

From: Official ESU Email

Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020

Subject: ESU celebrates November as Native American Heritage Month

Warriors,

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush declared November as Native American Heritage Month. This month-long celebration provides an opportunity for us to learn about Native American/Indigenous cultures, traditions, histories, and contributions. It also affords us an opportunity to learn about colonization, displacement, and genocide experienced by Native American/Indigenous communities throughout history.

While a violent legacy of global colonization has imposed devastating conditions on Native American/Indigenous communities worldwide, many continue to fight for justice and resist oppressive circumstances. To educate the public, every November, Native American/Indigenous activists, poets, story tellers, culture bearers, and tribal leaders organize countless events showcasing their rich and diverse cultures and histories.

Why do many Native Americans/Indigenous peoples consider Thanksgiving a *Day of Mourning*? It is important to reflect upon and question what you learned in school about Native American/Indigenous history. This November consider “decolonizing” your Thanksgiving dinner. Do not display Native American decorations and tropes. Introduce native dishes to the dinner table. Engage in historically accurate conversations about Native American contributions locally, nationally, and internationally. You can also do other things to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Visit a monument or museum. Attend or host an educational event. Read the work of a Native American author. Support native-owned businesses and charities.

Native American culture and history are rooted within East Stroudsburg University, as well as the surrounding area. Not only are residence halls like Lenape, Minsi, and Shawnee names of Native tribes, East Stroudsburg University also has a campus office for the Delaware Tribe of Indians located on the fourth floor of Stroud Hall. In September 2018, ESU and the Delaware Tribe of Indians entered into a partnership hoping to provide education surrounding Native American culture, and eventually produce a scholarship for Native American students to be able to return to spaces their tribe formerly inhabited.

To help commemorate the occasion, the Center for Multicultural Affairs and Inclusive Excellence invited [Frank Waln](#) as this year’s keynote speaker for a virtual celebration on Wednesday, November 11 at 6:00 p.m. To join the virtual event, please [click here](#). Waln hopes to inspire Indigenous people around the world, to deepen a universal understanding of our own Indigeneity, and to share his knowledge about how settler colonialism has impacted us as survivors of genocide.

For more information about this event or other Native American Heritage Month initiatives at ESU, contact: Lyesha Fleming, director of ESU’s Center for Multicultural Affairs and Inclusive Education, at (570) 422-3896 or lfleming@esu.edu.

Dr. Santiago Solis

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Black Lives Matter!

Vice President, Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence

East Stroudsburg University

200 Prospect St. | East Stroudsburg, PA 18301