

November is National American Indian Heritage Month

2010 Theme: *Pride in Our Heritage, Honor to Our Ancestors*

“National American Indian Heritage Month” had its origins in 1986 when Congress passed Pub. L. 99-471 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week of November 23-30, 1986 as “American Indian Week.” As directed by Congress, President Reagan issued Presidential Proclamation 5577 in November 1986 proclaiming the first American Indian Week. In 1990 Congress passed Pub. L. 101-343 which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the month of November 1990 as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Congress chose the month of November to recognize American Indian contributions because it concluded the traditional harvest season and was generally a time of thanksgiving and celebration for the American Indians.

Source: Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/american-indian.php

Native American Scientists and Traditional Knowledge



Arnold Clifford (Dine') is a botanist, geologist and associate editor for the Bolack San Juan Basin Flora Project. He is a native of Beclahbito, NM and the Carrizo Mountain Range. His expertise is in the flora of the Navajo Nation, especially in the Four Corners region.

Dr. Margaret Hiza Redsteer (Crow) is currently a research scientist at the USGS Flagstaff Science Center where she is project chief of the “Navajo Land Use Planning Project”, leading a team of researchers that conduct studies on tribal lands.



Casey Thornbrugh's (Mashpee Wampanoag) research combines an assessment of climate and other environmental changes in southwestern North America with opportunities for nation building and education in Native American/First Nation communities.

Dr. Jane Mt. Pleasant's (Tuscarora) agronomic research has focused on understanding the characteristics and management options for growing open-pollinated corn, particularly traditional Iroquois varieties.



Resources

- Tribes & Climate Change - <http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/basic/index.asp>
- American Indian Science & Engineering Society - www.aises.org
- SACNAS - Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science - www.sacnas.org
- National Congress of American Indians - www.ncai.org
- American Indian Higher Education Consortium - www.aihec.org

NOAA's OAR Equal Employment Opportunity Office - Website: www.eeo.oar.noaa.gov
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