

CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES



The Gift is In the Journey

ACADEMICS & RESEARCH

The NMU Center for Native American Studies offers students an interdisciplinary minor in Native American Studies (NAS). Over twenty courses are available. Here is a sample list of courses: *Anishinaabe Language, Culture and Community*; *Tribal Law and Government*; *Indigenous Environmental Movements*; *History of Indian Boarding School Education*; *American Indian Education*; *First Nations Women*; and *American Indians: Identity and Media Images*.

Students can also create a major known as the Individually Created Program with a Native American Studies focus. Students can inquire about this from NAS faculty.

Beginning in the fall of 2011, Native American Studies provides the American Indian Education concentration for the only Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) endorsed graduate program focusing on educational leadership.

The Center is leading an academic research movement exploring the relationship between people and Indigenous foods of the Great Lakes region.

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, the Center for Native American Studies in cooperation with the NMU Press will be releasing an anthology of creative works entitled, *Voice on the Water: Great Lakes Native America Now*.

NMU provides free tutoring, a writing skills center and the First Year Experience program, which assists incoming freshman with their transition to college. Additionally, the Center has its own resource room with books, journal articles, and DVDs.

STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

Students bring a special energy to the NMU campus. The Native American Student Association meets weekly at the Center during the academic year and promotes cultural programming on campus, including the annual pow wow, First Nations Food Taster and other events.

Recently recognized by *Indian Country Today News Network*, the Native American Student Empowerment Initiative works to build community among American Indian students attending NMU. The initiative is student-centered and blends academic experiences with cultural experiences in an effort to increase graduation success.

The Center also maintains a traditional fire site on campus. Those who wish to use this area need only request it ahead of time.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

With five reservation communities in the Upper Peninsula, a large Native American population in Marquette and more than 250 Native American students at NMU, the center works hard to stay connected.

Staff often meet with tribal school officials, tribal college representatives and Title VII Indian education coordinators. The Center has hosted the *Upper Peninsula Indian Education* conference for 15 years—a free program for any educator who works with Native children—as well as the *Indigenous Earth Issues Summit*.

The Center has worked with the Cedar Tree Institute and the United States Forest Service on the Zaagkii Project. This multi-faceted project afforded NMU students the opportunity to interview Native elders and culture bearers. These interviews will be featured on a website entitled, "Learning from the Earth."

The Center has worked with several academic partners and Marquette General Hospital to create the College Prep Medicine Wheel Academy to introduce the health sciences to Native American students in high school.

The Center also partners with the Hannahville Indian School and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to offer leadership programs for American Indian youth in the summer.

The Center also contributes to several campus and community projects, such as the UNITED Conference, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. week-long celebration, Young Wildcat Scholars, Beaumier Heritage Center activities and Native American Heritage Month events.

April Lindala, Director
Center for Native American Studies
Northern Michigan University
1401 Presque Isle Avenue
Marquette, Michigan 49855



Phone: 906-227-1397
Fax: 906-227-1396
Email: cnas@nmu.edu
Web site: www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans
Find the Center on Facebook and FLICKR.