

The Initiative for Native Nation Relations

Summer 2022 | Issue #1

Editor: Macy Ellis (CSB '25)



CSB+SJU

Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Initiative for Native Nation Relations* Newsletter! This summer marks the 1 year anniversary of INNR. INNR's mission is to draw on the resources of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University to engage, collaborate with and serve Native Nations. In this issue, you will learn about the achievements of the INNR team, the events we hosted, the next steps for our research and service projects, and the events we have planned for Fall 2022.

Everything we achieved this year is thanks to a team effort, involving collaborations between Native Nations, monastics, CSB+SJU students, faculty, and staff, as well as INNR friends and alum who have generously contributed time and resources.

The INNR Newsletter will be published semi-annually, so please look out for an update in January 2023. Until then, if you would like to get in touch, please email INNR Director Ted Gordon (tgordon@csbsju.edu).

*To better reflect our mission, we changed our name from the Initiative for Native Nation Revitalization to the Initiative for Native Nation Relations

Events and presentations

Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 events

- Nov. 11-Resilience and Reconciliation
 - Jaime Arsenault, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, White Earth Nation
- Feb. 23-The Cultural Toolbox
 - Anton Treuer
- Apr. 8-Treaty Talks
 - Felicia Ochs, TJ Gladstone, Phillip Campiou, Helmer Twoyoungmen
- Apr. 13-The Seven Grandfather Teachings
 - James Vukelich
- Apr. 25-Indigenous Graduate Honoring
 - Ceremony- Joe Whitehawk
 - Drums- Redtree



Wiring the Rez-Braden Orr



CIC Baltimore poster session-Macy Ellis

INNRR has been active presenting off-campus

- Feb. 10-Wiring the Rez, Fort McDowell, AZ
 - Braden Orr
- March 25-White Earth Government Center
 - Marissa Johnson
 - Macy Ellis
 - Ted Gordon
- April 23-Stearns History Museum
 - Marissa Johnson
 - Macy Ellis
 - Ted Gordon
- Apr. 26-May 1-Council for Independent Colleges, Baltimore, MD
 - Macy Ellis
- July 29-Tribal Fintech Forum, Colorado Springs
 - Ted Gordon

Nay-Ah-Shing Update

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, INNR is pleased to announce that in Spring 2022, CSB+SJU returned to in-person service with Nah-Ah-Shing School District, the tribally operated K-12 school system of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Beginning in Fall 2018, with the invitation of Mille Lac's Commissioner of Education and under the direction of Dr. Ted Gordon, CSB+SJU students provided important programming and events for Nay-Ah-Shing students. We regularly held in-person events each semester through Spring 2020, when the pandemic forced our partnership to become virtual.

We were overwhelmed to reconnect in person on May 2, 2022, when members of the Indigenous Student Association hosted a panel at Nay-Ah-Shing Middle and High School where they discussed their experiences and goals as Indigenous college students. Moving forward, INNR will provide the infrastructure needed to continue this invaluable partnership.

Grants and awards

Ted Gordon was appointed as the Joe Farry Professor in the McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civil Engagement. He was also named as a Notable Leader in Higher Education by *Twin Cities Business*.

Marissa Johnson ('22) received the "Doing the Work Award" from the Multicultural Center.

We received a grant from the National Endowment for Humanities:

- \$60,000 to develop a boarding school records digitization plan in collaboration with White Earth and St. Benedict's Monastery
- The project was named part of NEH's "A More Perfect Union Initiative" commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence



Indigenous Student Association (ISA) tipi making with Phillip Campiou (Driftpile First Nation) and TJ Gladstone (Blood Indian Reserve)

In the news

- "A Reckoning: Monastic Order Apologizes for Native Boarding School". MPR News, October 10, 2021

New Courses at CSB+SJU

- Contemporary Native Nations (Fall 2021)
- Minnesota Native Nations (Spring 2021)
- Native Food Sovereignty (Spring 2022)
- Native Assimilation and Revitalization (Fall 2021)
- Indigenous and LGBTQ+ Allyship (Fall 2022)



Stearns History Museum presentation



Big Changes on Campus Publications

- Last Winter, INNR launched its Occasional Paper Series to highlight student and faculty research. Read our first article, "Food Insecurity, Racial Diversity, and Reservation Land: Relationships with the Credit Security Index"
 - https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/mccarthy_center_innr/1/

Native Nations Task Force

- Established Jan. 2022 to bring together representatives from Monastic, Tribal, and CSB+SJU communities to develop a plan for strengthening relationships with Native Nations

McKnight Foundation Grant

- \$50,000 towards collaboration with CSB+SJU, White Earth, and St. Benedict's Monastery to record oral histories from the White Earth Mission School

Alumnae outreach

- Boarding school histories and healing
 - Online Mini-Course for CSB Alum
- Native American Boarding Schools: Research and Relationships at CSB+SJU.
 - Reunion 2022

White Earth government center visit

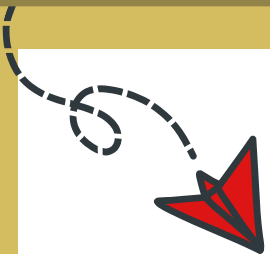
*INNR partnered with the St. Cloud Chapter of the American Association of University Women to provide "Flash Cash", emergency cash grants available for Indigenous students in need.

Congratulations seniors!

Marissa Johnson
Adrianna Warden
Faith Gronda



Indigenous graduate honoring



Want to support our work?

- Give to INNR
 - Giving through CSB
 - givecsb.com
 - Giving through SJU
 - givesju.com

Thank you to the 2021-2022
INNR student workers:

Marissa Johnson '22
Macy Ellis '25
Savannah Supan '24
Jalayna Smith-Moore '24
Faith Gronda '22
Braden Orr '22
Moses Wiseman '23
Kenedi Mullings '24

Contact us

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Save the date!

Upcoming Fall events:

- Fine Arts Programming will be hosting "Indigenous Survivance," an Indigenous art exhibit curated by Travis Zimmerman (SJU '94, Grand Portage Descendant), from August 29-Oct 29 in the SJU Art Center. There will be an opening reception on 9/8 from 5-7pm.
 - Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of Braiding Sweetgrass, will speak at SJU's Pellegrine Auditorium on 10/3 at 7pm.
 - Winona LaDuke will speak at SJU's Pellegrine Auditorium on 10/24 at 7pm.
 - INNR will co-sponsor the St. Cloud Powwow, which will be Nov. 5 at Tech High School.
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