



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

CENTER for MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

Dear campus colleagues,

Thank you for choosing to present the **CME "Bulletin Board in a Bag": Native History Month** in your area this **November!**

In this packet, and any attached documents, you will find everything you need to begin a great bulletin board.

### **How to use**

We've provided several flyer-sized pages of information, intended to get your board *started*, researching and adding additional information that would be of most interest to your particular residents (relevant communities in their home states/nations, campus/community activities that appeal to their majors and hobbies) can help expand the board and improve its impact.

For the most part, the Board is just print and post ready. Color is obviously most eye-catching, but most of the graphics should be fine in black and white/grayscale if necessary.

If we had it available at the time of publication, we've also included or attached information about campus/community events observing this month, that you can post as well. If there isn't any, you can check our calendar ([www.du.edu/cme/cme\\_calendar.html](http://www.du.edu/cme/cme_calendar.html)) and/or with the relevant Joint Council student organizations ([www.du.edu/cme/joint\\_council.html](http://www.du.edu/cme/joint_council.html)) to see what events they have scheduled, and add them to your Board. And, consider making attending one of these events a program for your floor!

### **Feedback**

To help us know where our boards have been, and how residents have responded to them, please email us ([igr@du.edu](mailto:igr@du.edu)) any/all of the following:

- Your name, hall and floor where the board is posted
- A photo or two of the board up on your floor
- A brief description of any reaction/feedback the board generated on your floor community,
- And any feedback you have about this board or ideas for other Inclusive Excellence-related identities/issues/observances we could provide for the future.

(And in the unfortunate event there's any defacement or other negative reaction to the board, please follow your hall's reporting procedures, and let us know.)

THANKS for sharing this important, and interesting, info with your residents!

Sincerely,

Center for Multicultural Excellence

[www.du.edu/cme](http://www.du.edu/cme)

[facebook.com/DUCME](https://facebook.com/DUCME)



# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



**Presented by:**



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CENTER for MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

For more information  
visit our website at:  
[www.du.edu/cme](http://www.du.edu/cme)



[aianheritagemonth.org/about-the-month/](http://aianheritagemonth.org/about-the-month/)

**November is Native American Heritage Month;** and it's an important time to celebrate the current and historic role the Native American voice has played in the US. It's a time to celebrate the modern and traditional cultures, people, and societies of Native American peoples. It's also an opportunity to highlight the important contributions of Native peoples and the shared histories between tribal nations and other communities.

Today, Native American cultures, people, and communities are strong and vibrant. According to the 2010 Census, there are over 5.2 million American Indian and Alaska Native people (in combination or alone) and there are 566 federally recognized tribal nations, existing as sovereign nations within 33 of the United States.

“We have a history of story and our voice remains. In the past many tried to quiet our voices, we could not be silenced. Today we celebrate; to remember and recognize our past, to bear witness to what our people face today; to give voice to great work and contributions we make; and to share our promise for the future generations.”



# Challenges faced by the Native American Community: Mascots

Mascots can perpetuate stereotypes that are void of context and history. Even if the mascots themselves are not racially insensitive, they can portray diverse Native peoples in a single, small and one-dimensional way.



“Think about this for a moment: For a Native American to use a white or black person or icon as a mascot would certainly strike the average white or black sports fan as a most peculiar way of “honoring” white or black people. The depth of insensitivity displayed by owners or sports teams (and sports teams themselves who use Indians as mascots) can be matched only by the extreme greediness of such people whose only desire is to remain totally ignorant of the needs and wishes of Native people”

– Alfred Young Man



**'After 81 years, the team name “Redskins” continues to hold the memories and meaning of where we came from, who we are, and who we want to be in the years to come.'**

**- Dan Snyder, Owner**

# Challenging Stereotypes



Performance artist Gregg Deal, a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe originally based in northwestern Nevada, uses media to provoke reactions to the issue of Native American stereotypes. In his film project *The Last American Indian on Earth*, Deal dresses himself in purposefully questionable attire and goes about his daily business, daring a passerby to confront their own preexisting ideas about the modern Native American person. “The purpose of this project is to raise questions about Native people, often viewed as a relic, and how they’re perceived in the modern age.”

[thelastamericanindianonearth.com](http://thelastamericanindianonearth.com)

Deal plans to submit the film for the 2014 Sundance Film Festival.

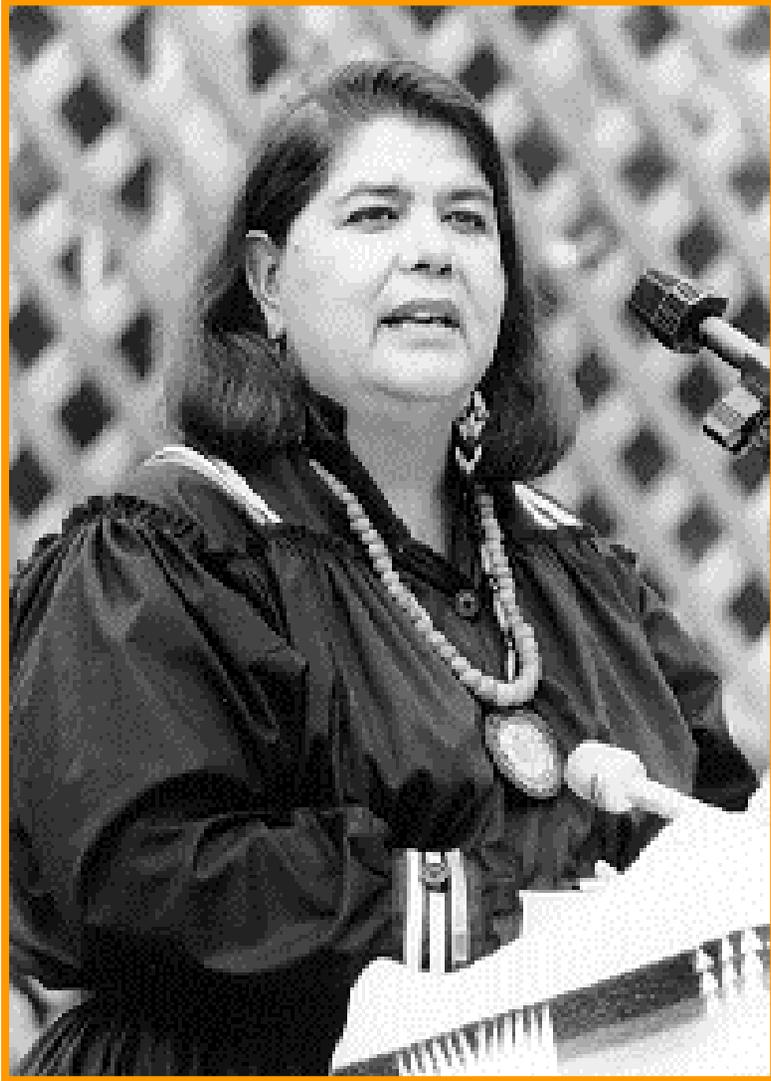
# Native Americans and Their Work



**Sherman Alexie** is a poet, writer and filmmaker. His writing draws on his experiences as a Native American growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation.



**Paula Gunn Allen** was a Native American poet, literary critic, lesbian activist and novelist. She drew from the oral traditions of the Laguna Pueblo for her fiction and poetry.



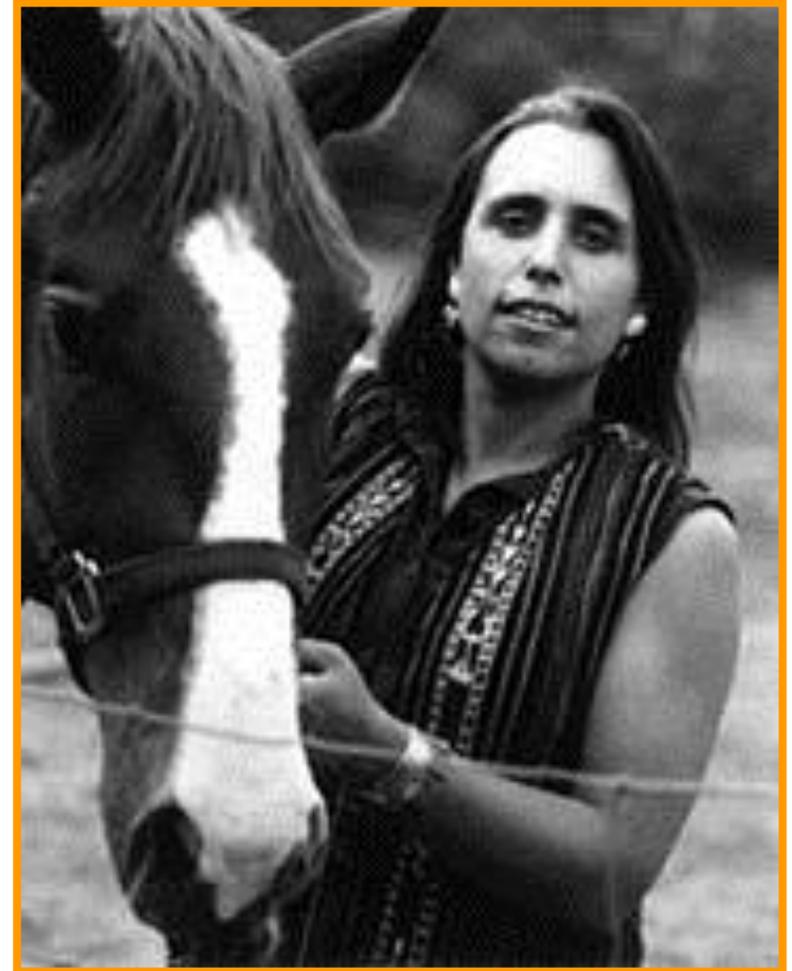
**Wilma Mankiller** was the first female chief of the Cherokee nation and served as principal chief for ten years from 1985 to 1995.



**John Trudell** is a poet, national recording artist, actor & activist. He was the spokesperson for the Indian of All Tribes occupation of Alcatraz Island from 1969 to 1971. He worked with the American Indian Movement (AIM), serving as Chairman of AIM from 1973 to 1979.

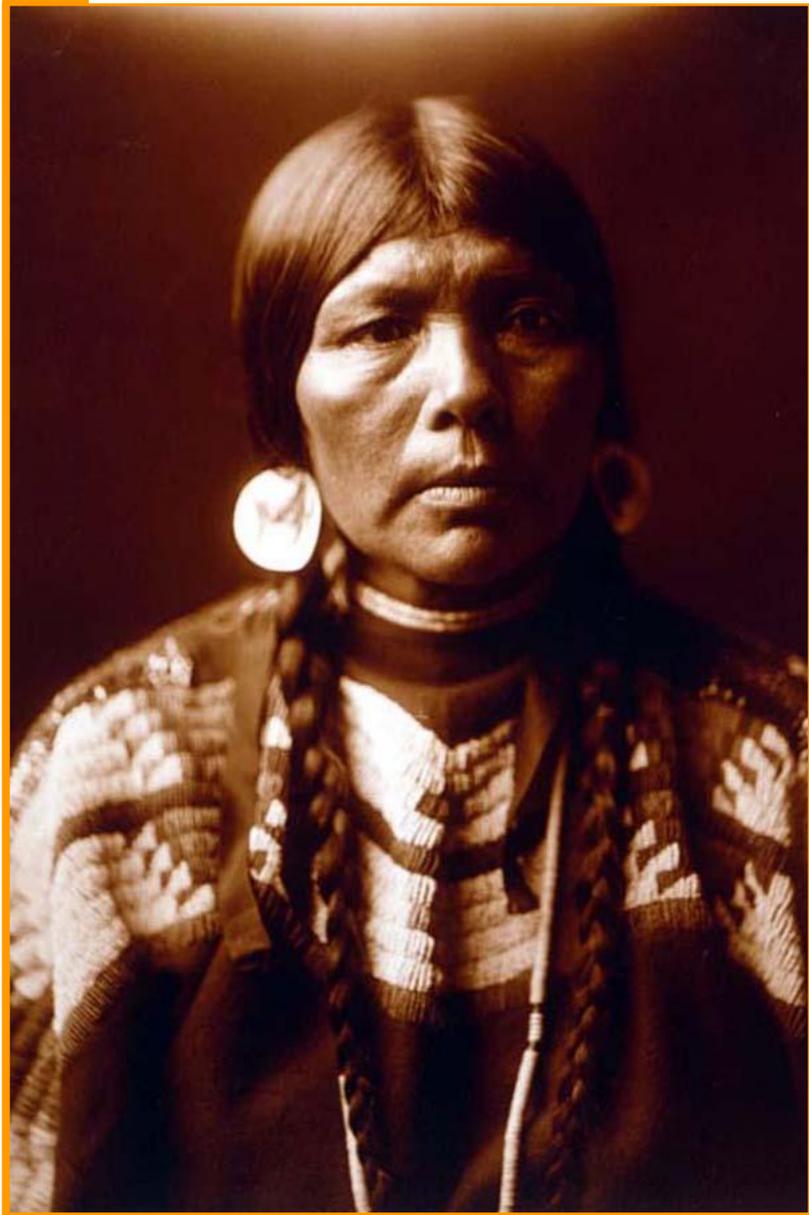


**Vine Deloria** was an American Indian author, theologian, historian, and activist. From 1964 - 1967 he had served as executive director of the National Congress of American Indians, increasing tribal membership from 19 to 156.



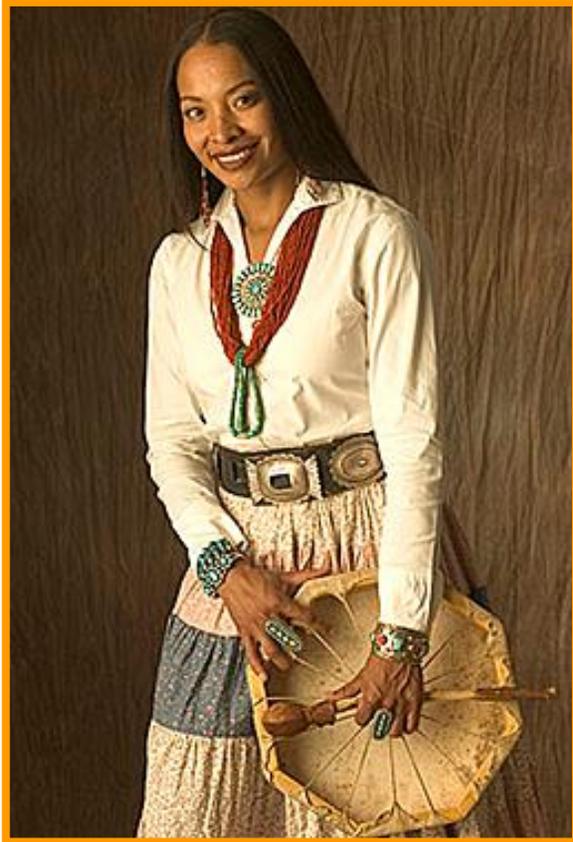
**Winona Laduke** is an American Indian activist, environmentalist, economist, and writer of Anishinaabe descent. In 1996 and 2000, she ran for vice president as the nominee of the Green Party of the United States, on a ticket headed by Ralph Nader.

# Native American Women



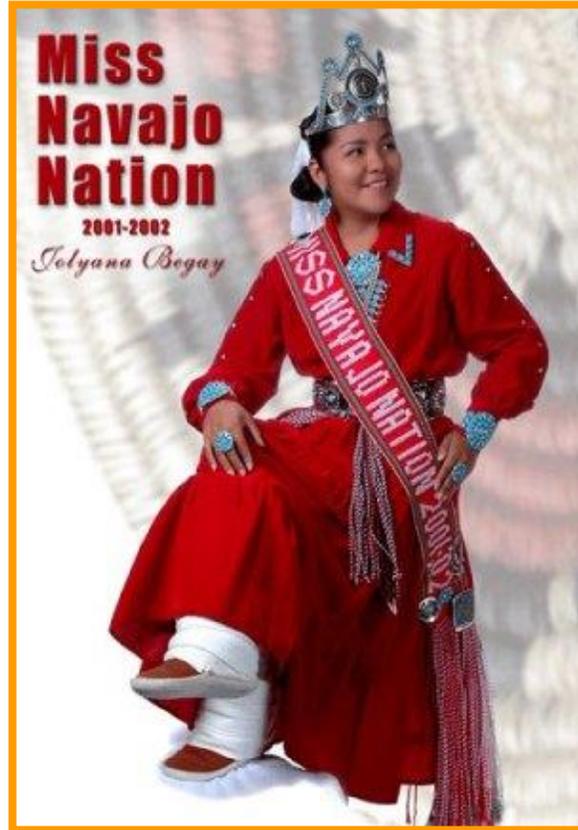
Many Native American societies are matriarchal. Women are sacred entities. They have the power to give life and in many respects function as a life source for the community. This is exemplified through various traditions, such as in the Iroquois and Diné (Navajo) societies. Iroquois women decide when to go to war, allocate food rations and choose male leaders while Diné women own livestock and clans are matrilineal.

# Native American Women & Their Impact



**Radmilla Cody** (left)

“Our society, as most Native societies, is matrilineal. Miss Navajo exemplifies the essence of First Woman, White Shell Woman and Changing Woman, which are deities in our culture. From that point it became a goal of mine, and I talked about it all the time. When I got older, I spent the summer before the pageant preparing for it.”



**Jolyana Begay-Bitsui**  
(right)

“As Miss Navajo Nation, I would emphasize to the youth the importance of preserving and learning the traditional culture and language as well as getting as much education as possible. I strongly believe that knowing your self-identity, your language, your way of life, will make you a stronger person and give you a good foundation. I would like to help my people become aware, preserve, and value the beauty way of life.”



## **Jude and Shoni Schimmel**

(left)

“I’m very proud of who I am and where I came from, but I wanted to be one of the ones that made it out. My job is to play basketball, and I love doing it.”



## **Hilary Tompkins (right)**

“I was an adopted Native American, so it was important to me to attend college with a large Native American population so that I could reconnect and learn more about my Native culture.”

# Contributors at DU: The Native Student Alliance (NSA)



Meetings: Wednesdays at  
6:30 PM at the Center for  
Multicultural Excellence  
(CME)

NSA strives to create an awareness of cultures, and current and historical issues in Native America on the University campus while providing an environment in which Native American students can commune with one another and orient themselves in a larger world. The NSA works to create ties both on and off the DU campus to maintain a sense of Native American community.

[du.orgsync.com/org/nativestudentalliance29031](http://du.orgsync.com/org/nativestudentalliance29031) | [facebook.com/groups/2201019720](https://facebook.com/groups/2201019720)