



# **Understanding and Serving Native American Students**

# **Welcome to the Session**

**I invite you to collaborate and participate in a conversation about serving Native American students. The Native American student population is unique and understanding his/her connection to family and community is invaluable. My goal is to provide you ways to utilize/provide resources in helping to create, build, and reframe relationships to best serve Native students.**

# Introductions for Participants

**Name**

**Educational background**

**Professional background**

**Current work with Native students**

**What brought you to attend this session?**

***What is one burning question you have?***

## **Understanding systemic structures to best serve Native students/communities**

- **Socio-cultural factors (i.e. generational poverty)**
- **Historical education background- boarding schools**
- **College going culture - absent or framed from a non-dominant lens**
- **Infrastructure needs to be expanded (i.e. lack of technology)**
- **Traditional dances, ceremonies, and annual events**
- **Native students have a story to tell**

# Spectrum of Identities

- **Traditional Students**
- **Urban Indians**
- **Variety of Personal Identities- how Native students can identify differently**
  - **Blood quantum/enrollment**
  - **Connection/exposure to tribe, culture, traditions**
  - **Focus less on oppression but survival**

# Strengths of Native Students

- Strong traditions and culture
- Story
- Intelligent (resilient)
- Respectful
- Close community
- Desire to give back
- Listeners

# Support for Native Students

- **Challenge the dominant norms that inform how things have been done (Family Education Model)**
- **Creating a meeting space/ center**
- **Hosting a meal/ lunch**
- **Include family members and elders to be involved**
- **Connecting with teacher/ professional of Native American background on campus**
- **Learning about tribal background students are coming from**
- **Student Organizations**
- **Special Events on campus (not just November)**

# Recruiting Native Students

- **Do the institutions have an existing Native community?**
  - **Faculty, students, and outside of university setting**
- **Are there support services in place for Native students?**
  - **Multicultural Affairs, diversity group, affinity group, Diversity Fly-In Programs, etc.**
- **Is there anyone in admissions that understands the culture and the challenges facing Native students?**
- **Recruitment Efforts:**
  - **Reservation travel, border towns, cities close to reservations, Pow Wows, etc.**



- **What if I am not the expert?**

- You do not have to be the expert! Don't be afraid to be the trailblazer and take risks
- Autonomy is key with students of color and especially Native American students
- Be cognizant of what you vocalize and promises you make (you will be held to them)
  - Genuineness
  - Consistency

# Brain Storming Ideas

**Who will you invite to join your table?**

**Allies where you work~ who are they?**

- Brainstorm faculty members
  - Professionals of color
  - Department Chairs
- Community Tribal Members and organizations

## **You cannot do this work alone**

- **Replenish your own resources**
  - **Attending conferences (RMACAC and NACAC)**
  - **Community Based Organizations (CBO)**
  - **Surrounding yourself with like minded people**

- **We cannot do this work solo and need to have others come join**
  
- **Programs**
  - College Horizons
  - Graduate Horizons
  - College Board NASAI
  - AISES
  - AIGC (American Indian Graduate Center)

# Resources

**Recommended Reading:  
Decolonizing Methodologies  
Research and Indigenous Peoples-  
Linda Tuhiwai Smith**

**Beyond the Asterisk: Understanding  
Native Students in Higher Education-  
Shelly C. Lowe, Heather J. Shotton,  
Stephanie J. Waterman**

BEYONDTHE ASTERISK



UNDERSTANDING NATIVE STUDENTS  
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

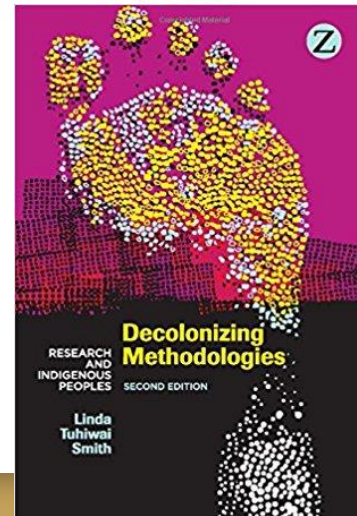
EDITED BY HEATHER SHOTTON, SHELLY C. LOWE,  
AND STEPHANIE J. WATERMAN  
FOREWORD BY DR. JOHN GARLAND

BEYOND ACCESS



INDIGENIZING PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE  
AMERICAN STUDENT SUCCESS

EDITED BY STEPHANIE J. WATERMAN, SHELLY C. LOWE,  
AND HEATHER J. SHOTTON

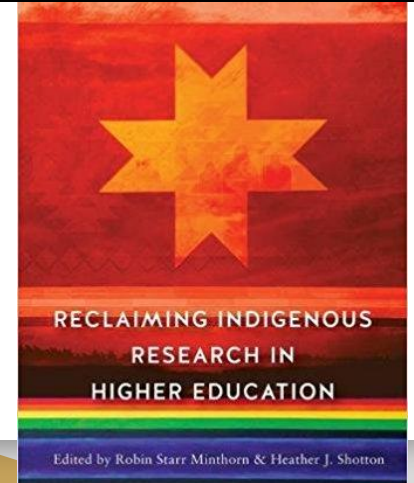


RESEARCH  
AND  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES

**Decolonizing  
Methodologies**

SECOND EDITION

Linda  
Tuhiwai  
Smith



RECLAIMING INDIGENOUS  
RESEARCH IN  
HIGHER EDUCATION

Edited by Robin Starr Minthorn & Heather J. Shotton

**Thank you for attending this  
session.**

**“Viewed from the landscape of Indian  
country, each and every young person  
who makes it to college is a precious  
resource.”**

**~ K. Tsianina Lomawaima**

# Contact Information

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