Uplifting Native American voices

Dear Vanderbilt community,

So many important heritage events and holidays happen in November. This month alone, our campus community will celebrate:

- Native American Heritage Month
- First Generation Week
- Veterans Day
- International Education Week
- Transgender Day of Remembrance

And then there's Thanksgiving, which is the antithesis of a "heritage holiday" to so many. Whereas American children are often taught how the Natives welcomed early pioneers with open arms and rescued them from a harsh winter, ultimately gathering around a shared table to celebrate a meal of peace and gratitude, the real story is much more damning. In reality, the first contact between colonists and Native peoples was the beginning of a tragic history marked by bloody massacres, disease, theft of tribal lands, removal and erasure, and in no way should be cause for celebration. David Silverman's book *This is Their Land:The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving* examines the historical inaccuracies and falsehoods embedded in this myth.

Rather than perpetuating those falsehoods, I choose instead to highlight and uplift the voices of ndigenous folx during this time. I'm hoping to spend most of November fueling myself with indigenous art and content, and I invite you to do the same. I'm going to dive into indigenous podcasts like *All My Relations*, read Tommy Orange's *There There* and hopefully at least one of Natalie Diaz's amazing works, check out a local pow wow and learn more about queer, indigenous artists.

As I reflect on the contributions, resilience and power of the Native American community and my own identity, I will hold fast to a poem one of my dear sisters shared with me recently:

“Eagle Poem” by Joy Harjo

To pray you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you can’t see, can’t hear;
Can’t know except in moments
Steadily growing, and in languages
That aren’t always sound but other
Circles of motion.
Like eagle that Sunday morning
Over Salt River. Circled in blue sky
In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.
We see you, see ourselves and know
That we must take the utmost care
And kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon within a
True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.
We pray that it will be done
In beauty.
In beauty.

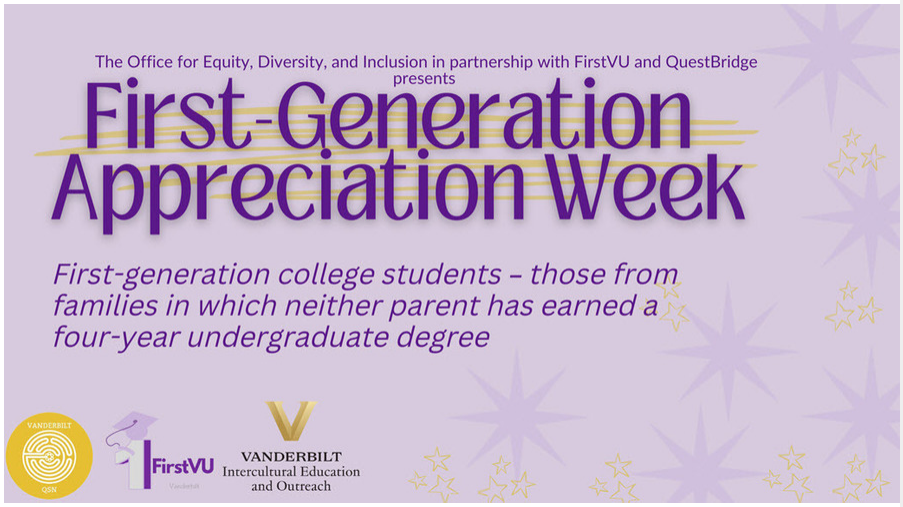
Sincerely,

Linzie M. Treadway, Ph.D.
Director of Special Projects and Deputy Chief of Staff
Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

NAHM

Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month is a time to intentionally celebrate the unique, rich and diverse cultures, traditions and histories of Native peoples while acknowledging the important contributions of Native people. NAHM is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and to highlight the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to overcome these challenges. Read More +



First-Generation Celebration Week events

The Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, in collaboration with FirstVU and Network First Gen, are inviting members of the Vanderbilt community to join us for First-Generation Celebration Week Nov. 3-11. The Center for First-Generation Student Success initiated the nationwide event to honor the resilience, motivation, and accomplishments of first-generation students and graduates at colleges and universities across the country. Five events, both

Get Connected: Upcoming Events

Native American Heritage Month

11/3-11: First Generation Week

11/7: Cuninggim Lecture - One to Watch Out For: An Afternoon with Alison Bechdel

11/9-18: International Education Week

11/9: RRJ Lunch and Learn with André Churchwell

11/11: Veterans Day

11/15: Health Equity… Growing in Understanding by Design Not Default

11/16: Trangender Day of Remembrance & Resilience

11/30: P.R.I.D.E. Training

HR Employee Learning & Engagement experiences for 2022

Continuing the Conversation

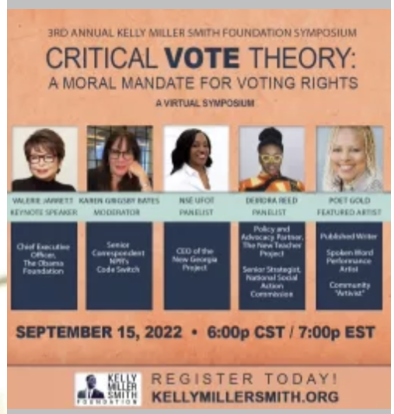
virtual and in-person, will commemorate and celebrate our first-generation students and allies to the first-gen community. Register Here +

WATCH: Vanderbilt faculty discuss America's struggle for racial equality

WATCH: 'Dores in Dialogue: A conversation on the economic cost of injustice

International Education Week events

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, with the goal of celebrating international education and exchange worldwide. IEW 2022 will take place from Nov. 9 to Nov. 18, focusing on the theme of "Global Citizen," reflecting on what it means to be a global citizen, and how each and every one of us is —or can become—a global citizen. Read more and register here +



WATCH: 2022 Kelly Miller Smith Institute Symposium Critical Vote Theory: A Moral Mandate for Voting Rights

Advancing Health Equity for Native Americans

Tribal social determinants of health (SDOH) have unique histories in Native American populations, including historical trauma,

Resources

Heritage Month

Workshops

boarding schools, adverse childhood experiences, poverty, federal food programs, and food deserts. These factors – combined with systems, policies, and environments outside the health care sector – have powerful influences on health. With more than 70 percent of Native Americans residing in urban communities or away from their homelands, the panel will discuss how providers can address SDOH and promote health equity for Native Americans in their practice. Register Here + or Watch here on Nov. 8>>

Vanderbilt faculty discuss America's struggle for racial equality

Dr. André L. Churchwell, vice chancellor for outreach, inclusion and belonging and chief diversity officer, hosted a panel of Vanderbilt faculty earlier this fall to discuss the state of racial justice in America. Among the topics covered was how art can offer hope during unsettled times and help create a more just, civil and moral society. Read More +

Connect With Us

Research on intersex experience highlights overlooked population in religious communities

In her new book spanning culture, law, science and theology, Vanderbilt Divinity School Professor Stephanie Budwey explores the experiences of intersex people in church and faith communities.

Read More +

Fall Sesquicentennial grant award winners announced

The fall 2022 Sesquicentennial grant cycle has funded 15 proposals, with awards being made to projects led by individuals and teams of faculty, staff, postdoctoral scholars and students.

Read More +

Hinton receives Chan Zuckerberg Initiative grant to increase representation in research

Antentor Hinton Jr., assistant professor of molecular physiology and biophysics in the School of Medicine Basic Sciences, has been awarded a $1.5 million, five-year grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to boost diversity in STEM research. Read More +

School of Nursing earns 2022 'INSIGHT Into Diversity' award

For the third year in a row, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has won a Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. Read More +

Provost makes new $5M annual investment to enhance doctoral education

The Graduate School, in partnership with deans across multiple schools, has launched an enhanced funding and support model for doctoral education as a result of Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs C. Cybele Raver's new $5 million annual investment in graduate education. Read More +

New Vanderbilt Staff Mentorship Program to enhance employee experience

The Vanderbilt Staff Mentorship Program will launch with an informational event for prospective mentors and mentees at the Student Life Center Ballroom on Tuesday, Oct. 18, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. All who are interested in learning more about the program are invited to the launch. Read More +

Building community at VU paves the way for career in New York City

Tommy Oswalt, BA'20, did not come to Vanderbilt with a mapped-out plan for his major. That initially made him nervous, but the first-generation college student jumped in with an open mind and a passion for building community—paving the way for a successful career. Read More +

Faculty and staff invited to join Military and Veterans Employee Affinity Group

Vanderbilt University faculty and staff are invited to join the Military and Veterans Employee Affinity Group and attend the Salute to Service football game against South Carolina on Saturday, Nov. 5. Free tickets will be provided to the first 50 people who sign up. Read More +

Churchwell named a Top 25 Diversity Leader by ‘Modern Healthcare’

Dr. André L. Churchwell, vice chancellor for outreach, inclusion and belonging and chief diversity officer at Vanderbilt University, has been named a Top 25 Diversity Leader for 2022 by *Modern Healthcare* magazine. Read More +

Voting policy for VU employees; TN early voting period is Oct. 19–Nov. 3

During early voting for the 2022 midterm elections or on Election Day, Vanderbilt University employees who are registered to vote may be absent from work for a reasonable paid period of time, not to exceed three hours. Tennessee's early voting period is Oct. 19 to Nov. 3. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. Read More +

Grand opening celebrated for new Leadership and Service Space

Student Organizations, Leadership and Service, an office of Student Affairs, hosted a grand opening for the Leadership and Service Space Oct. 4. The new space is at 2402 Vanderbilt Place in the West End Neighborhood and will serve as home to several umbrella student organizations. Read More +

Experience the 'Living Museum' at Robert Churchwell Elementary

At first glance, Robert Churchwell Museum Magnet Elementary School looks like an ordinary school. More than 320 eager students can be seen walking the halls lined with colorful murals, welcome boards and posters, all displaying the school's values and curriculum. There's a lot that's unique about Robert Churchwell Elementary, though, starting with the real, functioning museum inside the school. Read More +

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