

November is National American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month

BACKGROUND:

“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.” 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.”

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

2011 THEME:

Service, Honor, Respect: Strengthening Our Cultures and Communities

Dr. Daniel Wildcat, Yuchi Member of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma



Dr. Wildcat is a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) in Lawrence, KS. He is an accomplished scholar who writes on indigenous knowledge, technology, environment, and education. He is co-director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center, which he founded with colleagues from the Center for Hazardous Substances Research at Kansas State University. He is the co-author, with Vine Deloria, Jr., of *Power and Place: Indian Education in America* (Fulcrom, 2001), and co-editor, with Steve Pavlik, *Destroying Dogma: Vine Deloria, Jr., and His Influence on American Society* (Fulcrom 2006). His most recent book is *Red Alert! Saving the Planet with Indigenous Knowledge* (Fulcrom 2009). He has presented talks at NOAA/OAR events.



Dan with students from Haskell at NOAA in Boulder, CO.

Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) - www.haskell.edu

The mission of HINU, a land grant institution, is to serve members of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native nations as authorized by Congress and in partial fulfillment of treaty and trust obligations. With student learning as its focus, Haskell embraces the principles of sovereignty and self-determination through a culturally based holistic lifelong learning environment that promotes and upholds respect, rights, and responsibility.

