Native American Heritage Celebration 2015

Rethinking Columbus: A Movement Towards Indigenous Peoples Day
Monday, October 12
6 - 7:30 pm
Devos Center

This program will feature a panel discussion that takes a deeper look at the history of what is now Columbus Day in much of the U.S. Panelists will discuss the historical and social impact of the colonization of the Americas, as well as current movements that challenge the holiday. Students are encouraged to interact with panelists through discussion. The program will also include a Native drum circle and cultural teachings.

Grand Valley and the Urban Native American Experience: Exhibit Opening and Dedication
Tuesday, November 3,
6 – 8 pm
Mary Idema Pew Library
Multipurpose Room

The Grand Valley and surrounding communities are invited to join the opening dedication of the “Walking Beyond Our Ancestors’ Footsteps: An Urban Native American Experience.” The exhibit, which will be on display in the Mary Idema Pew Library from November 3-18, explores how Native Americans built community in Grand Rapids in the last half of the 20th century. The evening will include remarks from Shannon Martin, director of the Zilberwing Center and Gun Lake Tribal member, who will share her knowledge and life’s work around preserving Native American history and stories.

Professional of Color Lecture Series Presents: A Conversation with Dr. Adrienne Keene
Tuesday, November 17
11:30 am – 12:45 pm
Cook DeWitt Auditorium

Adrienne Keene (Cherokee Nation) is a Native scholar, writer, blogger and activist. She is passionate about reframing how the world sees contemporary Native cultures. She is the creator and author of “Native Appropriations,” a blog discussing cultural appropriation and stereotypes of Native peoples in fashion and other forms of pop culture.

Walking Beyond Our Ancestors’ Footsteps: An Urban Native American Experience
November 3 - 19
Mary Idema Pew Library

Grand Valley and local organizations are working on an oral history project that aims to create the first archival collection focused on the urban Native experience in West Michigan. The exhibit, sponsored by the Kutsche Office of Local History, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Native American Advisory Board, Special Collections and Archives, Grand Rapids Public Library and Grand Rapids Public Museum, explores how Native Americans built community in Grand Rapids in the last half of the 20th century.

Grand Valley and the Urban Native American Experience: Campus Dialogue
Wednesday, November 18,
6 – 8 pm
Mary Idema Pew Library
Multipurpose Room

The exhibit, “Walking Beyond Our Ancestors’ Footsteps: An Urban Native Experience,” will close with a campus dialogue. On display in the Mary Idema Pew Library from November 3-18, the exhibit explores how Native Americans built community in Grand Rapids in the last half of the 20th century. We invite the campus community to consider the important role Grand Valley has played in this history and to explore what steps we can take going forward to support our Native American communities in West Michigan, both on and off campus.

Events are sponsored by:
Anthropology Department, Cultural Programming Council, Division of Inclusion & Equity, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Public Library, Kutsche Office of Local History, Native American Advisory Board, Native American Student Association.

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