

TCU's Native American and Indigenous Peoples Initiative for 2022-23 Academic Year
(as of 5-15-2023)

We remain since 2015 guided by the following goals:

1. To raise awareness of and respect for Native American peoples, cultures, and perspectives
2. To learn from and respectfully engage Native American knowledge(s) throughout all levels of the campus community
3. To create a welcoming and respectful environment on campus for Native American students, faculty, staff, and visitors
4. To build healthy, respectful, and mutually beneficial relationships with Native American peoples and communities

We continue to follow a model based on:

- Learning from (rather than about) Native American peoples (and avoiding the “scholar-as-expert” model)
- Working with individual faculty, departments, and programs at TCU to develop Native American programming and relationships that are relevant to their specific needs (rather than siloing campus efforts in a single department or program)

Building an Inclusive Infrastructure and Environment:

- The **Four Directions Scholars program** was approved in Spring 2023. Two four-year scholarships (fully funded tuition and room and board) will be awarded annually beginning in 2024-25 to first-year undergraduate students who are citizens of federal or state recognized tribes. A mentoring program will be established to support recipients.
- Discussions occurring over how to **institutionalize the position of Native American Nations and Communities Liaison**
- Developed, distributed, and placed on TCU's Native American and Indigenous Peoples Initiative [webpage](#) the **document, “Teaching with TCU's Land Acknowledgment and Native American monument”**
- Distributed and placed on TCU's Native American and Indigenous Peoples Initiative webpage the **infographic, “Why Use TCU's Land Acknowledgment?”** meant to encourage faculty and staff to use the Land Acknowledgment in courses and programs. Also developed and distributed a **poster** of the text of TCU's Land Acknowledgment and a **visual representation** of the Land Acknowledgment.
- Met with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee in **TCU's Housing and Residence Life** to brainstorm better representation of local Native American Nations in the university's residence halls and on campus

Building Inclusive Education, Programming, and Partnerships:

- TCU welcomed **two new hires in Native American-related fields** in Fall '22:
 - Dr. Pablo Montes is an Assistant Professor in Curriculum Studies in the College of Education and a descendant of the Chichimeca Guamares and P'urépecha people

from the valley of Huatzindeo, specifically from a small rancho called La Luz at the foot of the Culiacán mountain

- Dr. Abel Gomez is Assistant Professor of Religion with a concentration in Native American and Indigenous Spiritual Traditions and descends from Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, and Mexican lineages that migrated to the San Francisco Bay Area, the homeland of the Ohlone peoples
- **Meet-and-greet events** to introduce them to TCU faculty and the local Native American community held respectively on Sept. 13 (at TCU) and 17 (at the Urban Inter-Tribal Center in Dallas)
- TCU's **2022 Common Reading** (a program for incoming students) addressed the book, *The Marrow Thieves*, by Cherie Dimaline, a registered member of the Metis Nation of Ontario. The book is part of the broader field known as Indigenous futurisms.
 - Liaison led training sessions for faculty facilitators on Aug. 10 and 16
- **Native American-led programming at TCU:**
 - **Sixth Annual Native American and Indigenous Peoples Day symposium** held on Oct. 3; theme: "The Future is Indigenous: Popular Culture for the Seventh Generation"; main speaker: Miranda Due, a Pawnee/Cherokee interactive media and games producer; sponsors: Office of the Provost, Office of Student Identity & Engagement, and Native and Indigenous Student Association
 - **Panel presentation, "The U.S. Federal Indian Boarding School Report: What Does it Mean for TCU?"** with the Native America Advisory Circle's Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe and Chebon Kernell held on Oct. 24
 - **Koehler Center Workshop on "Teaching TCU's Native American Monument and Land Acknowledgment,"** led by Dr. Pablo Montes and others, held on Nov. 14
 - Series of presentations held on Nov. 7-11 as a **Premier Green Honors Chair program by Dr. Brenda Child (Red Lake Ojibwe)**, Northrop Professor of American Studies and former chair of the Departments of American Studies and the Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota; sponsors: AddRan College of Liberal Arts and College of Education
 - During this week, Dr. Child also met on Nov. 7 in Dallas with local Native American community leaders at the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas. On Nov. 8, she met with invited TCU leaders to discuss, "Supporting Indigenous Studies at TCU."
 - **Chickasaw Nation expo**, hosted by the Neeley School of Business and led by Neeley faculty member and Chickasaw Nation citizen, Layne Bradley, on Nov. 17 featuring historical and cultural presentations by Chickasaw Nation members and booths representing Chickasaw businesses
 - **Native American Storytelling presentation by Michael Tongkeamha (Kiowa)**, Outreach Director for Texas Native Health, held on Jan. 25 and hosted by TCU's Human-Animal Relationships program
 - **"Building Equity into Public Health by Utilizing a Community Driven Approach," Webinar with Dr. Melanie Nadeau (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians)**, Education Program Director and Assistant Professor for the Indigenous Health PhD program at the University of North Dakota School of

- Medicine & Health Sciences (Feb. 27, hosted by TCU's Service Learning and Academic Initiatives)
- **"Understanding Indigenous Identities at TCU" panel discussion** (Mar. 7)
 - Panelists: Joshua Arce (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation), President & CEO of Partnership With Native Americans and former Chief Information Officer of Haskell Indian Nations University
 - Dr. Les D. Riding In (Pawnee/Osage), Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Studies for the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Arlington
 - Chloe Hicks (Pueblo of Isleta), Vice-President of TCU's Native and Indigenous Student Association and a Movement Science major in the Kinesiology department on the pre-PA track
 - **"The School-Prison Trust"** (Mar. 21), a conquest strategy encompassing the boarding school and juvenile prison models) webinar
 - **"Understanding Tribal Sovereignty: Why the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas' Federal Recognition Restoration Anniversary is Important" panel discussion** (Apr. 3)
 - Panelists: Crystal Stephenson, Alabama-Coushatta of Texas Tribal Council Member
 - Roland Poncho, Alabama-Coushatta of Texas Tribal Council Member
 - Melanie Battise, Alabama-Coushatta of Texas Tribal Council Member and TCU Native American Advisory Circle Member
 - **"An Evening of Awareness"** panel discussion with members of MMIW TX Rematriate (Apr. 18)
 - Panelists: Jodi Voice Yellowfish, Diana Parton, and Scott Langston, members of MMIW TX Rematriate
 - Organized by Dr. Broc Sears' Strategic Communications course, STCO 48833, "Campaigns"
 - **Presentation about Texas Tribal Buffalo Project by their CEO & Founder, Lucille Contreras (Lipan Apache Band of Texas)** (Apr. 24, hosted by TCU's Human-Animal Relationships program)
 - Planning has begun for **TCU's Seventh Annual Native American and Indigenous Peoples Day symposium** (Oct. 2, 2023); theme: "TCU and Indigenous Relationships: Exploring the Past, Embracing the Present, Impacting the Future"
 - **TCU's Native and Indigenous Student Association** remains active and sees its Native and non-Native membership increase
 - On Aug. 30, Michael Tongkeamha (Kiowa; Outreach Director for the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas) led a "Blessing Ceremony" for NISA students and other invited guests as a way to begin the academic year in a good way
 - On Nov. 3, NISA members participated in the Amon Carter Museum's College Night as part of the Museum's exhibits, "Speaking with Light: Contemporary Indigenous Photography" and "Faces from the Interior: The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer"

- NISA members are working on a Native Nations Flags Project to display on campus tribal flags representing the nations of TCU's Native American students
- **Building relationships with various Native American communities and organizations**, including American Indian Heritage Day in Texas, the Indigenous Institute of the Americas, MMIW TX Rematriate, Texas Native Health (formerly, Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas), the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, the Chickasaw Nation, and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, and others. Liaison activities included:
 - Participated in and attended **various Native American ceremonies** in Oklahoma and Texas, including multiple Muscogee/Creek Stomp dances/ceremonies, the Kiowa Gourd Clan observance, and more
 - Attended on Sept. 20 the **Democracy is Indigenous meeting** between Beto O'Rourke (Texas gubernatorial candidate) and invited state and local Native American community leaders at the Dallas Indian Methodist Church
 - Represented TCU on Sept. 24 by working a booth at the **American Indian Heritage Day in Texas annual celebration** (Dallas)
 - Represented TCU on Oct. 1 by working a booth at the **Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas' 50th Anniversary celebration** (Dallas)
 - Helped arrange discussions occurring on Nov. 8 and Dec. 6 between representatives of **TCU's Neeley School of Business and members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council** regarding possible collaborations
 - Met on Jan. 27 with representatives from **BNSF Railway's North American Nations Business Resource Group** to discuss possible collaborations with TCU
 - Represented TCU on Feb. 7 at **Alabama-Coushatta Day at the State Capitol** (Austin)
 - Discussions currently being held with officers of the **Native American Business Association** about possible collaborations with TCU and attended NABA's in-person Networking Mixer on Feb. 15 (Arlington). Met with NABA's president on Apr. 17.
 - Volunteered at the **27th Annual UTA Scholarship Benefit Powwow** (Mar. 11)
 - Volunteered at the **Indigenous Institute of the Americas annual celebration** (Mar. 31 and Apr. 1-2, Cleburne)
- TCU's **MMIW Scholarship** for 2022-23 was awarded to Lauren Denham (citizen of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska; Political Science major)
- TCU's **Native American Advisory Circle** held its Fall meeting on Sept. 29 and gave guidance regarding possible themes for the 2023 Native American and Indigenous Peoples Day symposium and how it might connect to the university's 150th anniversary events, and also the possible Native American scholarship and mentoring program being considered at TCU. Spring meeting was held on Feb. 28. Reviewed current initiatives and discussed how we measure success regarding TCU's Native American initiatives.
- **Liaison met frequently with individual faculty, staff, and students** to discuss how Native American perspectives can be integrated into their individual courses and programs
- **Liaison's activities with individuals and academic and public organizations and businesses outside of TCU included:**

- **Native American Student Advocacy Institute Conference:** Presented with Dr. Les Riding-In (UTA) and Dr. Scott Amundsen (Winthrop University) on June 10, 2022 in the session, “Scribbled or Chiseled? Writing a Meaningful Land Acknowledgement Statement.” TCU’s experience in developing its Land Acknowledgement was addressed.
- Spoke on Aug. 16 at **Dallas Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation’s Racial Equity NOW Fort Worth Cohort meeting** on the topic, “Racial Healing and Relationship Building: What Native Americans are Teaching TCU”
- Met multiple times as part of the **American Indian Advisory group of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art** (Ft. Worth) to assist the museum in developing a Land Acknowledgment (to read it, see <https://www.cartermuseum.org/about>)
 - Represented TCU on Oct. 28-29 at the **opening of the Amon Carter Museum’s exhibits**, "Speaking with Light: Contemporary Indigenous Photography" and "Faces from the Interior: The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer"
 - Will meet with Museum staff on June 13 to discuss the Museum’s Land Acknowledgment and the process that led to its creation
- Spoke on Oct. 6 at the **Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth’s** film screening of “Haida Modern: The Art and Activism of Robert Davidson” (which tells the story of how the artist carved the first totem pole raised on the island of Haida Gwaii in over 100 years)
- Participated on Oct. 25 in the **Inaugural Dallas Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation/KERA DFW Racial History Project Advisory Group** meeting
- Presented on Nov. 9 as part of a panel discussion at the **Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration (Dallas)** on the topic, “Historic and Ongoing Impact of European and American Christianity on Native Americans”
- Presented on Nov. 15 as part of a panel discussion at **Texas Health Resources (Fort Worth)** on the topic, “Native American Allyship”
- Represented TCU on Nov. 15 at the **Consulate General of Canada (Dallas) and the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture’s** reception and official launch of Ha Jìè, a virtual installation of augmented reality sculptures that honor traditional Indigenous symbols of North America in recognition of Native American Heritage Month
- Presented on Nov. 29 to staff at the **Nasher Sculpture Center (Dallas)** on the topic, “Native Americans and North Texas”
- Presented on Nov. 30 at **Tarrant County College (Northeast) Connect Native American Heritage Month** on the topic, “Dealing with the Ongoing Legacy of American Colonization in North Texas”
- Met on Jan. 23 with **Fort Worth’s Heritage Park Project** group to discuss Native American representation in the project
- Presented on Feb. 1 as part of a virtual panel discussion at the **National Native American Summit, Arizona Diversity Council (part of the National Diversity Council)** on the topic, “Should Your Organization Consider a Land Acknowledgment?”

- Presented on Feb. 16 at the **Texas Center for Working Class Studies Conference** (Collin College, Plano) in the "Native Americans and the Working Class: Historical, Social, and Cultural Factors" session on the topic, "Relocation of Native Americans to the DFW Metroplex 1950's-1970's"
- Met on Feb. 23 with **representatives of Panther City Lacrosse** (Fort Worth) to discuss possible collaborations
- Met with representatives of **Lone Star College** (Montgomery, TX) on Mar. 28 to discuss how they might develop Native American programming and relationships. Arranged meeting between them and representatives of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas.
- Met on Apr. 12 with members of **Sisters of St. Mary of Namur** (Ft. Worth) to discuss their community's history and relationships with Native Americans
- Consulted multiple times with Arts Fort Worth in April-May regarding Native American representations in the interpretative text for the historic murals at the **Will Rogers Memorial Center** (Ft. Worth)
- Met multiple times with members of the **Westside Unitarian Universalist Church** regarding their development of a land acknowledgment and spoke to the congregation on Apr. 30 on "Reflections on developing respectful relationships: TCU's Native American Land Acknowledgment"
- Continued participation in the development of **Grand Prairie ISD's American Indian/Native Studies course** for Texas high school students
 - Spoke at AI/NS Community of Practice session on May 2 on TCU's Land Acknowledgment and on being a Native American ally
- Spoke at **Kessler Park United Methodist Church** on May 3 on "Dealing with Colonization's Historical and Ongoing Legacy in the DFW Metroplex"
- Will met with Erika Pelletier, Associate Director of the Texas and Oklahoma Regional Office of the **National Parks Conservation Association**, on May 18 to discuss relationships between the Association and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Will participate as a panelist at the **35th Annual National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education** (May 30-June 3, 2023, New Orleans) session on "You've Acknowledged the Land, Now What?: Creating Credibility and Implementing Post-Land Acknowledgement Strategies"
- Liaison is co-editing a **book on Indigenous perspectives on TCU's relationships with Indigenous peoples and the lands it has inhabited** throughout its history with Dr. Theresa Gaul (English) and Annette Anderson (member, TCU's Native American Advisory Circle) to be published by TCU Press