

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

**INDIGENOUS KANSAS:
Past, Present, and Future**



OCTOBER 10, 2022

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI CENTER**

Manhattan, Kansas

k-state.edu/indigenous-alliance

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Indigenous Faculty & Staff Alliance





PAULINE SHARP

PAST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE KAW NATION CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Pauline (Kaw) currently serves as Chair of the Kanza Heritage Society, a 501(c)(3) not for profit whose mission is the preservation of the heritage, history, and legacy of the Kaw People through education, site preservation and cultural activities. Pauline has served on the Kaw Nation Cultural Committee as well as the Board of Trustees of the Mid-American All-Indian Center in Wichita. She is a juried member of the Kansas Alliance of Professional Historical Performers and a teaching artist for Arts Partners in Wichita Public Schools.

Pauline retired in 2012 from a long career in Information Technology. Today she tells the story of the Kanza People through a 1st person historical performance of her Grandmother, Lucy Tayiah Eads, 1st woman Chief of the Kaw People and adopted daughter of Chief Washunga.

10:20 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

BREAK

10:30 A.M. - 11:20 A.M.

SHAWNEE HISTORIES AND CONTINUED PRESENCE IN KANSAS

(K-State Alumni Center Ballroom)



BEN BARNES

SHAWNEE TRIBE CHIEF

Ben currently serves as the Chief of the Shawnee Tribe. Prior to becoming Chief, he worked as a Shawnee language volunteer alongside his brother in hopes to revive the Shawnee language. Upon taking office with only a small number of fluent Shawnee speakers remaining, Chief Barnes declared a State of Emergency for the Shawnee Language and declared 2021-2030 the Decade of the Shawnee language. Ben is also a member of his people's traditional, religious community at White Oak Oklahoma. From this frame of reference, he hopes to guide the Shawnee Tribe's future, recognizing the importance of preserving the culture, language, and religion of the Shawnee to inform the crafting of tribal policy and law.

11:20 A.M. - 11:35 A.M.

GRAB BOXED LUNCH

11:35 A.M. - 12:20 P.M.

LUNCH PANEL - KANSAS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURES

(Main Ballroom)

Moderator: LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin (Diné), Director - Multicultural Engineering Program, Co-Chair - K-State Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance

Debra Bolton (Ohkay Owingeh), Director of Intercultural Learning and Faculty in Social Transformation Department (Social Change in Native America)

12:30 P.M. - 1:20 P.M.

TRIBAL LEADERSHIP IN KANSAS ROUNDTABLE

(K-State Alumni Center Ballroom)

Moderator: Alex Red Corn (Osage), Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Co-Chair – K-State Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance, Executive Director – Kansas Association for Native American Education (KANAE)



LESTER RANDALL

*CHAIRMAN OF THE KICKAPOO TRIBE IN KANSAS,
MEMBER OF HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS*

Coming soon



JOSEPH "ZEKE" RUPNICK

CHAIRMAN OF THE PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION

Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick serves in the role of Tribal Council Chairman as part of the elected seven-member governing body of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Prior to his position on Tribal Council, Chairman Rupnick served our country as a Calvary Scout and was honorably discharged from the Army after serving 13 years on active duty. He most recently worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for 9 years, completing his tenure with the VA as the Senior Management Analyst for the Western Orbit of the Heartland Network. Academically, Chairman Rupnick first graduated from Intermountain Intertribal Indian School in Brigham City, Utah and has a master's degree in business administration from Baker University. Additionally, he has a concentration in Health Care Administration from Ottawa University.



OLIVIA BRIEN

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, IOWA TRIBE OF KANSAS AND NEBRASKA

Olivia Brien is a citizen of and the Director of Communications for the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. She attended Oklahoma City University, earning a BFA in Acting and a BA in Music. After school, she lived with her wife, Ashley, in sunny Long Beach, California, before returning home to Kansas to be nearer their families and more involved with the Ioway tribe. Olivia serves in leadership positions for the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska's Arts & Culture Committee and Powwow Committee. She is the tribe's representative and a voting member of the Kansas Advisory Council for Indigenous Education - Working Group (KACIE-WG) and is assisting the Ioway tribe in developing a tribal education department. Additionally, Olivia sits as a board member for Limestone Community School, a community-focused school specializing in project-based learning in Lawrence, Kansas. Lastly, Olivia owns and operates Opal Wax, an eco-friendly candle company (opalwax.com). She enjoys sewing and beading, attending Kansas City Current games, and tap dancing in her free time. Most of all, she loves spending time at her home in Lawrence with her wife and their two tuxedo kitties, Mildred and Imogen.

TBD (Sac and Fox)

1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

BREAKOUTS

SESSION 1: LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PANEL

(Lecture Room, 3rd Floor)

Moderator: Alex Red Corn (Osage), Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Co-Chair – K-State Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance, Executive Director – Kansas Association for Native American Education (KANAE)



STORM BRAVE

KAW NATION LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Desiree "Storm" Brave is the Kaá'ze íe (Kaw Language) Director and Master Teacher for the Kaá'ze Níkashi'ga (Kaw People). As Master Teacher, Ms. Brave boasts many accomplishments. One in particular is the massive growth in participation and interest among the Kaá'ze Níkashi'ga and their language. She currently teaches 100 students at separate classroom sites in Kaw City, in Newkirk, on Zoom, and at both Kaá'ze Childcare facilities. This number continues to grow daily. The Immersion Class she established is in its sixth year and has 10 students that attend faithfully. Ms. Brave's great grandmother was the late Maude Rowe. Maude was the last fluent speaker of the Kaá'ze Níkashi'ga and was a major component of language revitalization efforts of the Kaá'ze íe Department, the information provided by Maude is still in use today.

Ms. Brave started attending the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair with her language teacher, Dr. Justin McBride, when she was in kindergarten. She participated every year until she graduated high school alongside her brother, Dewey. Ms. Brave and her brother assisted Dr. McBride with many activities while building the Kaw Nation Language Department. For instance, they created a board game similar to monopoly using Kaá'ze íe and were utilized in development of the Kaá'ze íe app for iOS.

Ms. Brave is Kaá'ze, Wazhazhe, Citizen Potawatomi, and Cherokee. Her maternal grandparents are the late Elmer and Naomi Clark, Kaá'ze and Citizen Band Potawatomi, respectively. Her mother is Little Carol Clark, Kaá'ze/Citizen Potawatomi; her father is David Brave, Osage/Cherokee. Ms. Brave resides in Kaw City, Oklahoma with her two daughters, Maudie May and Tiger Vera Jones, her son, Maxwell Brave, and her companion, Laken McConnell.

Ms. Brave has been studying Kaá'ze íe since she was five years old and prays that someday, with constant dedication, to build the most successful language department in her tribe's history. She hopes to produce speakers that will be able to pass this language down for many generations to come.



VANN BIGHORSE

OSAGE NATION SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, K-STATE ALUMNUS

(See above for bio.)



CARRIE WHITLOW

**DIRECTOR OF THE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
K-STATE ADULT LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP DOCTORAL STUDENT**

Carrie is an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and is descendant from the Kiowa and Muscogee Creek Tribes. Her Arapaho name is Nanak'ate Hisea, which means Light or Yellowhair Woman and was given to her by her grandmother the late Violet Berniece Franklin. She currently serves as the Executive Director for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education. She is also a third year doctoral student at Kansas State University pursuing a Ph.D. in Adult Learning and Leadership. Ms. Whitlow's research interests include Indigenous female leadership, Indigenous feminism, and Tribal Education Departments (TEDs)/Tribal Education Agencies (TEAs).

**SESSION 2: MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS
WOMEN, GIRLS, TWO-SPIRIT, AND TRANS PEOPLE
(MMIWG2ST):
LEGISLATION AND DEVELOPMENTS IN KANSAS
(PURPLE PRIDE CONFERENCE ROOM - 3RD FLOOR)**

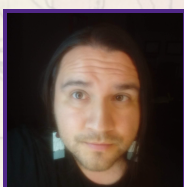
Moderator: Brandon Haddock (Cherokee), Student Services Coordinator, LGBTQ Resource Center, Intercultural Learning and Academic Success, K-State Diversity and Multicultural Student Affairs



CHRISTINA HASWOOD

KANSAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 10

Christina Haswood has a public health background and is a lifelong district resident of District 10, which she represents in the Kansas House of Representatives. At age 28, Christina is amongst the younger members of the Kansas Legislature and is one of three Native Americans elected into the 2021-2022 Legislative session. Christina attended Prairie Park Elementary, Billy Mills Middle School, and Lawrence High School (class of 2012), where she played varsity basketball, volleyball, and the violin in the orchestra. After graduation, she moved on to in-district Haskell Indian Nations University where she persevered to achieve an Associate's degree in Community Health. She then transferred to Arizona State University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Public Health. Most recently, Christina graduated with a Master's in Public Health Management from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 2020. Christina lives in Lawrence and currently works as a contractor when not in the Kansas Legislative Session.



ROBERT HICKS

PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE

Robert Hicks Jr. is a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Nixon Nevada. He is the head of Lawrence's MMIWG2ST chapter and lead chair of the city's Indigenous Community Center. Robert's MMIWG2ST work includes handling active cases, building a data hub, advocating for families, and building relationships with law enforcement agencies. Hicks is also a musician, filmmaker, painter, and audio engineer. He has won multiple awards for his films at the AIHEC film festival and plans on creating a creative outlet with his film studio, NOKWSI FILMS. Robert is currently enrolled at the University of North Dakota in the Indigenous Health PhD program. You can contact him through email at Robert.Hicksicc@gmail.com or through Nokwsiart.com.



MELISSA POLL

INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR

In Kansas, Melissa lives and works on the ancestral territory of many Indigenous Nations, including the Kaw, the Osage, and the Pawnee. Kansas is currently home to the Prairie Band Potawatomi, the Kickapoo, the Iowa, and the Sac and Fox Nations. In Vancouver, she occupies the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh), and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Melissa is grateful to these Nations.

SESSION 3: IN'ZHÚJE'WAXÓBE: THE REPATRIATION OF THE SACRED RED ROCK PROJECT

(Online/Zoom Hybrid - Truitt Conference Room)

Moderator: Debra Bolton (Ohkay Owingeh), Director of Intercultural Learning and Faculty in Social Transformation Department (Social Change in Native America)



C. HUFFMAN

KAW HERITAGE SOCIETY

C. Huffman (Citizen, Kaw Nation/Potawatomi descendent) taught Comparative Religion with a focus on religion and social justice for ten years at Hunter College before working as language director with a language revitalization grant for the Kaw Nation for a year and a half. She has worked with coalitions, Name the Change and the Between a Rock and a Hard Place, with the goal of raising awareness and facilitating systemic change, particularly in Kansas, her ancestral homeland. Her poetry and writing has appeared in a variety of places. She now serves as the Learning and Engagement Specialist for the Kanza Heritage Society, working on intersectional advocacy with a particular focus on dis/ability and Indigenous issues.



TAI S. EDWARDS

*DIRECTOR OF THE KANSAS STUDIES INSTITUTE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE*

Tai is a history professor and director of the Kansas Studies Institute (KSI) at Johnson County Community College in the Kansas City metro area. Her scholarship has focused on colonization, Indigenous peoples, gender, and disease. Her book *Osage Women and Empire: Gender and Power* was published by University Press of Kansas in 2018. She has collaborated on a variety of projects, including "Between the Rock and a Hard Place" and "I'zhúje'waxóbe/Sacred Red Rock" that have worked toward rematriation of a sacred boulder to the Kaw Nation. She is also an officer in the Kansas Association for Native American Education (KANAE) and the Kansas Association of Historians (KAH).

SESSION 4: KU - HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY K-STATE: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

(Powercat Conference Room)

Moderator: LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin (Diné), Director - Multicultural Engineering Program, Co-Chair - K-State Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance



MELISSA PETERSON

DIRECTOR OF TRIBAL RELATIONS - UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Melissa (Diné) serves as the Director of Tribal Relations at the University of Kansas. In addition to addressing the needs of Native American students and strengthen ties to tribal communities, Peterson is the Associate Executive Director for the Kansas Association of Native American Education (KANAE). She not only advocates for Native Americans at KU but has a strong commitment to Native people in the Lawrence community and across Indian Country. Peterson, born and raised on the Navajo Nation, is of the Tł'ízí lání clan (Many Goats) born for the Todíh'í'nii clan (Bitter Water). Peterson holds a masters of public health degree from the KU Medical Center and anticipates completing her doctorate of education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies - Higher Education Administration from KU.



LORI HASSLEMAN

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SUCCESS COORDINATOR - UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Lori is a citizen of the Shawnee and Delaware Tribes of Oklahoma. She earned a BA in Indigenous and American Indian Studies and an AA in Media Communication at Haskell Indian Nations University. Lori went on to earn an MSEd in Higher Education Administration from KU. While at Haskell, Lori was recognized by the Kansas House of Representatives for outstanding leadership following her collaborative work leading to the passage of the Indigenous People's Day proclamation by the City of Lawrence. After graduate school, Lori returned to Haskell to support students in the Haskell TRiO SSS Program. She is currently the Assistant Director, NASS Coordinator in the Native American Initiatives office at KU. Lori is a member of the Kansas Association for Native American Education, the National Indian Education Association, and the Native American Journalist Association.

Haskell Rep - TBD

SESSION 5: KAW TREATY PROJECT

(Purple Masque Theater)

Moderator: Kelly Berry (Apache Tribe of Oklahoma), Indigenous Initiatives Research Associate and Educational Leadership Doctoral Student - Kansas State University



LISA TATONETTI

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH – KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Lisa is a settler scholar and professor of English at Kansas State where she studies, teaches, and publishes on queer Indigenous literatures. She is a founding member of K-State's Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance, co-editor of *Sovereign Erotics*, and author of *The Queerness of Native American Literature* and *Written by the Body: Gender Expansiveness and Indigenous Non-cis Masculinities*.



MARY KOHN

DIRECTOR, CHAPMAN CENTER FOR RURAL STUDIES

Mary is a Professor in English and Director of the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University. Her work examines regional and social variation in language with a focus on the Great Plains. She also examines language change across the lifespan through the Frank Porter Graham Project, resulting in books published by Cambridge University Press and Duke University Press. Most recently, she was awarded the Leonard Bloomfield

Book Award from the Linguistic Society of America.



KINSLEY SEARLES

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT, ENGLISH

Kinsley is a first-year graduate student in the Department of English at Kansas State University, where she also serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for Expository Writing II. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Composition and Rhetoric track. Kinsley became involved in the Kansas Land Treaties project during her undergraduate career at K-State and she is excited to continue her involvement while she pursues her graduate degree.

2:30 P.M. - 3:20 P.M.

INDIGENOUS HISTORIES OF WESTERN KANSAS: MEDICINE LODGE TREATY NATIONS IN THE PRESENT

(K-State Alumni Center Ballroom)

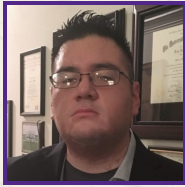
Moderator: Debra Bolton (Ohkay Owingeh), Director of Intercultural Learning and Faculty in Social Transformation Department (Social Change in Native America)



JACOB TSOTIGH, JR. (KIOWA), M.ED

VICE-CHAIR OF THE KIOWA TRIBE

Jacob is the Vice-Chairman of the Kiowa Tribe and a former Kiowa Tribe Legislator who represented approximately 5,600 tribal citizens. He has been involved in American Indian education programs for the past 38 years, retiring from the University of Oklahoma and working recently with the National Indian Education Association. He served for 12 years as the Indian Education Director for Anadarko (Oklahoma) Public Schools, 3 years as Program Director and Production Specialist for Inter-Tribal Associates, Inc., and 2 years as a Training Associate with the American Indian Research and Development by the Indian Education TA Center Five and Title IX Indian Education. Mr. Tsotigh returned to Inter-Tribal Associates as Project Director to work as a sub-contractor with the University of Oklahoma's Region VII Comprehensive Center with direct responsibility for providing high impact TA in American Indian education for over 500 grantees in the seven-state region. Mr. Tsotigh is past president of the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education (OCIE) and a long time member of the National Indian Education Association (NIEA). He was voted as "Best in Indian Country - American Indian Role Model" by readers of the Oklahoma Indian Times in 1999. He has three children, one deceased, and five grandchildren. He is a 4/4 citizen of the Kiowa Tribe and specialized in parent committee training, culturally responsive pedagogy, Title VII Indian Education programming, and school improvement.



KELLY BERRY

INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DOCTORAL STUDENT - KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Kelly is an enrolled citizen of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma and has affiliations with the Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Choctaw Nations. He is a second-year doctoral student in Educational Leadership at Kansas State University, where he is employed as the Indigenous Initiatives Research Associate in the College of Education. He also serves as adjunct faculty at Upper Iowa University, where he teaches Diversity in the U.S. and Social Problems.



CARRIE WHITLOW

**DIRECTOR OF THE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
K-STATE ADULT LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP DOCTORAL STUDENT**

(See above for bio.)

3:20 P.M.

CLOSING SONG

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

KANAE BUSINESS MEETING

SPONSORED BY:

- K-State Indigenous Faculty & Staff Alliance
- K-State Alumni Association
- Chapman Center for Rural Studies
- College of Agriculture
- College of Arts & Sciences (Dean's Office, Dept. of English, Diversity Committee)
- College of Business
- College of Education (Dean's Office, Dept. of Educational Leadership, Diversity for Community Committee, Social Justice Education Grad Certificate, Indigenous Education Leadership Grad Certificate)
- College of Health and Human Sciences (Deans Office, Diversity Committee)
- Diversity and Multicultural Student Affairs (Project Impact, Intercultural Learning, LGBT Resource Center)
- Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies at K-State Libraries
- Multicultural Engineering Program
- Office of Institutional Equity
- School of Music, Theatre, and Dance and the IDEall Committee