

### The Office of Indian Education Newsletter

Fiscal Year 2023, Issue 2



Hello, everyone! The school year is wrapping up and it already feels like summer! Many of you are gearing up to launch summer programs and activities, and hopefully many of you are taking some time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends.

This edition of the newsletter brings lots of great news, exciting events, and useful resources. We share two new grant competitions, present interesting summer reading resources, spotlight a DCE grantee, feature news regarding Pride Month and the Student Artist Competition, and highlight a number of upcoming events. We also want to hear from you about the types of features and information you would like to see in future editions of the OIE newsletter. Use the link below to share your great ideas!

Share your suggestion here!



### **State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP)**

The purposes of STEP are to: (1) promote Tribal self determination in education; (2) improve the academic achievement of Indian children and youth; and (3) promote the coordination and collaboration of Tribal educational agencies (TEAs), as defined in this notice, with State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) to meet the unique education and culturally related academic needs of Indian students.

Read the full <u>Notice Inviting Applications</u>, watch the <u>Pre-Application Webinar</u>, and find all the <u>details</u> on this grant competition. Applications are due July 3, 2023.

## Demonstration Grants for Indian Children and Youth Program - Native American Teacher Retention Initiative (NATRI)

The purpose of the Demonstration program is to provide financial assistance to projects that develop, test, and demonstrate the effectiveness of services and programs to improve the educational opportunities and achievement of Indian students attending preschool, elementary, and secondary schools. This competition will fund projects that meet the purpose of the Demonstration program as described in the absolute priority and encourages projects that support Native American teacher retention in keeping with the directive from the joint explanatory statement and in recognition of the positive impact that Native American teachers have on educational opportunities and achievement for Native American students. Through an invitational priority, the Department encourages projects that provide Native American teachers with leadership responsibilities, facilitate professional learning with peers, and help develop resources to meet students' unique academic and social-emotional needs.

Read the full <u>Notice Inviting Applications</u>, register for the <u>Pre-Application Webinars</u>, and find all the <u>details on this grant competition</u>. Applications are due July 24, 2023.



## Office of Indian Education Student Artist Competition

This year's Student Artist Competition (SAC) has concluded and winners have been selected! The 2023 competition theme was "I Am the Future" and we received amazing art and writing entries from across the nation. Winners of this year's competition will be announced at the OIE Project Directors Meeting. Stay tuned for the June newsletter where the winners will be recognized and you can download their work as a poster and bookmark.

### **Tribal Regalia at Graduation**

On May 25, 2023, Oklahoma Senate Bill 429 became law protecting the rights of students to wear Tribal regalia during official graduation ceremonies. It guarantees the right for students in Oklahoma K-12 public schools, charter schools, technical schools and universities to wear Tribal regalia during official graduation ceremonies. Many graduation dress codes do not recognize sacred and cultural items Native students wear in times of ceremonies and honor. SB 429 makes it clear that schools must allow Native students to wear tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies. This is the latest news in a national movement protecting Native students' right to celebrate their graduation through honoring their heritage, traditions, community, and ancestors by wearing Tribal regalia.





Check out Toronto Public Library's <u>Indigenous</u> <u>Celebrations Series</u> featuring virtual and inperson events (all recorded and posted after), a selection of Indigenous reading lists, blogs, podcasts, and more.

Black Walnut Books, an Indigenous owned bookstore, hosts the Indigenous and Lit Book Club where members can share their thoughts, ideas, resources, and information about contemporary Native American literature. A monthly virtual book club and Facebook group keep the dialogue going between meetings.

### **Summer Reading**

Summer reading is critical, not only for helping kids maintain learning while school is out, but also for fostering social-emotional development, discovering the joy of stories, and elevating the importance of lifelong learning. We will be sharing resources and ideas for summer reading each month in the OIE newsletter. Use these ideas with your students and maybe even find a great new book for yourself!

The We Are Kid Lit Collective selects books by and about BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) persons, with attention to their intersecting identities. Chosen books are thoroughly selected, discussed, and vetted by two or more members so that they can be free of microagressions, stereotypes, or vestiges of imperialism. Their new 2023 Summer Reading List highlights books for early childhood through adult readers.

What is your favorite Indigenous book (youth or adult) or a great new one you just read and must share? Share your favorites and we'll feature them in an upcoming newsletter!



# Grand View Elementary School District (NYCP-DCE Grantee)

Ms. Darlene Littledeer was recently named the Cherokee Nation Teacher of the Year at ceremonies held at Cherokee Nation School Appreciation Day in Catoosa, Oklahoma. Grand View Board Members and Superintendent Dr. Ben gave special recognition to Ms. Littledeer for going above and beyond teaching third-graders during the school day and teaching Cherokee language and culture during after-school time.





June is Pride Month! We've gathered a few resources to help you support your LGBTQIA2+ youth and families. The acronym LGBTQIA2+ represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual/ally, two-spirit, and the + acknowledges other identities that are not included. Two-Spirit is an umbrella term for Native people who have both male and female spirits and acknowledges different gender identities present

- <u>Safe and Caring Schools for Two Spirit Youth</u> is a brief but informative window into the challenges that many Two Spirit students face within educational settings as well as contribute practical suggestions that teachers can use to begin addressing these multilayered issues.
- Sharing Our Lived Experiences: 22 Tips for Caring for Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ Youth in the Child Welfare System was created to support child welfare workers, foster and adoptive

- parents, and caregivers in working with and caring for Two-Spirit and LGBTQ American Indian/Alaska Native children and youth involved with the child welfare system. These tips are also helpful for educators and other Tribal community members that wish to be allies to their young relatives.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's <u>Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Center</u> has conducted several webinars related to Two Spirit and transgender identities in Tribal communities. Recorded past webinars, their newsletter, and other resources are all available online.

### Do You Follow Us on Twitter?

Here's an example of what you're missing if you don't! We share upcoming events, funding opportunities, useful resources, and interesting news stories.

We'd love to stay connected. Follow us **@OIEIndianEd!** 



### **Save the Dates for These Events**

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference - The Ninth Gathering Vancouver, BC Canada | September 11-15, 2023

This event takes place only every four years and welcomes thousands of delegates from participating Nations in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Hawai'i. The 2023 theme is Celebrating Resiliency. Activities will include Indigenous-led workshops and panels on health innovation and transformation, trauma-informed healing, health governance, and Elder and Youth wellness. Join and engage in the healing power of traditional Indigenous knowledge, cultures and teachings at HOSW 2023.

## NK360 Summer Series: Selecting Indigenous Images for Your Classroom Virtual | July 11 and 18, 2023, at 4 p.m. ET

This <u>free webinar</u> will examine why commonly used imagery and language about Native peoples are detrimental to student understanding of Native histories and cultures. Join celebrated Native American contemporary graphic artists Michael Sheyahshe (Caddo) and Dr. Lee Francis IV (Laguna Pueblo) in conversation with Supervisory Curator Jennifer Shannon. They will discuss the challenges of navigating entrenched stereotyped images and how they use graphic novels to combat preconceived notions of Indigenous people. Explore how to use these award winning artists' NK360 imagery as well as their graphic novel and comic book art in the classroom.

#### **SXSW EDU Conference and Festival**

Virtual | Session Viewing: On-Demand, Panel Picker: June 27-July 23, 2023

SXSW EDU is an annual event that fosters innovation and learning within the education industry. They

believe that education has the power to inspire, elevate, and change the future. They bring together the learner, the practitioner, the entrepreneur, and the visoionary to share their groundbreaking stories, tackle complex issues, and build reimagined paths forward. It is an unfettered, inspired and passionate community that will collectively create a new tomorrow for learners everywhere and drive impact. This four-day event that takes place each March in Austin offering compelling sessions, indepth workshops, engaging learning experiences, mentoriship, film screenings, future-focused competitions, an expo, and networking opportunities.

Select sessions are recorded and available free on-demand after each year's event. Check out the <a href="SXSW EDU Online Events Playlist">SXSW EDU Online Events Playlist</a> for sessions such as Finding Identity Through Poetry, Art, and Nature with Michaela Goade, Joy Harjo, and Mandy Smoker Broaddus and Culture Change: Transforming Native Higher Ed with Angelique Albert and Henrietta Mann.

If you are interested in presenting at the 2024 event, proposals for the <u>Panel Picker</u> process are due between June 27-July 23, 2023. Registration to attend next year's event in-person or online will open later in the summer.

### 54th Annual NIEA Convention and Trade Show Albuquerque, New Mexico | October 18-21, 2023

The NIEA Convention and Trade Show theme this year is Education Sovereignty. It Begins with Us. Join Tribal leaders, Native advocates, parents, elders, and students from across the country who are working to transform Native learning systems. As part of the convention, NIEA holds a free Educator Day on October 18 and a free Student Day on October 20. <u>Early bird registration</u> runs through July 28, 2023.



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