

Idaho Indian Education Summit

“United Voices Through Indian Education”

Master of Ceremonies: Brian Frejo
June 12-13, 2025
College of Western Idaho
 Nampa Campus Academic Building (NCAB)
 5500 E. Opportunities Dr., Nampa, ID 83687

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 10 CONTACT HOURS

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Location: NCAB Main Lobby	Registration /Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. NCAB 122	Opening Ceremonies Honoring Song: <i>Ron Sam</i> , Paiute, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Posting of Flags Opening Prayer Welcome Address: <i>Jennifer Porter</i> , Tribal Council Chairwoman, Kootenai Tribe <i>Dr. Yolanda Bisbee</i> , Executive Director, Tribal Relations UI Idaho Indian Education Committee Co-Chairs <i>Provost Denise Aberle-Cannata</i> , College of Western Idaho <i>Debbie Critchfield</i> , Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Idaho Department of Education
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. NCAB 122	History of the Idaho Indian Education Committee Current IIEC members will share why the Indian Education Committee was formed and the importance it has played in shaping Idaho’s Indian Education. <i>Bob Sobotta</i> , Native American & Veteran Student Services and Outreach, LCSC <i>Dr. Yolanda Bisbee</i> , Executive Director of Tribal Relations, UI
10:30 am - 10:45am	BREAK
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. NCAB 122	General Session: Tribal Education Looking Forward Panel of Tribal Leaders will discuss their Tribes vision for education <i>Jennifer Porter</i> , Tribal Council Chairwoman, Kootenai Tribe <i>Shirley Allman</i> , Tribal Executive Committee, Nez Perce Tribe <i>Jessica James</i> , Education Program Director, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes <i>Donna Thompson</i> , Vice Chairwoman, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes <i>Pete Putra</i> , Human Services Administrator, Shoshone Paiute Tribe <i>Tribal Council Chairman</i> , Chief James Allan, Coeur d’Alene Tribe
11:45 p.m. – 12:45 a.m. Location: 2 nd Floor Atrium	Lunch—Provided (networking time) (Sponsored by University of Idaho)
12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Location: NCAB 102	<p>Indigenizing the Academy: How Native American Voices Reclaim the Future</p> <p>Darren Parry, a Native American tribal elder, author, and educator, invites us to reimagine education and the future through the lens of Indigenous wisdom. His talk explores how Native ways of knowing—rooted in relationship, reciprocity, and respect for the Earth— can transform the academy, heal our communities, and guide us toward a more sustainable and just world. Through story and lived experience, he challenges us to listen differently, learn deeply, and lead with humility.”</p> <p><i>Darren Parry, Chairman of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation</i></p>
12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Location: NCAB 106	<p>Teaching foundations of tribal sovereignty to all teachers EPP resources for meeting standard 11.</p> <p>This hands-on session will discuss foundational materials for EPPs to support knowledge of Idaho’s five tribes and foundations of tribal sovereignty. Presenters discuss the process of working together and how to responsibly vet materials in the public domain.</p> <p><i>Dr. Vanessa Anthony-Stevens, Associate Professor, Curriculum & Instruction, University of Idaho</i> <i>Ezra Whitman, Educator and doctoral student, Environmental Studies, University of Idaho</i> <i>Suzanne Beasterfield, Clinical Assistant Professor, Teaching and Educational Studies, Idaho State University</i> <i>Dr. Emma Wood, Associate Dean for Teacher Preparation, Teaching and Educational Studies, Idaho State University</i></p>
12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. NCAB 202	<p>Plan Smart: Career Readiness Lesson for Educators</p> <p>Designed for secondary educators, advisors, and counselors. The session will focus on teaching and learning strategies for career readiness, specifically utilizing the "Plan Smart" tool within Next Steps Idaho. A comprehensive lesson plan will be developed to help students define personal and financial goals and develop a realistic financial plan.</p> <p><i>Bibiana Ramirez, M.S. HRD, Senior Outreach Coordinator</i> <i>Dr. Sherawn Reberry, Program Manager, Idaho Launch</i></p>
2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	BREAK
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Location: 106	<p>Learning through Cultivating Relationships: Sharing lessons learned from place-based and land-based teacher in-service professional development certificate.</p> <p>Members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes team, facilitators and teachers, talk about what place-based curriculum can and should be like as they identify key lessons for strengthening Tribal School partnership in their local schools.</p> <p><i>Bailey Dann, M.A. Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Research and Education Specialist, Language and Cultural Preservation</i> <i>Nolan Brown, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Original Territories and Historical Research Manager</i> <i>Alex Alvarez, 5th Grade Teacher at Cheif Tahgee Elementary Academy (Shoshone-Bannock)</i> <i>w/ teachers from Chief Tahgee and Shoshone-Bannock Jr/Sr High School (2 names TBD)</i></p>

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Location: NCAB 102	<p>An Unexpected Journey: A Niimiipuu in New Zealand A powerful presentation regarding a cultural exchange with the Māori in New Zealand and how it is re-shaping curriculum development and the revitalization of nimipuutímt (the Nez Perce Language).</p> <p><i>Thomas Gregory</i> – Nez Perce Tribe, Language preservation team lead <i>Trina Webb</i> – Nez Perce Tribe, Language Preservation</p>
3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	BREAK
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Location: NCAB 301	<p>“The 6Rs Framework Beyond Research: Toward More Ethical Engagement with Native Students and Tribal Nations.” Interactive with lecture, group work, and sharing out.</p> <p><i>Dr. Laticia Herkshan, Idaho State University</i> <i>Dr. Liz Redd, Idaho State University</i> <i>Dr. Georgia Hart-Fredeluces, Idaho State University</i></p>
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Location: NCAB 102	<p>Native Student Services in Higher Education Higher Education Directors in Native Student Services will share how they promote recruitment and retention of Native Students in Higher Education.</p> <p><i>Bob Sobotta</i>, Native American & Veteran Student Services and Outreach, LCSC <i>Steven Martin</i>, University of Idaho <i>Andrea Orozco</i>, Boise State University <i>Effie Hernandez</i>, Idaho State University</p>
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Location: NCAB 106	<p>Best Practices for Family Engagement K-12</p> <p><i>Jessica Matsaw</i>, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes</p>
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Location: Outdoors back lawn	<p>Social Exhibition Dances Open to the community</p> <p><i>Brian Frejo</i>, Master of Ceremonies Ghost Canyon Dancers and Singers</p> <p>Special Thank you to the sponsors of the Exhibition: Blue Cross of Idaho CAPED Federal Credit Union IKEEP Lewis & Clark State College</p>

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025 6 CONTACT HOURS

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Location: NCAB Main Lobby	Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. NCAB 122	General Session: Community Engagement to Promote School Attendance Practitioners working in high schools serving Tribal students will share their practices in promoting community engagement that supports school attendance. <i>Lynn Manning John</i> , Principal, Owyhee Combined Schools <i>Lori-Lynn Picard</i> , Lapwai Middle/High School
10:15am-10:30am	BREAK
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. NCAB 122	General Session: Idaho's Teacher of a Lifetime: Sacajawea Learn the local history of Sacajawea and how her journey still continues Presented by <i>Randy'L Teton</i> (Shoshone-Bannock), official model for the U.S. Golden Dollar coin and author.
11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Location: 2 nd Floor Atrium	LUNCH- Meet and Greet/continued conversations with Randy L Teton
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Location: NCAB 106	Indigenous Knowledge for Effective Education Program (IKEEP) Lessons from up-and-coming Native educators: Teacher candidates and alumni from IKEEP share principles for engaging students, building place-based K-12 curriculum, and for promoting holistic Native well-being in the classroom. <i>Natalie Peterson</i> (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), elementary educator <i>Jenna Jansen</i> (Salish Kootenai), elementary educator, <i>Fredina Tapaha</i> (Navajo), secondary educator with <i>Dr. Vanessa Anthony Stevens</i> and <i>Angela Jacobson</i>
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Location: NCAB 102	Honoring Sovereignty: Building Understanding of Idaho's Tribal Nations in Our Classrooms. This session will explore the importance of understanding of tribal sovereignty in the context of Idaho's five federally-recognized Tribal nations. Educators will gain insight into how sovereignty shapes the federal-Tribal relationship, and how integrating historic and contemporary Tribal issues is connected to state standards, presenting a fuller understanding of Idaho and U.S. history. <i>Dr. Laura Laumatia</i> , Environmental Programs Manager Coeur d'Alene Tribe Natural Resources Department <i>Caj Matheson</i> , Director, Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Department of Natural Resources

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Location: NCAB 309	<p>Building Bridges: Strengthening School Engagement and Attendance through Indigenous-centered Educational Practices</p> <p>This presentation explores the role of Indigenous-centered educational practices in improving school engagement and attendance among Native American students. We will examine the systemic and cultural barriers that contribute to absenteeism, and present strategies rooted in culturally responsive pedagogy, community collaboration, and holistic support. By highlighting effective case studies and practical approaches, this presentation aims to provide actionable insights for educators, administrators, and policy makers to recreate more inclusive, supportive, and culturally affirming educational environments for Native American students.</p> <p><i>Antionette Cavanaugh, Shoshone Paiute Tribe</i></p>
1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	BREAK/RAFFLE
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Location: NCAB 106	<p>Tribal Collaborations in Indian Education—STEP Grant</p> <p><i>Joyce McFarland, Education Manager, Nez Perce Tribe</i> <i>Jessica James, Education Program Director, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes</i></p>
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Location: NCAB 309	<p>Indigenous Teaching and Learning: Best Practices as a Non-Indigenous Educator</p> <p><i>Associate Professor Nikki Gorrell, College of Western Idaho</i></p>
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Location: NCAB 102	<p>"Traditional Humble Leadership and the Medicine Wheel: A Teaching Tool"</p> <p>An appreciation and open mind to learn, being respectful, genuine and positive communication is Traditional leadership. The Medicine Wheel philosophy is a culturally rooted teaching tool for mental, physical, emotional & spiritual wellbeing and success.</p> <p><i>Brian Frejo is a National Motivational speaker, leadership development, team building trainer and suicide, substance opioid use, bullying prevention specialist</i></p>
2:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m. NCAB 122	<p>Closing Ceremony Honoring Song: <i>Ron Sam, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe</i></p> <p>Closing remarks: Jennifer Porter, Tribal Council Chairwoman, Kootenai Tribe Dr. Yolanda Bisbee, Executive Director of Tribal Relations, UI (Co-Chairs for the Idaho Indian Education Committee)</p>