

American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month

A MULTITUDE OF IMPRESSIVE NATIONS

On Thursday, November 3rd, the Distinguished, Helen Redbird-Smith, PhD stood before a full house in SOU's Rogue River Room to receive the Southern Oregon University Outstanding Alumni Award—a proud citizen of the Cherokee nation, professor emeritus of Western Oregon University where she taught for over thirty years, and a powerful exemplar of the strength of the people of the nation to which she belongs. During her acceptance speech, Dr. Redbird-Smith noted several times the ways in which she embarked on her journey of ascent in academe as someone perceived as neither a physically nor academically “impressive specimen.” However, because of her determination and commitment and that of her family and the community of elders and mentors who supported her, there are few more impressive women you will ever meet. At 93 years old and perhaps five feet tall, Dr. Redbird Smith is an impressive, giant of a woman-- to the institutions she's called a professional home, to the nation she calls her family, and in the landscape of history to which she has contributed extensively. Know that you are honored to call her part of your SOU family.

AN EXEMPLAR OF THE TIME

Dr. Redbird-Smith and her story are among the reasons we set aside November to recognize the excellence that resides in the multitude of native nations that exist on this



landscape, now America. We want to do that now by drawing your attention to the history of this national recognition, inviting you to participate in the opportunities we've designed to learn together in honor of the time, the land, and contributions of the people who first called the land home, and encouraging you to find your own ways to continue learning and growing in your knowledge of and respect for native heritage.

AS EARLY AS 1916

Commonly referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, the states began designating times of this heritage recognition as early as 1916 when New York, the first to do so, declared “American Indian Day.” More broadly, the nations’ bicentennial commemoration proclaimed the week of October 10th -16th as Native American Heritage Week in 1976. Several iterations of these national weeks followed, until congress signed into law a joint resolution designating November as “National American Indian Heritage Month.”

THE 1990 PROCLAMATION

In 1990 then President George H.W. Bush proclaimed to the nation the native peoples’

unique role in the shaping of the nation's history and culture and their remarkable contributions to a national identity. Moreover, he called on the nation to "learn more about the history and heritage of the Native peoples of this great land [in] appreciation and respect for their traditions and way of life." We are urged by proclamation again, this year from current President Biden to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to celebrate November 25, 2022, as Native American Heritage Day.

DRAWING TOGETHER

Film is one of our favorite ways to learn. So, we've curated a short series for us to learn together. We'll hear Mohawk Clan Women tell the story of Haudenosaunee women who contributed to the suffrage movement; listen to the dreams of teenage citizens of the Navajo nation as they launch from adolescence and high school to young adult academic life and learn of the efforts of the Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe peoples' endeavor to reclaim tribal artifacts. We invite you to join us in expanding our communal knowledge about the ways in which native people, who as they persist in the sovereignty of their nations, have shaped and continue to shape cultures worldwide.

We can't wait to share this time with you!

FILM SERIES

WITHOUT A WHISPER: KONNON:KWE

Tuesday November 8th | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Film & Discussion

(Runtime 26 minutes 48 seconds)

"Without a Whisper" is the untold story of how Indigenous women influenced the early suffragists in their fight for freedom and equality. Mohawk Clan Mother Louise Herne and Professor Sally Roesch Wagner shake the foundation



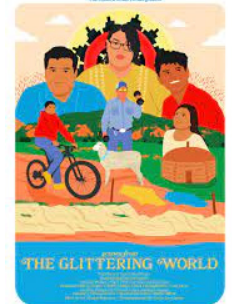
of the established history of the women's rights movement in the United States. They join forces on a journey to shed light on the hidden history of the influence of Haudenosaunee Women on the women's rights movement, possibly changing this historical narrative forever.

SCENES FROM THE GLITTERING WORLD

Tuesday, November 15th | 11:45 am – 12:30 pm

(Runtime 1 hour 19 minutes)

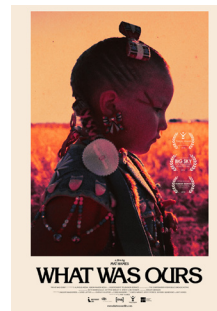
"The Glittering World" tells the story of three Indigenous students experience the highs and lows of adolescence while attending one of the most remote high schools in the United States. Living in the uniquely beautiful but isolated Diné community within the Navajo Nation reservation, they navigate life as teenagers and dream of a glittering future.



WHAT WAS OURS

Monday November 21st | 12:00 pm – 1:30 PM

(Runtime 1 hour 19 minutes)



"Like millions of indigenous people, many Native American tribes do not control their own material history and culture. For the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes living on the isolated Wind River

Indian Reservation in Wyoming, new contact with lost artifacts risks opening old wounds but also offers the possibility for healing and hope for their future. "What Was Ours" is the story of how a young journalist and a teenage powwow princess, both of the Arapaho tribe, traveled together with a Shoshone elder in search of missing artifacts in the vast archives of Chicago's Field Museum. There they discover a treasure trove of ancestral objects, setting them on a journey to recover what has been lost and build hope for the future."

EDI COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Monday, November 28, 2022 | 12:00 – 3:00 PM

Churchill Hall Suite 222

We're building community--a thread that runs through every film we'll watch together. Enjoy light refreshments and community. We'll warm the new EDI office space together.

[REGISTER FOR FILM SERIES](#)

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