

EDI @ SOU

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023



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WELCOME

EDI @ SOU

Volume #4

Issue #1

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

In reflection of Indigenous People's Day 2023, I am humbly reminded of the abundant provision of guidance from Creator, and the blood, breath, and bone that remains within the legacies of our ancestors since time immemorial, in the present, and into the next seven generations.



Display of Oregon's 9 federally recognized tribal flags inside SOU's Stevenson Union
Image Courtesy of Jonathan Chavez Baez

As we prepared for this historical event, and when we finally gathered together, all became witness to sovereignty, the formal recognition of all federally recognized Oregon nine Tribal nations, and Tribal pedagogies of Indigeneity as one voice, no longer minimized as resiliency, rather, the acknowledgement of the evolution of resistance. The resistance of the people defies Americanized ideologies of assimilation, finatical religiosity, hierarchies, greed, and ownership. Ideals that are perpetuated upon the people through a lens that intentionally protects the narrative of power and passivity of inhumane disparities and atrocities that promotes the confines of Historical Trauma and generational grief. As Tribal nations and Indigenous communities, we are reminded of the urgency and necessity to abide by our ancestor's resistance at every breath, as it weighs heavy like a cold stone in our minds, hearts, and spirits.

Within the lifeblood of healing is a shared

reverence for the ancestral voice, and the acknowledgement of all Tribal people and cultural ways of being, including the original inhabitants of this region, the Shasta, Takelma, and Latgawa peoples, for we all remain stewards and protectors of the land, water, and cultivators of truth telling.



Indigenous People's Day Opening Ceremony
Image Courtesy of Jonathan Chavez Baez



Native American Studies Emeritus Director David West receives SOU's inaugural Distinguished Career Service Award celebrating his legacy of extraordinary contributions to the SOU campus community
Image Courtesy of Jonathan Chavez Baez

It remains an honor to support the people in movements of resistance into healing. Respect and love to all my relatives, "there is power in your voice" -Lupe Sims, Indigenous People's Day Coordinator.



Courtesy of Jonathan Chavez Baez

THE OFFICE FOR EDI

OUR MURAL

The Rivers of Time: Southern Oregon and Dreams for the People's Collective Future

The Office for EDI was incredibly fortunate to have our mural painted by the following students from Assistant Professor Kyle Larson's Winter 2023 Art 380: Contemporary Painting and Drawing Methods class: Daila Barajas Hernandez, Cynthia Cantwell, Adrian Chavez, Keri Clement, Razael Grodner, Zoe Lockhart, Sidney Reha, Newt Stein, Alyssa Summers, Sophia Tribelhorn, and Henry Vincent with assistance from Alex Reha, Ash Aceto, and Perla Salazar. This meaningful mural was designed by Sidney Reha and completed on March 20th, 2023. We are so grateful to Mr. Ed Ward's family for their thoughtful donation of art materials that helped make this mural project a reality. This mural is dedicated in his memory.

A statement by the artist, Sidney Reha:

The triptych format forms a timeline in relation to colonization in our area: past, present, and a speculative yet achievable future, represented abstractly with historical context. In the far left, the natural landscape and indigenous cultures, three women of the Takelma tribe, in reference to culture being passed through generations. The man at the bottom alludes to the days when

the territory of Mexico ran through California, all the way to the Oregon border. These figures exist in an environment untouched by the industrialization that came with settlement. The right panel is Oregon post colonization, detailing the trials and tribulations of various historical marginalized identities. Chinese miners pan for gold while a Hispanic woman works in local agriculture. The man in the upper right is disabled, homeless veteran, neglected by the state representing authorities' abandonment of the vulnerable. Yet despite adversity, individuals support each other and find joy in nature and their intersectional communities. The girl in the bottom reaches left towards the middle panel, the idea of the future potential of Oregon. In this scene, barriers between individuals are erased and people live strong, fulfilling lives alongside each other, free from the shadow of colonization and its effects. Various identities are embraced and celebrated without the ingrained fear or shame. These diverse communities live in an ecologically secure and ethically sound Southern Oregon landscape, an outcome of social action and support.

This mural was created for the purpose of representing the themes of equity, diversity, and inclusion specific to our campus and Southern Oregon as a whole. Research and information were provided mainly through the Oregon Secretary of State Archives, and the scene was illustrated to depict specific cultures, ecologies and history.

The Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion understands that recent world and national events are sitting heavy for many. Please give yourself room and space to reflect and pause during these times as needed. Remember that our vibrant and diverse community is better because you are a part of it!

Will you join us? We are excited to welcome you to our office! We will be hosting an Open House on November 29th from 12 PM - 2 PM.

TEA WITH EDI A STUDENT PODCAST

LEARN & ENGAGE



Office for EDI student staff during the first episode of Tea with EDI
Image Courtesy of Nansi Cortes

We are very excited to announce that our student staff are developing a podcast of their very own. This student-run initiative called “Tea with EDI” will be a space where they will talk about their individual college experiences and give tips on how to make your time at SOU the best! Keep an eye out for more updates on our social media to know more!

What does Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion mean to you? How can you define EDI, and what is the importance of EDI at Southern Oregon University?

The purpose of introducing Tea with EDI is to dive into these questions encouraging a sense of belonging with various personnel from SOU. Guests will include the interim Assistant Vice President of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, the SOU President, administrative staff members, and of course, our students.

The transition into a University campus can be challenging and students can often feel lost. The four student assistants from the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will share their experiences and what has helped them overcome their challenges, barriers and fears. They will also share what they like to do on campus and what they've enjoyed so far in college. Stay tuned for the first episode of Tea with EDI!

A variety of events and activities are taking place on the SOU campus, and around the Southern Oregon community. We encourage you take part in these events, make connections, expand your network and enhance your knowledge.



NOVEMBER 2023

November 15 | 3:30 PM

Disability History & Justice 101
Stevenson Union 143
Southern Oregon University

November 15 | 5:00 PM

Bringing Culture to the Table
Stevenson Union 308 (SJEC)
Southern Oregon University

November 20 | 3:30 PM

Winter Clothing Swap
Stevenson Union ASSOU Lounge
Southern Oregon University

November 29 | 12:00 PM

Office for EDI Open House
Churchill Hall 222
Southern Oregon University

DECEMBER 2023

December 1 | 12:00 PM

Day of Disability Zine!
Let's celebrate the International
Day of Persons with Disabilities
Stevenson Union Courtyard
Southern Oregon University



HAVE AN EVENT OR STORY YOU'D
LIKE TO SHARE? PLEASE CONTACT US!

Email: EDI@sou.edu

JONATHAN CHAVEZ BAEZ, M.A.

**Interim Assistant Vice President
for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion**

Office: Churchill Hall | Suite 222

Email: chavezbjo@sou.edu

Phone: 541.552.6759

PATRICIA SYQUIA MCCARTHY, JD

**Contracts Administrative
Officer & Risk Manager;
Staff & Community Liaison,
for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

Office: Churchill Hall | Suite 222

Email: syquiam@sou.edu

Phone: 541.552.7014

1250 Siskiyou Boulevard
Churchill Hall, Room 222
Ashland, Oregon 97520
Email: EDI@sou.edu
Phone: 541-552-8847