



N.A.H.F.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

For Immediate Release:

Date: Sept. 30, 2019

The Native American Heritage Fund Distributes 2019 Grants

The Native American Heritage Fund (NAHF) awarded nearly \$480,000 in grants during the 2019 NAHF Check Distribution Monday, Sept. 30, at FireKeepers Casino Hotel in Battle Creek, Michigan.

The 2019 grants distributed include:

1. Bay de Noc Community College – \$6,000 to publicly acknowledge the Treaty of 1836 through a public plaque on each campus and a Treaty Day celebration
2. Godfrey-Lee Public Schools – \$98,000 to rebrand the current mascot from "Rebels" to a new mascot and nickname that is culturally responsive
3. Grand Rapids Community College – \$5,285 to support the Grand Rapids Community College Education and Reconciliation Project, including a trip to the Zibiawing Center of Anishinaabe Culture and Lifeways and a Native American Speaker's Forum
4. Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law – \$20,000 to provide a two-day symposium, Native Family Day, and ancillary programming throughout the year
5. Monroe County Community College – \$199,234 to create curriculum and a set of immersion experiences for K-12 students, focused on how to research stories from the Native perspective
6. Northern Michigan University – \$134,612.80 to expand Anishinabék language course offerings at undergraduate and graduate levels
7. The Friendship Community/LIFT Teen Center – \$16,650 to support an overnight backpacking trip to South Minitou Island, exposing students to the history of the Ottawa tribe

Businesses, community organizations and community members united as one for this special event. The NAHF continues to be a unique funding initiative that supports and promotes positive relationships and accurate information about the history and role of Michigan's Indian tribes and Native Americans in the state.

"During the past two years, NHBP has been amazed and humbled that so many applicants have applied for funding. It is an honor to be able to lead the way with this initiative and offer funding to help strengthen the relationships between Tribes and communities across the state," said NHBP Tribal Council Vice Chairperson Dorie Rios, who also serves as the Vice Chairperson of the NAHF Board. "We look forward to seeing how this assistance will generate understanding, kindness and acceptance about the Native culture and history of Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribes."

The NAHF Board is composed of: Chairperson: Jamie Stuck (NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson); Vice Chairperson: Dorie Rios (NHBP Tribal Council Vice Chairperson); Secretary Elizabeth Kinnart (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Citizen); Treasurer: Melissa Kiesewetter (Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights Tribal Liaison/Native American Specialist); Board Member: Kimberly Vargo (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Vice Chairperson).

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For media inquiries or to request an interview with NAHF Board Chairperson Jamie Stuck, please contact NHBP Director of Communications and Public Relations Judi Henckel at 269.704.8361.

For questions regarding the NAHF grant process, please contact Calhoun County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott at 269.781.0966.

Photos:



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Godfrey-Lee Public Schools: Director of Finance and HR Mark Provost, School Board President Eric Mockerman, Superintendent Kevin Polston, School Board Treasurer Lynn Velhouse, School Board Secretary Tammy Schafer, and School Board Trustee Jackie Hernandez, and NAHF Board of Directors Jamie Stuck, Dorie Rios, Elizabeth Kinnart, Kimberly Vargo, Melissa Kiesewetter.



Grand Rapids Community College: Vice President of the Native American Student Organization (NASO) Rachel Beecher and NAHF Board of Directors Jamie Stuck, Dorie Rios, Elizabeth Kinnart, Kimberly Vargo, Melissa Kiesewetter.



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Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law: Assistant Director of Undergraduate Diversity Stephanie Chau, Interim Director of the Native American Institute Dr. Christie Poitra, Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions Coordinator Emily Sorroche, and NAHF Board of Directors Jamie Stuck, Dorie Rios, Elizabeth Kinnart, Kimberly Vargo, Melissa Kiesewetter.



Monroe County Community College: River Raisin National Battlefield Park Superintendent Scott Bentley, Monroe County Community College Grant Writer/Coordinator Cajie D’Cunha, Wyandot of Anderdon Nation Grand Chief Ted Roll, and NAHF Board of Directors Jamie Stuck, Dorie Rios, Elizabeth Kinnart, Kimberly Vargo, Melissa Kiesewetter.



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Northern Michigan University: Associate Provost and Dean of College of Health Sciences and Professional Studies Dr. Dale Kapla and NAHF Board of Directors Jamie Stuck, Dorie Rios, Elizabeth Kinnart, Kimberly Vargo, Melissa Kiesewetter.

About The Native American Heritage Fund

The NAHF was established in 2016 as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) and the State of Michigan. The amendment allowed for a portion of NHBP's annual state revenue sharing payment to be deposited into the NAHF.

The fund serves to promote positive relationships between public and private K-12 schools, colleges, universities, local units of government and Michigan's federally recognized Native American Tribes. The NAHF provides resources to help improve curricula and educational resources related to Michigan Indian history, as well as to replace or revise mascots and imagery that may be deemed as offensive to or inaccurately conveying the culture and values of Native Americans.

For more information visit: at www.calhouncountymi.gov/government/native_american_heritage_fund_board