Native American Heritage Month

On November 1, 2012, President Barack Obama officially proclaimed November as Native American Heritage Month and declared November 23rd as Native American Heritage Day.

Native American Heritage Month events have become an annual tradition here at Colorado State University. This year, NACC was fortunate to have the assistance of a graduate practicum student from the Student Affairs in Higher Education program, Chelsie Taresh-Ciscell.

Chelsie assisted NACC in coordinating and hosting events that showcase Native American success, experiences, culture, and traditions. This year featured Apache artist Douglas Miles of Apache Skateboards as well as talented film-maker, writer and artist Steven Paul Judd. The month also included the 30th Annual AISES Pow Wow, Women at Noon seminar on Native American Quilting Traditions with Women’s Circle, Cafe Cultura open mic night, films, and Native Trivia Night at Ramskellar, to name a few.

Native American Heritage Month gives Colorado State University and Fort Collins an opportunity to celebrate and discover what Native American cultures and people contribute. The significance of the month and events that are celebrated throughout the nation are a reminder of the diversity of Native American Nations and the unique challenges faced historically and contemporarily as a people.

Douglas Miles

Artist Douglas Miles (Apache) from Arizona, is passionate about increasing awareness of Native American perspectives through a modern lens. Major pieces in street art and stencil work were featured in the Duheza Lounge art exhibit from May to December 2012. Douglas Miles spoke about his life’s work and he highlighted new work of artists in his company for Native American Heritage Month. He shared how he started the company Apache Skateboards, designed for major lines like Volcum, and took his artwork from the reservation to the mainstream.

Steven Paul Judd

“Search for the World’s Best Indian Taco” was shown as part of Native American Heritage Month. Its creator, Steven Paul Judd, spoke in depth about the making of the film, as well as many of his other works of art such as Native superheroes, depicting the Hulk with braids, and “Captain Native American”. He wants to inspire film making, and showed another short film that he created in his very own living room for about $12. Judd commented that he likes to create things that he would have liked to have seen as a young Native kid, and to inspire students to dream and achieve.

Did you know ....

The Eagle Feather Tutoring Program, at the Native American Cultural Center, has helped over 50 students improve test scores as well as course grades, by at least one letter grade, this semester?

-Tutoring is available to all students at CSU throughout the year, and it’s free!

Native American Cultural Center

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

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Message from the Director
The 30th Annual AISES Pow Wow took place in a new venue this year at the newly renovated Lory Student Center Theatre. This event draws dancers, drum groups, and spectators from around the country in an effort to increase the awareness of the diversity of dance, song, and tribal representation in modern Pow Wow culture. The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), Native American Cultural Center, the Associated Students of Colorado State University, and Office of the President sponsored this event on Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM to commemorate the 30th year celebration and a “Tribute to All Nations.”

The Pow Wow featured Northern host drum group Young Bear, from Mandaree North Dakota, and Southern host drum group Southern Style, from Utah. Invited drum groups included Catching Eagle and Mile High, both from Colorado. AISES members sold fry bread and Indian Tacos, provided a community feed, and vendors sold traditional and modern Native American jewelry.

The Pow Wow is free and open for everyone and attendance continues to increase each year. It also features many different styles of dance including Traditional, Fancy, Gourd, and Intertribal. The Pow Wow was coordinated by students and run by volunteers who assisted with set-up, taco sales, the community evening feed, and clean up. The community feed featured a menu of Buffalo stew, tortillas, watermelon and cake. Everyone gathered to share a meal and celebrate the success of the Pow Wow. Overall, the turnout for this year’s Pow Wow was a great success and every year it provides a great opportunity to bring together people to celebrate Native American Heritage Month with dancing, food, fun and good conversations with great people.

RMICC American Indian Scholars Gala

The 9th Annual American Indian Scholars Gala Program was held in Denver, Colorado on November 9, 2012. The Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1991, hosts the gala to celebrate American Indian scholars who attend Colorado colleges and universities. The goal of the scholarship is to create opportunities for Native Americans in higher education. The gala honors Native students for academic achievement and leadership in their communities. The RMICC partners with many different local corporations and organizations to award scholarships from the proceeds of the Native American license plate in Colorado.

Five Colorado State University students were recognized at the gala this year. Chance Brown (Rosebud Sioux), Kristy Dennison (Navajo), Nicole Kenote (Menominee), Anthony Nicholson (Navajo/Mescalero Apache) and Delbert Willie (Navajo) were all recognized. Tony Nicholson says that he has received scholarship and recognition at the gala since his freshman year. “It is important to recognize students who are putting forth their best efforts to pave a way for other students. Recipients of these scholarships help to represent examples of success to encourage other Native students,” says Tony.

Native Women’s Circle

This fall, Native Women’s Circle featured two of our own community members who shared their talent and skills in Native American beadwork. Bryan Whish, Director of Undergraduate Recruitment in the Office of Admissions, taught the art of peyote stitch to create beaded key-chains. Community member Beverly Morgan demonstrated some techniques of beadwork to make beaded medallions. Beverly said “[I] was glad to teach because I was thankful for what I learned last year.” She enjoys doing beadwork and has developed her own techniques along the way, seeing it as a useful and enjoyable skill to have.
The Native American Cultural Center and the Denver Public Schools Indian Education Program developed the Native American Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) Institute. The program ran from July 29-August 4, 2012 and was funded by the National Academy of Engineering. Thirty Native American students (seventh through eleventh grade students) participated in the program; 24 from the Denver area, 2 from Fort Collins and 4 from New Mexico. The camp challenged and developed students intellectually as well as ignited a passion for higher education, natural resources, and the sciences, with emphasis on engineering. The agenda for the week long immersion into the culture of higher education was scheduled similar to how students would experience an average day in the life of a college student. A full schedule, promptness, attention to detail and hands-on learning experiences kept students and staff busy throughout the week. Five professional staff as well as five college student mentors were responsible for conducting the events during the week long N.A.S.T.E.M.I. Camp. Students had the opportunity to participate in activities at both the Pingree Park and Fort Collins campuses of Colorado State University, which focused on solar power, fire science, and stream ecology, as well as other areas within the sciences.

The 9th annual Leadership Retreat was held September 21-23rd, 2012 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. A combined number of 43 students from the Native American Cultural Center and the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center attended this year’s Leadership Retreat. The participants consisted of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and grad students from a variety of majors who took part in several activities throughout the weekend. Many activities, such as the Identity Board activity, created an opportunity for students to express themselves, while other activities like “the people pyramid” allowed students to develop team building and communication skills. Leadership skills were developed through workshops, and students also had the chance to listen to presentations on diversity and identity by CSU Professors Roe Bubar and Eric Ishiwata of the Ethnic Studies department. The Leadership Retreat is a great opportunity for students to get to know each other at the beginning of the year and interact with the staff of NACC and APACC.
Upcoming Events

December 14, 2012 - January 22, 2013  Winter Break
January 21, 2013  Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 22, 2013  First Day of Spring Semester
March 18-22, 2013  Spring Break

NACC is open from 8:00am - 5:00pm

Please visit www.nacc.colostate.edu or call 970-491-1331 for more information on events, programs and services.

Colorado State University is an equal access/equal opportunity university.

Message From the Director

Warm greetings from the Native American Cultural Center Office! On behalf of our office I would like to extend congratulations to all fall semester graduates and their families. This issue of the Indigenous Reader highlights the activities from late summer and throughout this semester. On the front page of our newsletter you will read about Native American Heritage Month which is celebrated not only on our campus but throughout the country. The American Indian Science & Engineering Society Chapter successfully held their annual Pow Wow in the newly renovated Lory Student Center Theatre. Our university was well represented by five Native students receiving scholarships at the 2012 Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce Gala. We are also proud of our partnership with the Denver Public School Indian Education Program to offer a week long science camp for 30 students ranging from 7th to 10th grade. This STEM camp focused on natural resources and renewable energy and was funded by the National Academy of Engineering. I hope you will agree that our year is off to a tremendous start. I hope you enjoy reading about our various events and programs in this issue.

Warm regards,
Ty Smith

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