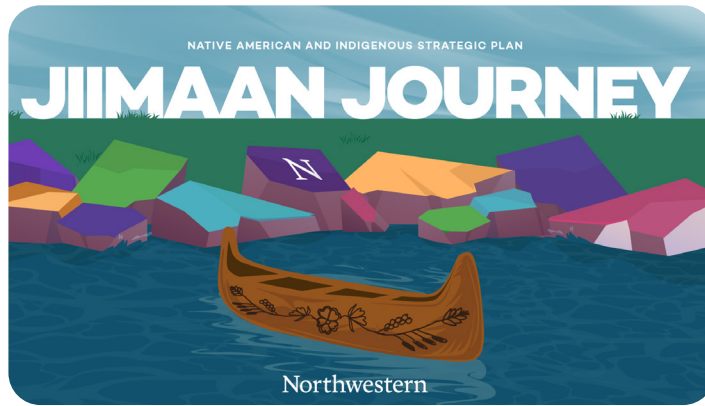
We hope you enjoy reading about the activities and successes of this past year and accept our deep gratitude for everyone who participated, supported and cheered us on! During good times and times of challenge, it's when we work collectively and together that we find strength to work towards a better future for all of us.

Miigwech! (Thank you!)

**Megan Bang,**

(Ojibwe and Italian descent)

Professor of the Learning Sciences and Director of the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research



## **NATIVE AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

### **STRATEGIC GOALS 2024-27**

CNAIR is an integral part of Northwestern University’s overall efforts to promote healing and inclusivity of Native Americans and Indigenous peoples. This requires us to work closely with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and in collaboration with all other Native American and Indigenous programs, faculty, students, and administrators.

This year, Northwestern University is launching the new strategic plan for Native American & Indigenous Initiatives marking a significant milestone in the ongoing commitment to honoring Native and Indigenous self-determination. The plan outlines key priorities over the next three years, including investing in human, space, and financial resources, enhancing Northwestern’s leadership efficacy and capacity, creating University-wide knowledge grounded in Native American and Indigenous perspectives, expanding partnerships with Tribal and Indigenous communities, and increasing support for Native American and Indigenous students.

The framework is based in the pedagogical teachings of the wiigwaasi jiimaan (birch bark canoe) and grounded in the reciprocity gift exchange that took place between Northwestern’s President Michael Schill and the Northwestern Indigenous community during his inauguration in June of 2023. This plan is not just a document; it is guidance towards action, a blueprint for how we can all contribute to a more inclusive and vibrant Northwestern. To see the strategic plan goals, process and resources use the QR code below.



President Michael Schill and Dr. Megan Bang participate in traditional practice of gift exchange to honor new relationships. Photo Credit: Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion



# MISSION & VISION

CNAIR is Northwestern's primary institutional space dedicated to advancing scholarship, teaching, and learning, and artistic and cultural practices related to Native American and Indigenous communities, priorities, histories, and lifeways.

Our vision is for the center to:

- operate as a hub for multidisciplinary, collaborative work informed by and responsive to Native American and Indigenous Nations, communities, and organizations
- foster an innovative, Indigenous-centered intellectual space open to multiple modes of engagement for faculty, students, staff, and community members; and
- develop and promote reciprocal and sovereignty-affirming relationships and partnerships with Native American and Indigenous peoples and organizations.

## Indigenous Futures

100 Years Back, 100 Years Forward

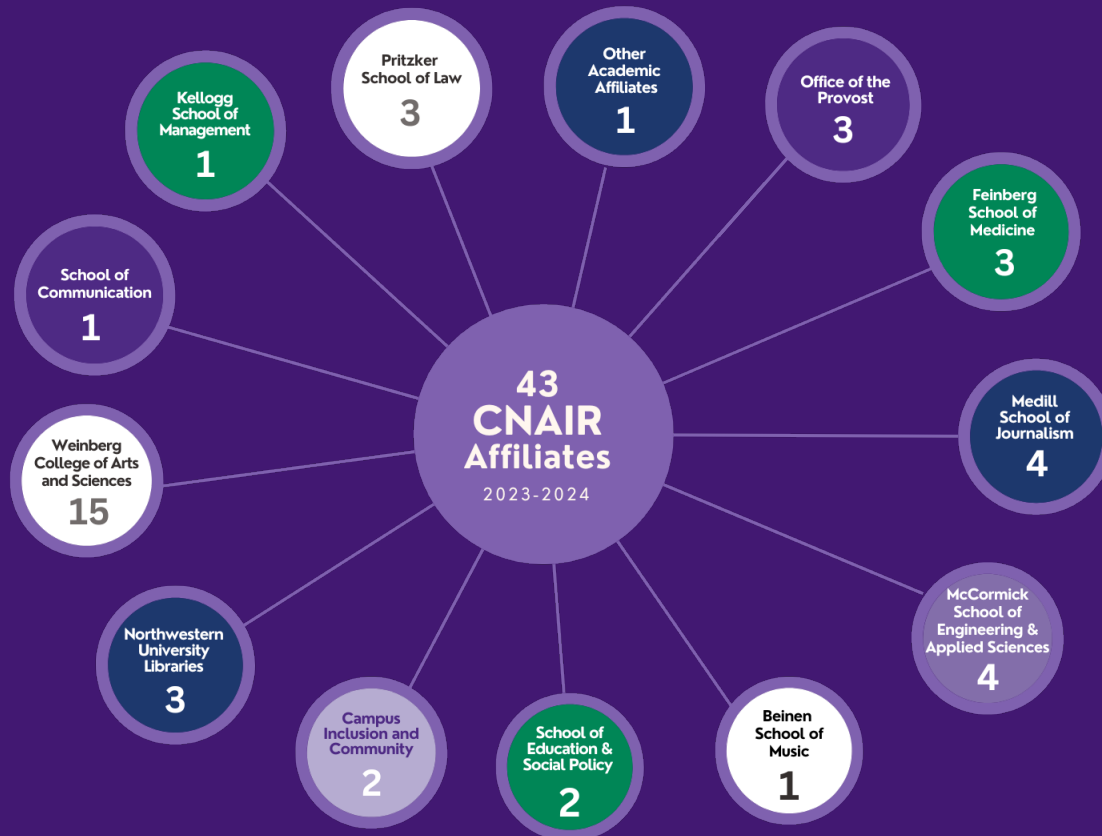
### **Indigenous Futures: A ten-year era for the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research**

In 1924 the Indian Citizenship Act was passed, making American Indians citizens of the United States, not by birth, but by congressional act. The act was followed in 1934 by the Indian reorganization act which provided monetary and land incentives for Native nations to adopt constitutions like that of the United States and to create city council-style governments. This era has had profound impact on Indian country and shaped citizenship, belonging, governance, communal relationships, and development, amongst many other dimensions that are central to self-determination and sovereignty. CNAIR sees this historic moment as an opportunity for engagement and reflection on the past 100 years and to imagine forward for the next 100 years. We are at the beginning of a new era of reform in Indian country in which citizenship, belonging, culture, language, law, and policy and much more will be remade given the significant social, political, ecological, and economic challenges that all communities face in the coming century.

Over the next decade we aim to create collective engagement with the many layers and dynamics that are implicated both by the historical conditions that have created the present and what is critical in exercising self-determination over the next 100 years. While we are grounding this theme in history and dynamics in North America, these issues are unfolding across the globe as Indigenous peoples continue to struggle for their existence and right to self-determination. We intend for our programming and focus to also engage global Indigeneities and therefore, our theme is **Indigenous Futures: 100 Years Back, 100 Years Forward**.

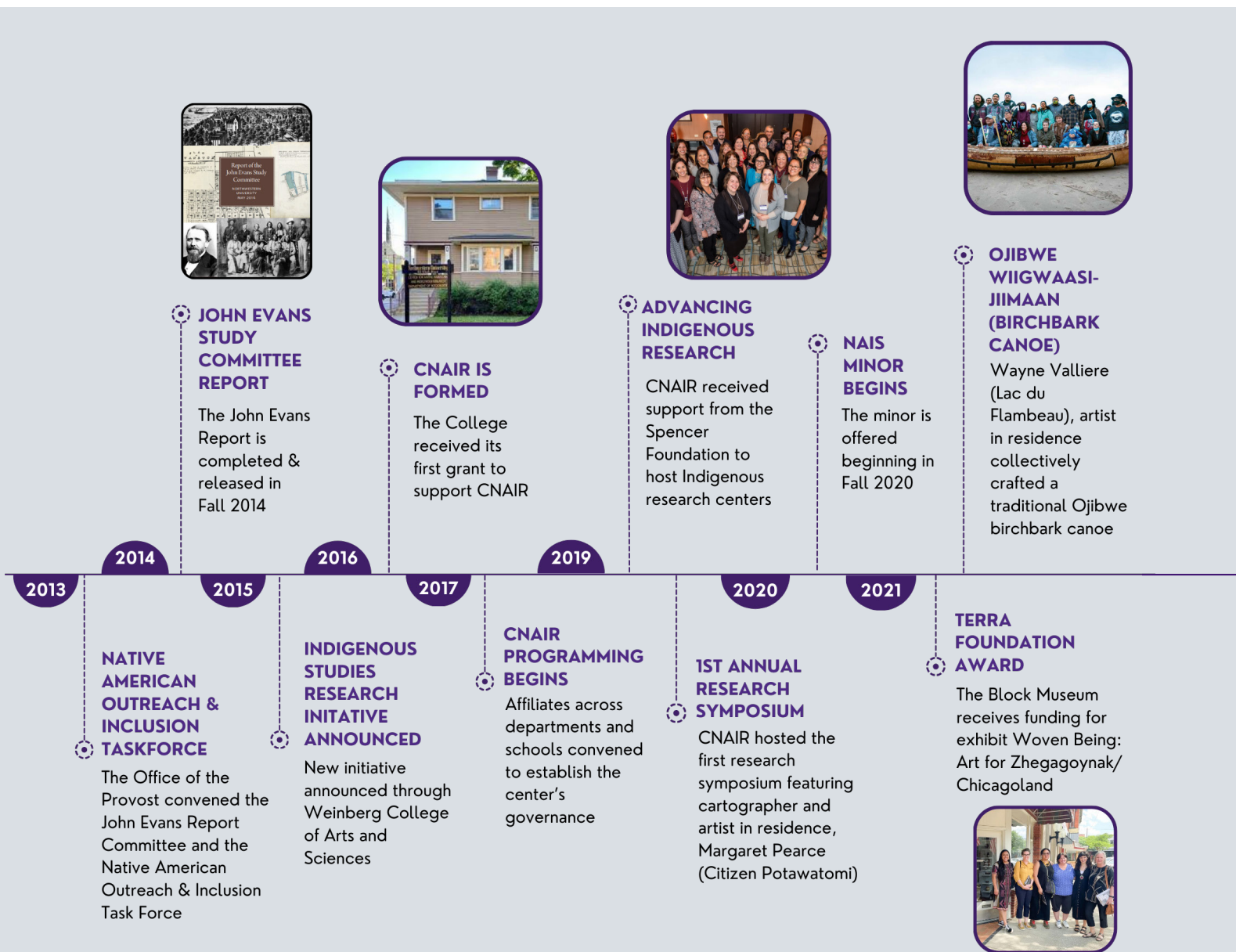


# CNAIR OVERVIEW: BY THE NUMBERS



# KNOW THE HISTORY

CNAIR's origins are in student activism in 2013, when undergraduates in the Native American and Indigenous Student Alliance asked the administration to acknowledge University founder John Evans' role in the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre. Evans was territorial governor of Colorado (a role that included acting as superintendent of Indian affairs) when US soldiers killed more than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho people—primarily women and children—who had declared their peaceful intentions and placed themselves under the protection of US officials at Fort Lyon.





The provost's office commissioned a John Evans Report Committee and a Native American Outreach and Inclusion Task Force. One of their recommendations was to start an Indigenous research center.

In 2015, Weinberg College Dean Adrian Randolph announced the Indigenous Studies Research Initiative with the goal of building research infrastructure, deepening tribal relationships and supporting fellowships for Native and Indigenous research and scholarship on campus.

The Center for Native American and Indigenous Research was formed and staffed in 2017. Outreach to local, regional, and national Native American communities and tribes has been critical. Listening to tribal leaders, understanding the research needs of Native communities, and finding opportunities for collaboration has and will continue to be central to the center's work.



**NSF COLLABORATIVE GRANT TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS STEAM EDUCATION**

Dr. Bang receives a 5-year grant to create a model of Indigenous science education focused on 21st century challenges around socio-environmental issues



**BRYAN MCKINLEY JONES BRAYBOY NAMED SESP DEAN**

Dr. Brayboy (Lumbee) became dean of the School of Education and Social Policy on June 1, 2023



**PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW CONFERENCE**

Pritzker hosts a 2-day convening with CNAIR to reflect on the last 100 years since the passing of the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act



**LAND BACK FOR PRARIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION (PBPAN)**

In a historic decision, the U.S. Department of the Interior placed portions of the Shabeh-nay Reservation land into trust for PBPAN, making it the only federally recognized Tribal Nation in Illinois

**CNAIR AT 10 NORTHWESTERN SCHOOLS**

CNAIR affiliate network expands across 10 schools at Northwestern

2023

2022

**STRONG MANOOMIN COLLECTIVE PARTNERS WITH INDIGENOUS SCIENTISTS**

Indigenous collaborative research team receives a 5-year NSF grant to develop new methods to help mitigate the effects of climate change on the Great Lakes



**INAUGURATION OF NORTHWESTERN PRESIDENT MICHAEL H. SCHILL INCLUDES NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONS**

Indigenous community played a role in the inauguration which included an eagle staff leading the procession, flag song, and gift exchange



2024

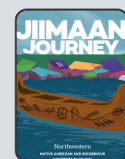
**THE RESEARCH FOR INDIGENOUS SOCIAL ACTION & EQUITY CENTER (RISE) JOINS NORTHWESTERN**

The RISE Center is led by Dr. Fryberg (Tulalip Tribes) who joined the psychology department. RISE is a multidisciplinary collaborative dedicated to undoing Indigenous inequalities



**NATIVE AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH AT THE 3RD ANNUAL POW WOW**

Native American and Indigenous Initiatives (OIDI) launches strategic plan outlining key priorities for the next 3 years at Northwestern



## FACES OF CNAIR



**Megan Baker (she/her)**

**Faculty Affiliate**

(Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)

Anthropology

Weinberg College

“

*Being around Native communities outside of the university helps me to remember why I chose to work in a university in the first place.”*

I am finishing up my first year at Northwestern as a college fellow in the Department of Anthropology and will begin my appointment as Assistant Professor of Anthropology in Fall 2024. Over the past year, I developed and taught two new classes, Indigenous Nations and Anthropology and Settler Colonialism. These two classes encapsulate much of my scholarly interests: how Indigenous people have contributed to the formation of the discipline of anthropology; how they have subverted the premise of anthropology by utilizing it for the benefit of their nations’ sovereignty; and how Indigenous peoples navigate and engage settler societies. I have also continued to work on community projects that I have been a part of for the past few years.

I initially became a researcher to understand the myriad of experiences that my family and friends have had with Choctaw economic development, so my work is primarily with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. My main research project examines how settler historical production has contributed to the paradox of contemporary Choctaw land dispossession in an era of political resurgence due to American Indian economic development. The research I did for that project facilitated an opportunity to work for the Choctaw Nation’s Historic Preservation department while I was writing my dissertation. That allowed me to not only share my research, but also use the skills I gained through graduate training to support Historic Preservation’s mission of sharing Choctaw history and culture and supporting our sovereignty through research. I’m hoping to turn a few of the projects that I started at Choctaw Nation into different book projects. I’m hoping to expand my work on Oklahoma Choctaw basketry, Oklahoma Choctaws’ political-legal history and Henry Halbert’s unpublished writing on Choctaws into larger projects.

Living away from my community in Oklahoma has made me more conscientious about checking in with people more frequently. It’s easy to get distracted by careerism and caught up in university life, so I think it’s important to return home as often as I can as well as connect with the local Native community. Being around Native communities outside of the university helps me to remember why I chose to work in a university in the first place. I don’t believe in research about Indigenous people that is not led by – or at least done in consultation with – Indigenous people. CNAIR is working to make that the standard here at Northwestern, which is incredibly important within wider academia. Being an Indigenous scholar is a tremendous responsibility, so we must hold ourselves to the highest standard because the stakes are high



**Colin Tompson** (he/him)

**Law Student**  
(Navajo)  
Pritzker School of Law

“

*Our journey toward a brighter future will be done through community.”*

I am a rising second-year student at the Pritzker School of Law. My journey here began with sports. During undergraduate, I walked on the football team from the open tryouts. My desire to play aligned with a goal to inspire change within the Native community by addressing systemic problems that pose barriers to Indigenous well-being. Through football, I believed I could address these challenges with a platform that extended beyond the traditional boundaries of the Native community. However, when my athletic career was cut short sooner than anticipated, it provided an opportunity to reflect on my vision for a brighter future for Indian Country. During this time, I noticed that while these issues may have a broad range of solutions, major causes originate in a foundation of law.

I shifted my focus from sports and pursued a legal education given how much power the law has in shaping tribal rights and interests. Recent US Supreme Court decisions that greatly impact tribal nations reaffirmed this decision. Because of the high stakes involved in these matters, I plan to concentrate my advocacy on the appellate practice of Native law cases. In preparation for this, my efforts at Northwestern to promote tribal rights outside the classroom have been centered on reactivating our Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) chapter.

Restarting Northwestern’s NALSA, an organization that had been inactive for several years, has been a fulfilling experience. Students including May Hiatt and Jack Scribner, and our faculty advisor Cliff Zimmerman played big roles in this process. Together we helped raise underrepresented voices such as having Professor Matthew Fletcher from the University of Michigan speak about the attacks tribes face in pursuit of self-determination. Success continued as NALSA hosted U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota Chief Judge Roberto Lange who spoke about the legal complexities and disparities tribes face within his jurisdiction.

Our journey toward a brighter future will be done through community. At times along the journey there will be no clear path to follow. In these moments we can look to build community by reaching out to others. I think this approach reflects the way our ancestors came to understand and navigate the world—by relying on each other through uncertainty as they charted a path for future generations. I believe this principle is true today, and one we can use to honor our ancestors and prepare for future generations.



**Forrest Bruce** (he/him)  
PhD Candidate  
(Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe)  
Learning Sciences  
School of Education and Social Policy

“

*Community-based work and building community is core to CNAIR and that is partly why this place has been my home at Northwestern.”*

I am a PhD candidate in the Learning Sciences program in the School of Education and Social Policy. I am broadly interested in supporting Indigenous families and communities to develop systems of education that are grounded in their knowledges, values and relations to lands and waters. This Fall 2024 I will be a dissertation fellow with the Spencer Foundation and my dissertation will focus on how people develop relations with and learn to think about water. This project is embedded in the ISTEAM (Indigenous Sciences, Technologies, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) project, a community-based design research project currently in partnership with Tulalip Tribes, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa and the Chicago Indigenous community. We engage members of these three communities as co-designers and educators to create land-based educational programming.

When I started graduate school, I told myself that I wanted to create learning environments where Indigenous kids can be Indigenous. I believe that regenerating Indigenous knowledges and lifeways goes hand in hand with adapting to the socioecological challenges of our times. I see education as a vehicle for achieving these goals and hope my work can contribute to developing educational systems that create conditions for human and more-than-human thriving. In graduate school, there is a lot of writing and I've struggled with finding inspiration. Sometimes I find myself going through the motions and writing to pass a class or complete a milestone rather than writing for storytelling, sharing impactful work or developing my own intellectual interests. Engaging in community-based work has helped me find my center when writing because it helps me see the connections between the writing and the work that takes place on the ground with community.

Community-based work and building community is core to CNAIR and that is partly why this place has been my home at Northwestern. I wouldn't have made it this far if it wasn't for the people there to share food and laughter, push me intellectually and demonstrate the many forms that Indigenous research can take. I was also an undergraduate at Northwestern, so I've had the opportunity to see the Native community at Northwestern grow considerably. When I was a freshman in 2012, I was only able to find one other Native person on campus (who was coincidentally also a PhD student in Learning Sciences at the time), but over the years I've witnessed an incredible growth of Native students, staff, faculty, programming and structural supports, including the development of CNAIR. Seeing this growth has been a great learning experience in changemaking and how to leverage the resources of an institution like Northwestern to be in service to Indigenous communities.

I have also learned that it is important to remember the places and relatives that we come from and to not lose sight of that during our time in academia. Remember to take up the responsibility that comes with your degree by putting in the work to use the gifts that you've been given in service of your people.



## Melia (Mel) McDaniel

(she/her)

**Undergraduate Student**

(Tyme Maidu of Berry Creek Rancheria)  
School of Communication

“

*The Native community at Northwestern has been instrumental in my growth as a Native scholar and strengthened my relationship with my own Native identity.*

I am a rising senior studying Communication Sciences and Disorders and minoring in Psychology. At Northwestern, I work for the Early Intervention Research Group (EIRG) under the guidance of Megan Roberts, Ph.D., CCC-SLP. In this capacity, I serve as an assessor for young children with hearing loss and autism, interacting directly with both the children and their parents. These interactions have strengthened my ability to balance conducting impactful research with sensitively addressing the range of emotional responses often associated with diagnoses. I am excited to further my education with the goal of becoming a speech-language pathologist (SLP), where I plan to utilize my knowledge of non-Western medicine and practices to bridge existing gaps in healthcare.

In addition to my research and working towards my goal of becoming a speech-language pathologist, I have also served two years as the co-chair of the University's annual Pow Wow hosted by the Native American and Indigenous Student Alliance (NAISA). Collaborating alongside a dedicated committee of planners, we successfully fundraised, organized, and executed a beautiful celebration. The opportunity to contribute to establishing this significant event has been incredibly rewarding because when I arrived as a freshman, the University did not have a Pow Wow and now this event elevates the importance of large Indigenous events at Northwestern and allows future generations of students to attend in the cultural celebration.

The Native community at Northwestern has been instrumental in my growth as a Native scholar and strengthened my relationship with my own Native identity. Through my involvement, I have made life-long friendships with fellow NAISA students, learned traditional practices ranging from quilling to ceremony, and reconnected with my passion for learning. The support of the Native community here led me to research the Tyme Maidu language, and I realized just how few know it. I have a strong interest in language learning and revitalization, especially as someone pursuing a career in speech and language development. As I continue the path to this career, the experiences and knowledge I have gained at Northwestern will guide me in fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds in my professional journey. I aspire to integrate Indigenous practices into my clinical skills that allow me to be the best SLP possible, where I serve many different populations with diverse communication needs.

# ADVANCING SCHOLARSHIP

NATIVE AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES CLUSTER

AY24 CNAIR FELLOWSHIPS

6TH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

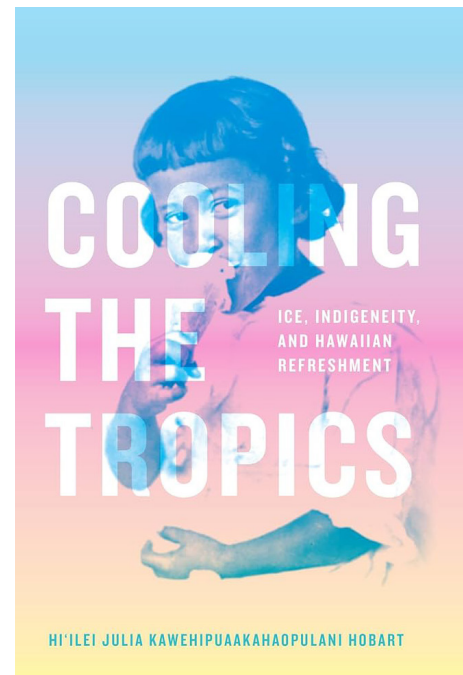
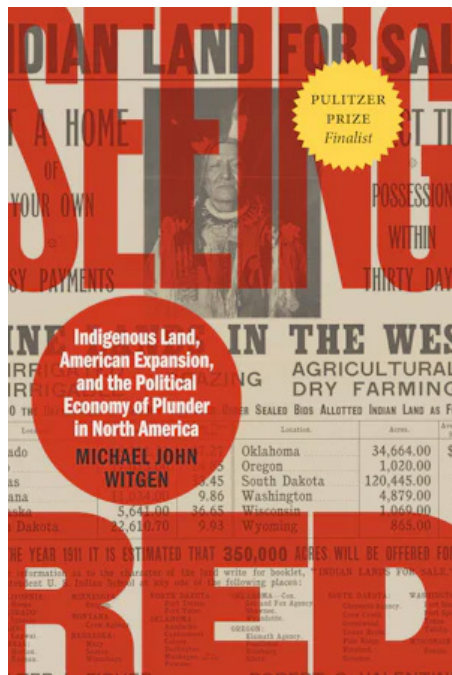
# NATIVE AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES CLUSTER

The Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) Cluster is one of many interdisciplinary clusters in The Graduate School and falls under the Mellon Cluster in the Humanities and Qualitative Social Sciences. Students apply to be a Mellon Interdisciplinary Cluster Fellow alongside their graduate school application, but many graduate students affiliate with NAIS cluster activities after admission.

The NAIS Cluster creates space for intellectual exchange and study in the theories and topics of NAIS. An interdisciplinary field encompassing such areas as history, law, literature, political science, medicine, environmental studies, and more, NAIS examines Native cultural expressions, legal and political issues, and lived experiences across time, place, and disciplinary categories. NAIS produces scholarship, creative expressions, and praxes that are theoretically informed and engaged with or responsive to Tribal nations and communities and that seek to understand and transform political, pedagogical, and institutional structures grounded in settler colonialism.

The NAIS Cluster aims to create opportunities and training in NAIS for our students through invited speakers, yearly themes, professionalization workshops, mentoring and symposia. It is a space in which faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students can come together for intellectual exchange, cross-pollination, and activism. This past year, the NAIS Cluster activities were coordinated by Professors Doug Kiel and Megan Bang and included a quarterly book club centering Indigenous methodologies which included:

- *Seeing Red: Indigenous Land, American Expansion, and the Political Economy of Plunder in North America* by Michael Witgen
- *Hungry Listening: Resonant Theory for Indigenous Sound Studies* by Dylan Robinson
- *Cooling the Tropics: Ice, Indigeneity, and Hawaiian Refreshment* by Hi'ilei Julia Hobart



# AY24 CNAIR FELLOWSHIPS

The Center’s fellowship program seeks to generate and support research that is responsive to and engaged with Native communities and organizations. We awarded fellowships to undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty, across disciplines and schools for projects and work conducted during the AY23-24 school year.

## Undergraduate Students:

### Reese Rosental Saporito

Legal Studies  
Science in Human Culture  
Native American and Indigenous Studies  
Weinberg College  
Topic: “Native Studies: Challenges to Implementation of Educational Reform Bills”

### Kadin Mills

(Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa  
First Generation Descendent)  
Medill School of Journalism  
Topic: “Caring for our Relatives: Trauma Informed Reporting in Minneapolis”

### Northwestern University Native American and Indigenous Student Alliance (NU NAISA)

NAISA Knowledge Keeper Committee  
Topic: “Native American and Indigenous Archives at Northwestern”

## Graduate Students:

### Alyssa Miller

(Cherokee Nation)  
Medical Student  
Feinberg School of Medicine  
Topic: “The Burden of Inequitable Access to Eye Care in Native American Populations in the United States: A Geospatial Perspective”

### Jackson Krause

Department of Anthropology  
Weinberg College  
Topic: “In the Shadow of the Water Mountain: Sacred Waterscapes, Water Management, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems at Lake Mensabak, Chiapas, México”

### Stephen McNabb

Department of Spanish & Portuguese  
Weinberg College  
Topic: “Writing the Runa: Indigenous Narrative Practice in Andean Literature (1941-1984)”

### Cordelia Rizzo

Performance Studies  
School of Communication  
Topic: “Weave to Stitch: Indigenous Studies as a Critical Lens “  
*project support, declined tuition and stipend support\**

### Heather Menefee

Department of History  
Weinberg College  
Topic: “Real Life or Long-Lasting Death: Dakota People’s Economic Life under Occupation”  
*project support, declined tuition and stipend support\**

## Faculty:

### Beth Redbird

(Oglala Lakota/ Oklahoma Choctaw)  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Weinberg College  
Topic: “Tribal Constitutions”

### Reynaldo Morales Cardenas

Assistant Professor  
Medill School of Journalism  
Topic: “Indigenous Research Methods, Nexus Research and Rights-Based Approaches”

### Stephen Hersh

Senior Lecturer  
Medill School of Journalism  
Topic: “Native-Authored Children’s Books: Effects on Child and Parent Identity”

### Kelly Wisecup

Professor  
Department of English  
Weinberg College  
*Native American and Indigenous Studies Curriculum Enrichment Faculty Fellowship*  
Indigenous Archives and Public Humanities Co-Taught Graduate Seminar  
Co-taught by Kelly Wisecup and Rose Miron (Director, D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Newberry Library)



# 6TH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

CNAIR’s 6th Annual Research Symposium was held May 16-17, 2024 at the Woman’s Club of Evanston, adjacent to Northwestern University’s Evanston campus. The two-day program was open University-wide with most of the attendees being CNAIR’s affiliated faculty, Native American, Indigenous, and non-Indigenous students (graduate and undergraduate), local community members, Great Lakes tribal leaders and invited Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal education leadership. We had over 150 attendees this year.

The CNAIR symposium content followed our theme – *Indigenous Futures: 100 Years Back, 100 Years Forward*. It has been 100 years since the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act was passed. CNAIR sees this historic moment as an opportunity for engagement and reflection on the past 100 years and to imagine forward for the next 100 years. We are at the beginning of a new era of reform in Indian country in which citizenship, belonging, culture, language, law, policy, and much more will be remade given the significant social, political, ecological, and economic challenges that all communities face in the coming century.

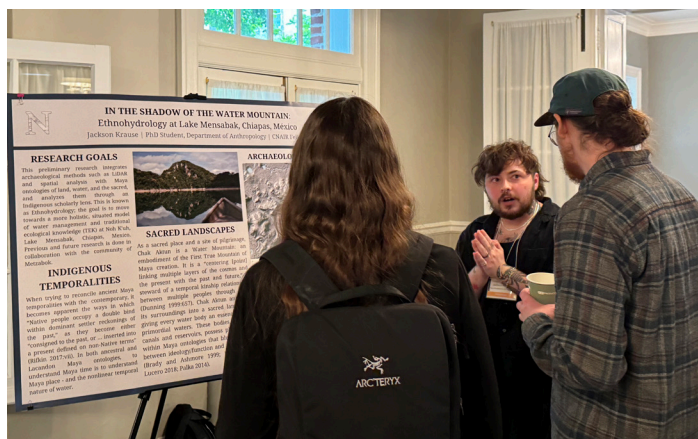
The symposium created collective space for engagement featuring opening keynote speakers Zach Pahmahmie, Vice Chair, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and Raphael Wahwassuck, council member, and closing speaker, Duncan McCue, Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University and winner of the IJA/Medill Milestone Achievement Award. There were also four interactive panels: 1) *Taking Care of Our Lands*, 2) *Preserving Heritage and Memory*, 3) *Practicing Health & Wellbeing*, and 3) *Educational Self-Determination*, networking opportunities and poster sessions featuring the work of CNAIR fellows and Tribal college students.



Madison Big Horn, student presenter from Chief Dull Knife Tribal College and Megan Bang converse after symposium panels.

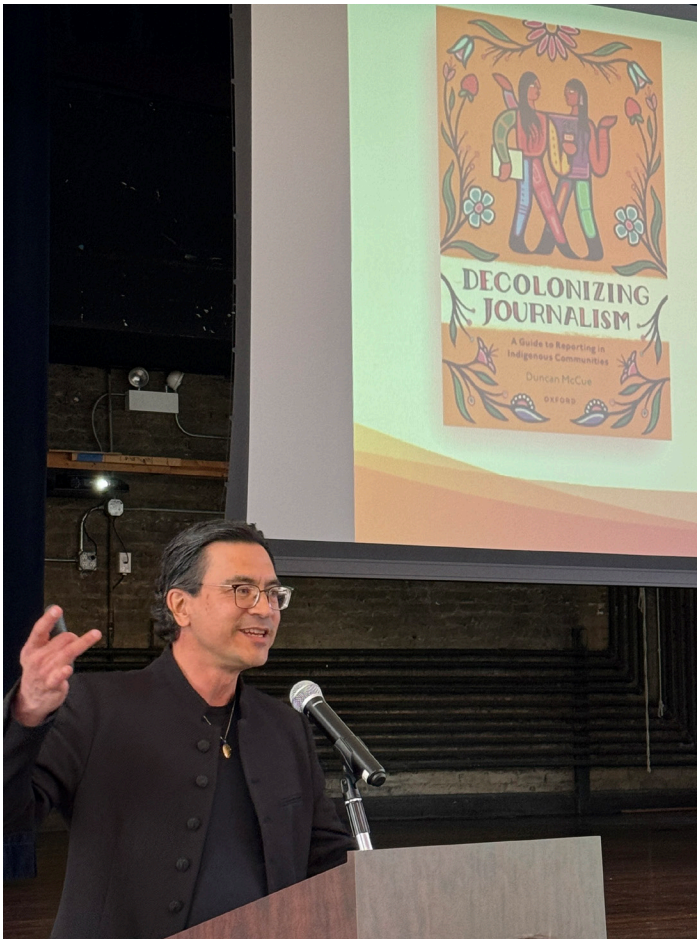


Carrie Whitlow, Director of Education for Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes speaks on the education panel.



CNAIR Fellow Grad Jackson Krause sharing research poster with symposium participants.

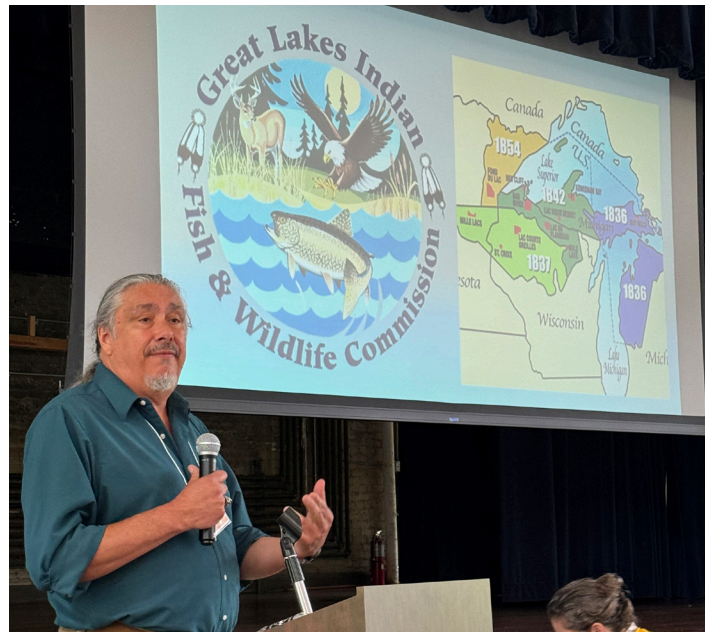
*CNAIR is grateful to our generous cosponsors including the Mellon Foundation, Northwestern’s Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion, Medill School of Communication, School of Education and Social Policy, Council for Race and Ethnic Studies, Center for Health, Equity and Transformation, Center for Water Research, OIDI IDEA Education and Training, and Environmental Policy and Culture.*



Duncan McCue presents on his experiences as an Indigenous journalist and writing his book, *Decolonizing Journalism*.



Indigenous higher education leaders gather in a roundtable centered on serving Indigenous students in institutional spaces.



Michael Waasegiizhig Price, TEK Specialist, Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission, presenting for “Taking Care of our Lands” panel discussion.



Aaron Golding, CNAIR Affiliate, and Cecilia Hoffman, graduate student, at CNAIR symposium.



Kelly Wisecup, CNAIR Affiliate, co-leads a roundtable with undergraduate students from the course “What is an Indigenous Book?”

# ADVANCING TEACHING & LEARNING

NAIS MINOR

VISITING SCHOLARS

PARTNERS

EVENT AND PROGRAM LINEUP AY24

MAJOR ACADEMIC AFFILIATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# NAIS MINOR

Since the minor was first offered in Fall 2020 in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, there have been **9** students who have graduated with the minor. The NAIS minor is designed for the student who is interested in understanding the identities and experiences, cultural practices and lifeways of Native American and Indigenous people. It requires six courses from across a variety of departments, taught by faculty across the university and includes explorations of creative expression, the social and natural world, and Indigeneity within a global context.

In AY24, there were **15** courses applicable to the NAIS minor. To date, there have been **over 60 NAIS courses** taught since the minor was first offered in 2020. The following exemplify some of the courses being offered:

- ANTH 390 – Indigenous Nations & Anthropology – Megan Baker (Choctaw)
- ENGL 374 – Studies in Native American and Indigenous Literatures: What is an Indigenous book? – Kelly Wisecup
- ENGL 471 – Studies in Native American and Indigenous Literatures: Archives and Public Humanities – Kelly Wisecup & Rose Miron
- ENVI POL 390 – Land, Identity, and the Sacred: Native American Sacred Site Protection and Religious Rights – Eli Suzukovich III (Little Shell Band of Chippewa-Cree/Krajina Serb)
- GLBL HLTH 390 – Native American Health Research and Prevention – Beatriz Reyes (Diné)
- HIST 300 – Native Nations and the US Legal System – Doug Kiel (Oneida)
- HIST 300 – Red Power: Indigenous Resistance in the US and Canada – Doug Kiel (Oneida)
- JOURN 367 – Native American Environmental Issues and the Media – Reynaldo Morales Cardenas
- LRN SCI – Design of Just and Sustainable Learning Environments – Megan Bang (Ojibwe and Italian descent)
- POLI SCI 349 - Politics of Environmental Justice – Kim Suiseeya



NAIS minor faculty pictured left to right: Beatriz Reyes (Global Health), Doug Kiel (History), and Megan Baker (Anthropology).

# VISITING SCHOLARS



Matthew Fletcher presents to Pritzker Law students.

## November 16 - Matthew Fletcher

Matthew Fletcher (Grand Traverse Band) is the Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor of Law at Michigan Law, whose work focuses on federal Indian law, American Indian tribal law, Anishinaabe legal and political philosophy, constitutional law, federal courts, and legal ethics. A member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Professor Fletcher is also the chief justice and an appellate judge of several Indian Tribes. CNAIR cosponsored Fletcher’s lecture hosted by NU’s Pritzker School of Law and the Native American Law Students Association.

## January 15 – Linda Tuhiwai Smith

Linda Tuhiwai Smith (Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Maori), professor of Māori and Indigenous Studies, University of Waikato, New Zealand, is one of the most influential and internationally recognized Māori scholars and researchers of the 21st century. Her book, “Indigenous Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples,” has been foundational for Indigenous Studies. CNAIR hosted a day of events with Dr. Smith, including a welcome breakfast, meetings with students and faculty, and a brown bag presentation for NU’s community.



Linda Smith gathers in the CNAIR house to share stories about her experiences working with community and how she balanced academia and community activism.



## May 9 - Sara Deer

Sarah Deer (citizen of Muscogee [Creek] Nation of Oklahoma), University Distinguished Professor at the University of Kansas and Chief Justice for the Prairie Island Indian Community Court of Appeals, whose scholarship and work focuses on the intersection of federal Indian law and victims’ rights, using Indigenous feminist principles as a framework. CNAIR hosted a lunch in Sara’s honor and discussion with Native and non-Native students, faculty and staff.

## June 24 - Leonie Pihama

Leonie Pihama (Te ātiawa, Ngāti Māhanga, Ngā Māhanga ā Tairi) is a Senior Research Fellow at the Te Kōtahi Institute, University of Waikato, and Director of Māori and Indigenous Analysis Ltd, a Kaupapa Māori research company. Her research covers whānau, economic transformation and national identity, and has a long history of involvement in Māori education, including te kōhanga reo and kura kaupapa Māori (total immersion pre-schools and schools). CNAIR hosted a lunch for Pihama with students, staff and faculty and discussion about her work.



Leonie Pihama talks to students about her projects and collaborations of knowledge with Māori researchers from all over Aotearoa. She also emphasized the importance of community collaboration that helped develop books driven by community including Taku Kuru Pounamu that centers whakataukī, or ancestral sayings, that reflect the centrality and importance of children in the Māori world.

# LIST OF COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

## PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS PARTNERS

Alice Kaplan Institute of the Humanities  
American Indian Center  
American Politics Workshop  
Block Museum of Art  
Buffett Institute for Global Affairs  
Center for International and Area Studies  
Center for Legal Studies  
Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative (CAICC)  
Chicago Public Schools American Indian Education Program  
DEI Committee (Spanish and Portuguese)  
Department of Anthropology  
Department of Environmental Policy and Culture  
Department of Political Science  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
Exchange Alumni (Dept of State)  
The Field Museum  
The Graduate School's Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center  
Institute for Policy Research

Latin American and Caribbean Studies  
Master of Arts Medical Humanities and Bioethics Program  
Medill School of Journalism  
Middle East and North Africa Studies Program  
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian  
Multicultural Student Affairs  
Native American and Indigenous Student Alliance (NAISA)  
Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)  
Northwestern Internal Medicine Residency  
Office for Research  
Potawatomi Trails  
Pritzker School of Law  
The Quechua Alliance  
Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion  
Sanctuary  
School of Education and Social Policy  
The Spanish Club  
Translator's Adda (Kaplan Public Humanities Research Workshop)

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

American Indian Center Chicago  
American Indian Education Program Chicago Public Schools  
Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative (CAICC)  
Chicago Botanic Garden  
D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Newberry Library  
Evanston Township High School  
Field Museum of Natural History

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary  
Menominee Tribal College  
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian  
Indigenous Journalist Association  
Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians  
Tulalip Tribes  
Spokane Tribe of Indians  
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

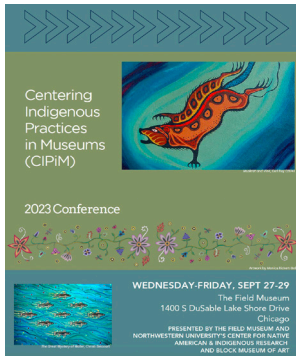
# EVENT & PROGRAM LINEUP AY24

CNAIR continues to provide a robust programming track that includes signature annual programs and cosponsorships with other departments, community organizations and Native American tribes. We sincerely thank our partners and cosponsors (see list of collaborative partners on page 19).

Sept 22, 12-2pm

## Native American Indigenous Welcome Reception

We welcome new and continuing faculty, staff, students in Northwestern's Native community and learn how to connect throughout the year!



## Sept 28-29, 8:30-5pm Centering Indigenous Practices in Museums at the Field Museum

Two-day joint convening sponsored by a partnership between The Field Museum, the Block Museum of Art and CNAIR. More info on page 28.

Oct 17, 12:30-2:30pm

## Sovereignty, Community, and Indigenous Futures: 100 Year Anniversary of the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act

CNAIR Brown Bag Series kicks off with a fishbowl panel discussion with NU Native faculty including Dr Bryan Brayboy (dean of SESP), Prof Doug Kiel (associate professor, history), Megan Baker (postdoc fellow, anthropology), Beth Redbird (assistant professor, sociology), and Dr Megan Bang (professor, learning sciences) to explore the impact of the 100 year anniversary of the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act on tribal nations and Indigenous scholarship today, but also to discuss what sovereignty means to the future of tribal nations in light of this important historical moment.



Indigenous faculty participate in the CNAIR brown bag fall event. Pictured from left to right: Megan Baker, Beth Redbird, Beatriz Reyes, Eli Suzukovich III, Bryan Brayboy, and Megan Bang.

Oct 18, 5-9pm

## Imagining the Indian - film screening and conversation with the producers



This film examines the movement to eradicate the words, images and gestures that many Native Americans and their allies find demanding and offensive.

*Cosponsored with Medill School of Journalism and Buffett Institute for Global Affairs.*

Oct 24, 8:30-10am

## Breakfast with Assistant Professor Andrew Curley at CNAIR

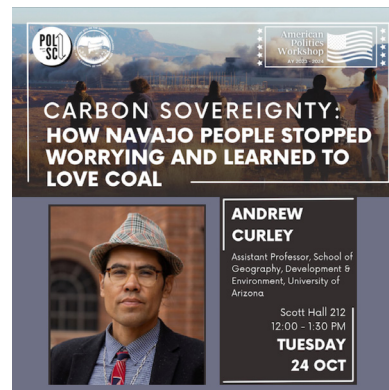
Breakfast welcome to Andrew Curley from CNAIR and a chance to connect with NU Native staff, students and faculty.

Oct 24, 12-1:30pm

## Carbon Sovereignty: How Navajo People Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Coal

Andrew Curley, assistant professor, University of Arizona, discusses facets of his new book on carbon sovereignty and new research about water rights and Indian water settlements in the western states, and how Diné water protectors and environment groups are shifting our meaning of sovereignty.

*Cosponsored with Department of Political Science and the American Politics Workshop.*



Nov 8

### **30 Days of Indigenous: Food, Friends and Fire with the Indigenous Graduate Student Collective**

A space to share a meal, be in community and reflect on the month dedicated to Native American Heritage. Crafts, stories and friends!

*Cosponsored with The Graduate School's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.*

Nov 10 & 11, 10-11am

### **Immigration and Indigeneity: Changing Landscapes and Emerging Issues**

Two workshops over two days featuring keynote speakers - author Alexandra Rodrigues, "TRANSgressing Borders into Sacred Lands," and associate professor in Gender and Sexuality Studies, NU, S.B. West, "Becoming Transmigrant in the Windy City" - to create dialogue and exchange on current trends and barriers affecting immigrant communities seeking international protection in the US today with a focus on how Indigenous communities uniquely engage and experience immigration and asylum systems.

*Cosponsored with the Sanctuary, ExchangeAlumni (Dept of State), and Multicultural Student Affairs.*

Nov 13, 3pm-4:30pm

### **30 Days of Indigenous: Sand Creek Massacre Commemoration - Film Screening and Discussion**

In the spirit of healing, the Native American and Indigenous Student Alliance (NAISA), Multicultural Students Affairs (MSA), and Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (OIDI) invites our community to reflect on Northwestern's role in supporting the healing efforts of Cheyenne and Arapaho communities. This event is part of a 3-part series to learn about the massacre and Northwestern's place in this history.

Nov 14, 5:30-7pm

### **NAIS Book Club: Seeing Red: Indigenous Land, American Expansion, and the Political Economy of Plunder in North America, Michael Witgen**

Quarterly gathering book discussion open to all but focused on bringing together and building intellectual community among our students who are completing a NAIS undergraduate minor, are participants in the NAIS graduate cluster, and/or are recipients of fellowship funds from CNAIR. Facilitated by Doug Kiel, NAIS minor/cluster coordinator and Megan Bang, CNAIR director.

November 16, 12-1pm

### **"Exploring American Indian Law: Past, Present and Future"**

Matthew Fletcher (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indian), Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor, University of Michigan, and chief justice and appellate judge of several Indian tribes, shares about his work in federal Indian law, American Indian tribal law, Anishinaabe legal and political philosophy, constitutional law, federal courts, and legal ethics.

*Cosponsored with Pritzker School of Law, Native American Law Students Association, and Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.*

November 17, 12-1pm

### **Social Determinants of Native American Health Lecture, Professor Beatriz Reyes**

Special lecture intended to provide residents with critical context regarding the history of identity, political status of Native American people that may inform health. It reviewed the critical interplay of sovereignty, federal recognition, identity definition mapped onto Native Americans and how this affects healthcare access and availability.

*Cosponsored with Northwestern Internal Medicine Residency.*

November 18, 6pm

### **Translating Borderlands: "Translating Indigeneity"**

Workshop to share reading of author Aruni Kashyap, University of Georgia, followed by moderated conversation on themes such as the state suppression of Indigenous languages and cultures, the interplay of race, caste, and sexuality in Indigenous politics, and the legacy of Indigenous resistance in the North-Eastern region of the Indian subcontinent.

*Cosponsored with Translator's Adda (launched through Kaplan Public Humanities Research Workshop) and Kaplan Institute of the Humanities, Asian Languages and Cultures, Dept of English Comparative Literary Studies, South Asia Research Forum.*

November 20, 11am-1pm

### **Sand Creek Massacre Commemoration: Procession and Fire**

In the spirit of healing, the Native American and Indigenous Student Alliance (NAISA), Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA), and Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (OIDI) invites our community to reflect on Northwestern's role in supporting the healing efforts of Cheyenne and Arapaho communities. We walked about 0.7 miles and end at the CNAIR house at 515 Clark Street for a fire, reflection, and warm drinks.





November 29

### THPO Gathering

A gathering to bring together Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from the Prairie, Gun Lake, and Pokagon Potawatomi Bands, Hockak Nation (Wisconsin and Nebraska), Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, Miami Nation of Oklahoma, and Sault Ste Marie Chippewa, and Northwestern University and the City of Evanston to develop a long term, collaborative relationship centered on historic preservation and best practices, research, and other campus-city-tribal project planning.

*Cosponsored with the Office for Research and department of Environmental Policy and Culture.*

January 8, 12:30-2pm

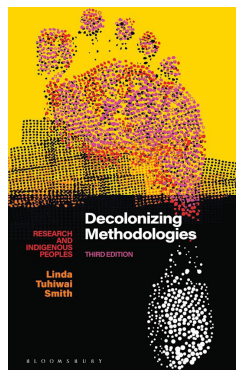
### MENA Monday Lecture - Mapping as Decolonial Praxis: From Algeria to Palestine to Hawaii

This talk gave a glimpse into Dr. Nour Joudah's, assistant professor in the Dept of Asian American Studies (UCLA) ongoing research and book project which focuses on how indigenous communities use mapping as an imaginative decolonial praxis.

January 9

### Madalene Big Bear Quill Workshops and Welcome Breakfast

We welcomed Madalene Big Bear (Bodwéwadmí), citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Nation, master quill worker, culture keeper and storyteller to campus when she visited to facilitate a workshop series cosponsored by Multicultural Student Affairs on Potawatomi quill work.



January 15

### Day with Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith

CNAIR welcomed Professor Smith for a day of events in her honor and to learn more about her extensive and foundational work in Indigenous Methodologies. Events included a welcome breakfast, meetings with students and staff at the CNAIR house and a brown bag presentation open to the public. More info on page 18.

### January 25, 8:30am-5pm, & January 26, 8:30am-12pm 100 Years Back, 100 Years Forward: Sovereignty, Community and Indigenous Futures



Two-day convening to explore the impact and implications of the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act from a law perspective. Presented by a partnership between CNAIR and Pritzker School of Law in Thorne Auditorium, Chicago campus. See feature on page 32.

February 15, 5:30-7pm

### NAIS Book Club: Hungry Listening - Resonant Theory for Indigenous Sound Studies, Dylan Robinson

Quarterly gathering book discussion open to all but focused on bringing together and building intellectual community among our students who are completing a NAIS undergraduate minor, are participants in the NAIS graduate cluster, and/or are recipients of fellowship funds from CNAIR. Facilitated by Doug Kiel, NAIS minor/cluster coordinator and Megan Bang, CNAIR director.

February 19, 3pm-4:30pm

### Kisha Supernant Talk: From Extraction to Restoration: Heart-Centered Archaeology for Reclamation and Restorative Justice

Kisha Supernant, (Metís/Papaschase/British), Director of the Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology and Professor, anthropology, University of Alberta, explores how archaeologists are approaching their research as service to reorient their work toward reclamation and restorative justice. Drawing on case studies from her work with Indigenous communities in Canada, Supernant explores how taking a heart-centered approach can transform archaeology from an extractive practice to a restorative one and create a safer, more just future for the discipline and for the world.

*Cosponsored with the Department of Anthropology.*

April 1-14

### Madalene Big Bear Native Artist-in-Residence: Welcome Breakfast, Porcupine Hide Harvest & Teachings, Basic & Advanced Quillwork workshops, Panel Discussion

Once more, we welcomed Madalene Big Bear (Bodwéwadmí), citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Nation, master quill worker, culture keeper and storyteller back to campus as our AY24 Native Artist-in-Residence. Madalene spent two weeks at NU teaching multiple workshops and facilitating panel discussions about Potawatomi culture, language, politics and artwork. See feature on page 27.



April 2, 12:30-1:30pm

### **Brown Bag with Professor Hirokazu Miyazaki (Anthropology): *The Role of Cities and Native and Indigenous Communities in the Politics of Nuclear Weapons***



Professor Hirokazu Miyazaki (Anthropology) discusses the role of cities and Indigenous communities in the politics of nuclear weapons.

This presentation offers some preliminary findings from Professor Miyazaki's ongoing ethnographic research on city and citizen diplomacy for nuclear abolition and explores how the current national and global campaign to abolish nuclear weapons and its critiques can be grounded more firmly in Indigenous studies and methodologies. Open to the public.

April 4, 12-12:45pm

### **3rd Annual Carlos Montezuma Native Health Lecture *Designing for Ontological Shifts in Community Psychology: Leveraging Indigenous Intellectual Theories & Practices***

presented by Emma Elliott, asst prof, University of Washington. Emma's talk offered Indigenous Storying and Walking/ Reading/Storying the Land as both theory and practice towards transformative frameworks for understanding human learning, development, and wellbeing.

**Centering Indigenous Student Voices** presented by Aaron Golding, associate director, Multicultural Student Affairs, NU. Aaron discussed utilizing a new demographic approach to understand the experience of Native and Indigenous students at Northwestern University.

*Cosponsored with the Master of Arts Medical Humanities and Bioethics Program.*

April 5, 5-6pm

### **Afro-Indigenous Rhythms: A Bilingual Presentation and Hands-on Activity**

Learn about the Afro-Indigenous Garifuna community in Honduras and play Garifuna rhythms with professional drummer Jonathan Alarcón! English language interpretation by Professor Kate Reinhardt (Augsburg University).

*Cosponsored with The Spanish Club, the DEI Committee (Spanish and Portuguese), and the department of Spanish & Portuguese.*



April 13, 10am-2pm

### **Indigenous People of Brazil: Conversation with Chief Tapi Yawalapiti - Challenges of Native Brazilians to Preserve the Forest**

Annual gathering of the Illinois Portuguese Language Connection (initiative of Illinois' three largest universities: Northwestern University, The University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) designed to bring together Portuguese students from universities in Illinois to interact in a dynamic and festive event, featuring Chief Tapi Yawalapiti, 16 tribes of the Upper Xingu and president of the Aritana Institute. *Cosponsored with department of Spanish & Portuguese; Center for Latin American Studies, UofC; Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, UIUC; Copa Airlines, Consulado-Geraldo Brasil, Chicago; NU Simeon Lelund Funds.*

April 13, 8:30-12:30pm

### **8th Annual Meeting of the Quechua Alliance**

The Quechua Alliance's Annual Meeting has been a vibrant and multigenerational space for the exchange of ideas between Quechua speakers, community leaders, college students, and educators who share an interest and passion for Quechua language and Andean culture. One of the main goals is to strengthen the vibrant Quechua enthusiast community in the United States and the diaspora.

*Cosponsored with Center for International and Area Studies, Multicultural Student Affairs, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and many other external orgs.*

April 18, 5:30-7pm

### **NAIS Book Club: *Cooling the Tropics - Ice, Indigeneity and Hawaiian Refreshment, Hi'ilei Julia Hobart***

Quarterly gathering book discussion open to all but focused on bringing together and building intellectual community among our students who are completing a NAIS undergraduate minor, are participants in the NAIS graduate cluster, and/or are recipients of fellowship funds from CNAIR. Facilitated by Doug Kiel, NAIS minor/cluster coordinator and Megan Bang, CNAIR director.

April 6-7

### **Community Sewing Workshop**

Sewing workshop for students to create and complete ribbon skirts, pants and shirts for the NAISA Spring powwow. *Cosponsored with MSA and OIDI.*

April 22, 3pm

### Changing the Practice and Practitioners of Anthropological Genomics

Professor Ripan Malhi, anthropology, University of Illinois, discusses development of training programs for students in the social and life sciences as well as his evolving research program in anthropological genomics, historically rooted in extractive research and colonial science, towards more equitable and inclusive practices.

*Cosponsored with the Department of Anthropology.*

April 27

### 3rd Annual Traditional Spring Powwow: Honoring the Water

Northwestern’s Native American and Indigenous Student Alliance (NAISA) present their third annual powwow at Welsh-Ryan arena.



NAISA co-chairs, MelMcDaniel and Alivia Britton welcome visitors to the Pow Wow and discuss the importance of the theme and relationship to water. They also thanked their collaborators and co-sponsors.

May 9, 12pm-1:30 & 5pm-6:30pm

### Lunch Time Discussion with Professor Sarah Deer & Legal Studies Law in Motion Talk: “What if Survivors Wrote the Laws? An Exploration of Tribal Statutes on Sexual Violence”

Professor Deer, citizen of Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, was invited to campus to share her work on the intersection of federal Indian law and victims’ rights, using Indigenous feminist principles as a framework. CNAIR hosted a lunch and discussion in honor of her visit with students, staff and faculty in addition to cosponsoring the talk.

*Cosponsored with the Center for Legal Studies and the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian.*

May 16 & 17, 8:30-5pm

### 6th Annual Research Symposium

CNAIR’s signature annual event, a two-day gathering to highlight Native and Indigenous scholars and their research, with a focus on exploring this year’s theme, Indigenous Futures: 100 Years Back, 100 Years Forward, which highlights the anniversary of the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act, prompting opportunities for reflection, and also imagination for the future of Indigenous sovereignty and community. More info on pages 14-15.

May 23, 6-8:30pm

### BOUND screening and Q&A with Co-Director Renelta Arluk (Inuvialuit, Cree, Dene)

Live screening of Against the Grain Theatre’s hybrid opera BOUND, musical reworking of GF Handel’s music to tell the real-life stories of four Canadians of diverse backgrounds seeking acceptance, part of the On Decolonizing Theatre spring program.

*Cosponsored with Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, School of Communication, and Bienen School of Music.*

July 23, 12-2pm

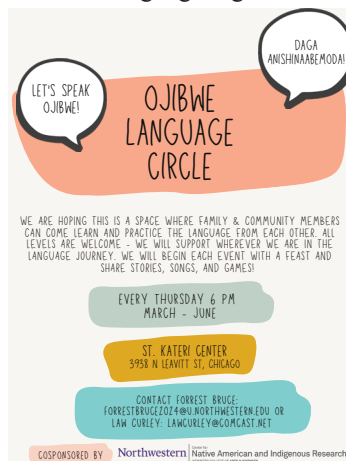
### CNAIR Summer BBQ Lunch

CNAIR welcomes several Native interns working with the RISE (Research for Indigenous Social Action and Equity) center through the summer at NU, as well as new Native staff members at the Block Museum.

Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm | Ongoing Event

### Let’s Learn Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe Language Circle)

A weekly community Ojibwe language circle that began in May 2023 and continues to meet weekly in-person to share a meal and learn the language together.



# MAJOR ACADEMIC AFFILIATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our CNAIR affiliates are continuously making an impact in their fields, at Northwestern, and in both local and national policy. Here are a few highlights:

## Eli Suzukovich Begins Role as Director of Cultural Preservation and Compliance and Appointed to the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

This year, Dr. Suzukovich was also appointed as the inaugural Director of Cultural Preservation and Compliance within the Office of Research at Northwestern. In this role, Eli will oversee Northwestern's compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 and any related cultural preservation legislation. He has already begun this work by working with tribal historical preservation officers page 30.

In November 2023, Secretary Vilsack appointed new members to the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. One of the newest members included Dr. Suzukovich (Environment Policy and Culture, Anthropology). Under direction from Congress, the council oversees the Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry Program and provides urban natural resource recommendations to the secretary of Agriculture and other applicable federal agencies.

## Bill Miller Continues Work with the Nature Conservancy

Dr. Miller was elected to serve a second two-year term as Chair of the Board of Trustees for The Nature Conservancy in Illinois.

## Doug Kiel serves on panel to celebrate Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site

In March 2024, Professor Kiel was part of a panel with Chief Glenna J Wallace (Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma) and journalist Graham Lee Brewer (Cherokee Nation) at Denison University in Ohio to celebrate the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Panelists discussed efforts to protect this site and how efforts between Oklahoma and the State of Ohio and Ohio History Connection to protect earthworks and mounds in Ohio are part of the Land Back movement more broadly.

## The Manoomin Collective presents at US Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance Summit

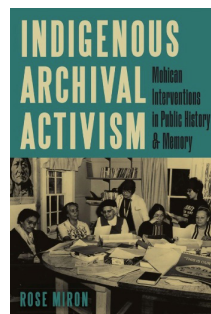
The Manoomin Collective presented a roundtable at the US Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance Summit 2024 in Tucson, Arizona. The title of the presentation was "STRONG: Data Sovereignty across the natural, computer, engineering, and social sciences" and included presenters: Josiah Hester, Kim Suissee, Kelly Applegate, Michael Waaseghiizig Price, Jeff Feng, and Eric Greenlee.

## Megan Bang Contributed to Two Key Reports in Education and elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Bang is a part of the PreK-12 STEM Education committee in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. In July 2024, they released a report titled *Equity in K-12 STEM Education: Framing Decisions for the Future*. The report offers a framework for policymakers, school administrators, and educators to increase equity in K-12 STEM education.

Bang was also cited and listed as a witness in the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children in which the commission sent its official and final report and recommendations to the President and Congress in February 2024.

In April 2024, Dr. Bang was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honorary societies. The academy recognizes leaders across disciplines, professions, and perspectives.



## Rose Miron Publishes New Book

Rose Miron published a new book titled *Indigenous Archival Activism: Mohican Interventions in Public History and Memory*. Tracing one tribe's fifty-year fight to recover and rewrite its history, *Indigenous Archival Activism* takes readers into the heart of debates over who owns and has the right to tell Native American history and stories.

## Michael Turcios Taught Global Indigeneity As Part of NU Prison Education Program (NUPEP)

During the spring quarter, Turcios taught a Radio TV Film (RTVF) course as part of NUPEP, emphasizing global Indigeneity. NUPEP cohort students also had posters on display at the CNAIR 7th Annual Research Symposium.

## Brandi Berry Benson composes The Story of Pa I Sha

In Fall 2023, Brandi Berry Benson began performing *The Story of Pa I Sha*, a musical work that narrates three stories of her Chickasaw ancestors with a 7-piece ensemble including traditional Native American instruments and Choctaw language.

## Patty Loew, Ojibwe Journalist, Inducted into Wisconsin Broadcasters Hall of Fame

Loew, professor emeritus, received the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism's "Distinguished Service" Alumni Award and has been inducted into the Wisconsin Broadcaster's Hall of Fame.

# ADVANCING ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

FEATURED PARTNERSHIPS

# FEATURED PARTNERSHIPS

## Preserving Potawatomi Culture Through Quillwork



**Left photo:** Students from different courses stopped by to visit the artist studio and were able to learn stories about harvesting quills from porcupines. In this photo, students are harvesting quills from a porcupine hide by pulling each one individually and organizing by size.

**Top right, pictured left to right:** Madalene Big Bear, Gina Roxas, Corrine Kasper, Lakota Hobia, and Raphael Wahwassuck.

**Bottom right:** Madelene teaches participant quill folding and weaving methods in the beginners workshop.

This year's artist in residence, Madalene Big Bear (Bodwēwadmi), citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Nation, led a series of beginner and advanced quill making workshops and convenings on campus in April 2024. Her residency was informed by her own experience as a Pokagon culture keeper, storyteller, and quill worker, and featured a network of relationships with other Potawatomi culture keepers.

During the residency, there was a panel discussion from community members to discuss their current work as Bodwēwadami people working in their homeland territory (Chicagoland) and how they work to strengthen their nations and the confederacy. Speakers included: Corrine Kasper (Pokagon Band Potawatomi Nation), PhD student, Linguistics, University of Chicago; Lakota Hobia (Citizen Band Potawatomi Nation), Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), Gun Lake Tribe; Gina Roxas (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation), Executive Director, Trickster Cultural Center; and Raphael Wahwassuck (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation), Tribal council member.

During her residence, Madalene was also beginning to develop a quilled heirloom piece to gift to the Bodwēwadmi Confederation. The historic confederacy, established in 2023, is made up of 12 Potawatomi Nations in North America that work collectively to advance the goals of each nation and work towards sovereignty.

Jacquelyn Robinson (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) also helped teach a porcupine quill harvesting workshop where participants learned about harvesting, cleaning, and dyeing the quills.

## Centering Indigenous Practices in Museums



Lois Taylor Biggs (Cherokee Nation/White Earth Ojibwe), Rice Curatorial Fellow in Native American Art, Art Institute of Chicago, participates in discussion about young curators developing careers in the art and museum spaces

This was a two-day joint convening sponsored by a partnership between the Field Museum, the Block Museum of Art and CNAIR. The convening was planned around three plenaries: one to explore the perspectives of Indigenous artists who have worked with museum collections, another featured Indigenous emerging museum professionals, and the third highlighted the voices of Indigenous senior curators and museum directors. The convening also included workshops to explore innovation in conservation and collections care, challenges in sustaining Indigenous museum practices, and collaborative curation. The convening hosted representation from over 25 Indigenous museums, cultural centers, tribal preservation offices and over 100 participants, and took place at the Field Museum in Chicago.



CIPIM attendees engage in conversation with Emerging Museum Professionals plenary panel: l. to r. former Block Museum Curatorial Research Fellow; Jordan Poorman Cocker (Gáuígú [Kiowa] Tribe and the Kingdom of Tonga); Dakota Hoska (Oglála Lakhóta Nation from Pine Ridge, Wounded Knee) Assistant Curator, Native Arts, Denver Art Museum; Kelly Fayard (Poarch Band of Creek Indians), Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology, University of Denver; and Jami Powell (Osage Nation) Associate Director, Curatorial Affairs & Curator of Indigenous Art, Hood Museum.



# ADVANCING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FEATURED PROJECTS – EXTERNAL

FEATURED PROJECTS – INTERNAL



## FEATURED PROJECTS EXTERNAL



Photographed: Eli Suzukovich; Logan York, THPO, Miami Tribe; George Strack, former THPO, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; and Megan Bang during a gathering of Tribal Historical Preservation Officers

### **Tribal Historical Preservation Officers visit Northwestern University**

On November 29 and 30, 2023, under the lead of Eli Suzukovich III, Director of Cultural Preservation and Compliance, the Office for Research under the lead of the Director of Cultural Preservation and Compliance, Eli Suzukovich III, and in conjunction with Jasmine Gunneau, Director of Native American and Indigenous Affairs in the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, and the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research CNAIR, hosted nine Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) from the Prairie, Pokagon, and Gun Lake Bands of Potawatomi, Hocak Nation of Wisconsin, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma. The purpose of the meeting was to establish relationships between Northwestern University and the THPOs. The focus of the meeting was to discuss NHPA Section 106 and 707 consultations for the Ryan Field Renovation Project and to discuss current and future research. The meeting successfully brought tribal nations, Northwestern and the City of Evanston together to discuss protocols on protecting Native American cultural resources within Evanston and adopting a model of consultation for future projects.



Maria Des Jarlait (Arikara, Ojibwe) reads her children's books, I am Not a Costume and Atika's Medicine at a family storytelling event at the Mitchell Museum of American Indian.

Maria's book was one of the books distributed to families through this collaborative project. (Photo Credit: Kim Vigue, Executive Director, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian)

### **Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, Evanston, IL *Advancing A New Narrative Through Native Representation and Culturally Responsive Programs***

The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian was one of 13 beneficiaries of Northwestern's 2023 Racial Equity and Community Partnership grants program. Through this grant, the museum has cultivated a series of programming centering Native American authored children's books. This work is in partnership with Northwestern's Center for Native American and Indigenous Research and the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and is advancing narrative through Native representation and culturally responsive programs. The museum has coordinated Native American-authored book distribution to families in the Evanston and Chicagoland area. These books undo harmful stereotypes and inaccurate information presented to Native and non-Native children in classrooms and libraries while amplifying the work of Indigenous authors who positively and authentically reflect the diversity and strengths of Native people and communities. The project also includes capturing survey and interviews centering Indigenous representation in Children's literature with the assistance of Stephen Hersh, a senior lecturer at the Medill School of Journalism. The museum is also currently undergoing a rebrand where they will have a renewed focus on Indigenous communities of the Great Lakes.

## CAICC Policy Wins



Megan Bang speaks at a press conference in Springfield, IL where Prairie Band Potawamoi Nation also spoke on the return of their land in DeKalb County, IL. (L to R) Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick, Chair person, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation; Pheji Hota-Wiya Cosson, Jr Miss Indian of Chicago; Megan Bang; Jordan Gurneau, Grad Student, McCormick School of Engineering, NU.



Jasmine Gurneau traveled with a group of around 50 Native American families with the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative (CAICC) to the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, IL as part of the Native American Summit. Jasmine gave a land acknowledgment to open the IL House Session. Photo credit: Scott Olijar, Illinois House of Representatives, Office of the Speaker, photographer

In February of 2024, CNAIR joined members of the Native American & Indigenous community in the Chicagoland area to Springfield, IL to spend the day meeting with lawmakers at the State Capitol as part of Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative’s (CAICC) Native American Summit. The summit served as a platform for raising awareness and educating lawmakers on key issues facing the Indigenous community in Chicago and Illinois. This was the second time that CAICC hosted the Native American Summit.

As a result of their advocacy efforts in 2022, three pieces of legislation were passed in the State of Illinois.

1. **HB1633 – Native American Curriculum**, mandates Native American history be taught K-12, including the topics of sovereignty and self-determination along with focus on Urban Indians. The bill also adds a seat for a Native American on the State Education Equity Commission and includes the Native American experience in the study of the Holocaust and Genocide
2. **SB1446 – School Dress Code Policy**, ensures the right of a student to wear or accessorize the student’s graduation attire with items associated with the student’s cultural or ethnic identity or any protected characteristic or category identified in subsection (Q) of Section 1-103 of the Illinois Human Rights Act, including but not limited to, Native American items of cultural significance.
3. **HB3413 – Human Remains Protection Act**, led by advocacy by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, this bill expedites the process in which the Department of Natural Resources would identify, examine and repatriate Native American remains, creating a procedure in which the state would consult with affiliated tribal nations and increase IDNR’s control in the process. The bill also creates a designated cemetery in the state not accessible to the public where remains can be buried respectfully and with honors.



To learn more about the three bills, scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://chicagoaicc.com/native-american-senate-house-bills-update/#hb1633>.

# FEATURED PROJECTS INTERNAL

## 100 Years Back, 100 Years Forward: Sovereignty, Community and Indigenous Futures



**Left:** Panel II: Changes in the perspective for the future, featuring (left to right) Cliff Zimmerman, Professor of Practice, Pritzker, NU; Bryan Brayboy, Carlos Montezuma Professor & Dean, School of Education and Social Policy, NU; Tiffany Lee, Professor, Native American Studies, University of New Mexico; Alex Red Corn, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Kansas State University.

**Top Right:** Panel III: Engage institutions for societal change (left to right) Stephanie Fryberg, Professor, Psychology, Northwestern University; Geri Wisner, Attorney General, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Lauren van Schilfhaarde, Assistant Professor of Law, UCLA.

**Bottom Right:** Megan Bang and Keynote Speaker Raphael Wahwassuck, Tribal Council Member, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

CNAIR partnered with Pritzker School of Law to present a two-day convening to explore the impact and implications of the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act from a law perspective. The convening brought together Native scholars from multiple disciplines and from all over the country and included a panel of Native historians, who provided a framework and historical context for subsequent conversations throughout the convening; a panel of local Native community members who work in local civic and cultural organizations and shared their thoughts on the three new pieces of local related legislation that have been passed this year; a panel focused on Indigenous futures from a range of disciplines, including education and sociology, and how this intersects with shifting policy and legislation to co-create thriving communities for future generations; and finally a panel designed to weave together overall themes of the convening and to discuss how institutions can push for societal change, highlighting the emerging scholarship, story work and data coming out of Indigenous scholarship today. The convening also featured a keynote presentation by council member Raphael Wahwassuck of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

The 100 Years convening hosted eleven Native scholars, including attorney general Geri Wisner (Muscogee [Creek] Nation) and nine Native NU faculty and staff as panelists or moderators. There were over 140 attendees, which represented a mix of NU Native and non-Native faculty, staff and students, and attendees from Chicago's broader Native community.

*Cosponsors for this convening included Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Institute for Policy Research, Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion, and Native American Law Students Association.*



To read the Northwestern Now article, scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2024/02/scholars-look-to-the-last-100-years-since-the-1924-indian-citizenship-act>.

# WHO WE ARE

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Pictured left to right: Katherine Castillo-Valentin, Michaela Marchi, Megan Bang, Pamala Silas.

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Handmade paddles painted by ISTEAM students, staff and community, summer 2024.





**Foreground:** Youth from Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa and Chicagoland Indigenous STEAM Collective take the wiiigwaasi-jiimaan out on Lake Michigan; **Background:** tribal partners from Little Traverse Bay Band brought their gichi-jiimaan from Michigan, handmade by Fred Harrington (LTBB water protector), to share in jiimaan knowledge.


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