

## TCU's Native American and Indigenous Peoples Initiative in 2021-22

### Building an Inclusive Infrastructure and Environment:

- Debut of the university's Land Acknowledgment (see, [here](#))
  - TCU's Land Acknowledgement was read during the 2021 Convocation ceremonies, marking the first time in TCU's history that such an acknowledgment was made at a major university event. It is increasingly being used at events across campus.
  - *USA Today* featured TCU's Land Acknowledgment in the article, "What are tribal land acknowledgments? Native American leaders say words and actions are needed" (see, [here](#))
  - Through the leadership of Lauren Denham (Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska), TCU's Student Government Association overwhelmingly passed a resolution encouraging faculty to include the Land Acknowledgement on their syllabi. A resolution also passed adding the Land Acknowledgment to the Student Government Code.
- TCU Marketing developed the Native American and Indigenous Peoples Initiative [webpage](#). It continues to receive lots of praise especially from those outside of TCU who find the many resources housed on it to be useful.
- TCU's Native American Advisory Circle created and distributed, "A Guide to Recruiting Native American Employees and Students at TCU" (see, [here](#))
  - For an outstanding example of how to intentionally seek out Native American candidates, see the stellar efforts led by Darren Middleton as chairperson of a recent faculty search
- NBC5 DFW aired as part of its "Conversations: A Call for Change" series a report on "TCU Works to Improve Relationship With Native American Community," featuring Cherokee student, Hailey Chiariello (see, [here](#))
- Two works of art by the contemporary Comanche/Kiowa artist, J. NiCole Hatfield, "Based on Mrs. Jack Treetop-Standing Rock 1908" and "Based on Quanah Parker" Kwahadi Band of Comanche, were purchased and installed on the first floor of the Harrison (see, [here](#))
- Through the efforts of Frederick Gooding (Honors College; Race and Reconciliation Initiative), TCU's Native American monument and a detailed description have been added as a campus landmark to the university's [campus interactive map](#).

### Building Inclusive Education, Programming, and Partnerships:

- TCU's Native American Advisory Circle created and distributed, "A Guide to Engaging Native American Perspectives in Courses and Programs" (see, [here](#))
- TCU, through the sponsorship of the Office of the Provost and the Neeley School of Business, held its fifth annual Native American and Indigenous Peoples Day symposium, whose theme was "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People: From Awareness to Action" (see, [here](#))

- The Native and Indigenous Student Association and the Religion department sponsored a panel discussion with three Native American leaders on “A Frank Discussion about American Indian Boarding Schools, Christianity, and Their Legacies” (see, [here](#))
- The Campus Community Response Team, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Student Affairs, and Office of Student Identity and Engagement sponsored, “Know Better, Do Better: The History of Thanksgiving,” a conversation with and honoring of four local Native American leaders
- Marie Schein (Center for Languages and Cultures) organized “A Conversation with Wendi Sierra” (Oneida citizen and Assistant Professor of Game Studies in the John V. Roach Honors College)
- TCU’s Mary Coats Burnett Library observed Native American Heritage month by creating a display of Native American fiction, non-fiction and children’s books
- Through Rosangela Boyd’s leadership (Office for Community Engagement), a webinar was held on “Decolonizing Approaches to Inclusive Campuses: Lessons from Indigenous Perspectives”
- Under Marie Stark’s leadership (Harris College of Nursing), TCU Public Health Clinical Nursing students carried out a service-learning project and educational event for the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas on maternal and infant safety, health, and wellbeing
- The Sociology and Anthropology Department’s Sustainability and Social Justice series and the Religion department sponsored two sessions: "What it means to be a Diné (Navajo) woman: A conversation with Tabitha Tan" and "What it means to be a Coahuiltecan /Mexican man: A conversation with Evelio Flores"
- Discussions began on the formation of the Colonization in Dallas-Fort Worth Project, a collaboration of local individuals, institutions, and Native American nations and communities
- Two TCU students received the university’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s scholarship
- TCU’s Native and Indigenous Student Association continues to gain momentum as its Native and non-Native membership and enthusiasm increases
- Numerous requests for help and guidance from individuals and academic and public organizations and businesses outside of TCU were received and addressed
- Work has begun on multiple initiatives with the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas
- We continue to work and build relationships with American Indian Heritage Day in Texas, the Indigenous Institute of the Americas, MMIW TX Rematriate, the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, the Chickasaw Nation, and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Planning is underway for TCU’s sixth annual Native American and Indigenous Peoples Day symposium (Oct. 3, 2022), whose theme will be, “The Future is Indigenous: Popular Culture for the Seventh Generation”
- Study of TCU’s history with Native Americans continues, including how TCU came to possess Native American lands, the relationship of its founders with colonization efforts, its curricular and research history regarding Native Americans, and the presence and absence of Native Americans as students, faculty, and administrators