**AUTHENTIC WAYS OF REPRESENTING AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE IN PREK-12 SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

AFT’s 2021 Share My Lesson Virtual Conference

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**Representation beyond the Supplemental**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXISTENCE</th>
<th>“We are Still Here,” Since Time Immemorial, thriving tribal nations, pre-1692: The concept and teaching of civics/ “America” always seems to start with the colonies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESILIENCY</td>
<td>574 Federally Recognized Tribal Nations with unique cultural practices and native languages</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>Native veterans, political leaders, business owners, inventors, authors, designers, artists, musicians, athletes</td>
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<td>ACTIVISM</td>
<td>Past and present advocacy for land, fishing, hunting, &amp; water rights, American Indian Movement (AIM), (goes beyond Standing Rock)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE</td>
<td>Indigenous math &amp; science, character building, sacredness of ceremonies and place, storytelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>CULTURE &amp; LANGUAGE</td>
<td>Language revitalization and practice, dual language instruction, honoring our ways, customs, holidays, ceremonies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT and HEALING of HISTORICAL TRAUMA</td>
<td>land acknowledgements, discussion of extermination policies, boarding schools, identity reclamation and value</td>
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<td>TRUTH TELLING</td>
<td>What really happened to us? (forced removal, termination, relocation, genocide, boarding schools, isolation)</td>
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<td>EXPERTISE</td>
<td>Let US tell our story (community guests, literature, media, film, music)</td>
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**Considerations for Educators**

- Check your own biases and understand the space of un-knowing
- Reflect on your own narratives/heritage and family histories
- Practice and teach land acknowledgements
- Build authentic relationships with (Native) students and families
- Understand the harmful role education has played in Native (and other) histories
  - Learn more about Boarding Schools and federal Indian Policy
- Access viable and vetted resources (if in doubt consult a Native organization such as NIEA or local/state Indian Education offices
- Incorporate AI/AN literature, art, stories, contributions, etc (respectfully)
- Follow leading Native Ed. organizations on social media (NIEA, IllumiNative, NCAI, and many more)
Teaching Responsibly and Respectfully

- Avoid tokenism (beads & feathers or the dreamcatcher syndrome)
- Recognize that some practices, languages, ceremonies, and/or stories are sacred and should not be considered as “interesting topics”
- Be tribally specific vs. Pan-Indian (generalizing all Native people as one)
- Respectfully build relationships with and learn from local tribes and tribal education agencies
- Be aware of implicit superiority and teaching culture as hierarchical
  - Beware of asserting that you are “helping” as it connotes inferiority of others
- Teach Native nations and people as modern and resilient not just a part of the past
- Be sensitive to historical and current traumas for Native students and communities
- Vulnerably express your own lack of knowledge and be open to learning more

AI/AN Instructional Resources

| Vettted Resources from NIEA & Partners | https://www.niea.org/learning-at-home-resources |
| K-12 AI/AN Reading List | Books by Native authors and/or with Native main characters |
| Various State Indian Ed. for All Curriculum Resources (check your individual state for more resources) | Since Time Immemorial Curriculum links Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction Oregon Indian Education Resources Montana Indian Education for All Oklahoma Indian Education resources |

*Many states do not have a localized Office of Indian Education to house these resources. This is advocacy work that is ongoing. If your state does not mandate or house AI/AN instructional resources, contact niea@niea.org for support in advocating for these!

Coming Soon!!! Look for NIEA’s resource page on Share My Lesson

Join us in Omaha, NE!!!
October 13-16th
NIEA 52nd Annual Convention

- Presentation proposal submission open until April 2nd
- Convention registration opens April 5th
- Hybrid options available!!

https://www.niea.org/convention-and-trade-show-1

Contact Dr. Casie Wise, NIEA Education Specialist: cwise@niea.org