



March 2011

[Nebraska Department of Education](#)

Office of Multicultural/Native
American Education

www.education.ne.gov/mce



Last week I read a commentary in *Indian Country Today*. The title was “The Last Acceptable Racism: American Indians.” In it David Kimelberg, an enrolled citizen of the Seneca Nation of Indians writes about the outrage that Dan Snyder, owner of the Washington Redskins, had over being depicted in a Washington news outlet with devil horns. He stated that the picture was blatantly anti-Semitic and caused him great harm. Mr. Snyder is Jewish. Mr. Kimelberg says “Really? Can you not see the clear racist parallels with your own NFL franchise, Mr. Snyder?” (Note—Mr. Snyder has been approached by multiple American Indian groups requesting that the Redskins mascot be removed as it is highly offensive to American Indians and causes great harm.)

Mr. Kimelberg goes on to tell about a cartoon caption contest held by *The New Yorker* magazine. The cartoon shows a cowboy hiding behind a desk that is full of arrows. He has a phone in his hand and the winning caption was: “Quick, give them a casino.” His comment is that instead of choosing “highbrow wit, *The New Yorker* decided that lowbrow overt racism should carry the cartoon caption day.” He goes on to discuss how so often because only one or two people may be offended or take issue it sends the message that racism against American Indians is acceptable.

Earlier today I found another article about a very similar topic. On the *Indian Country Today* website David Trout Staddon’s article titled “Another Logical Look at the Mascot Issue” caught my attention. Mr. Staddon discusses concepts about how Indian nicknames and mascots promote stereotypical ways of looking at American Indians. He discusses his experience at a university that was engaging in discussions to eliminate their mascot. At one point he states that university officials admitted that the mascot did in fact create a stereotype but that is was a “positive stereotype” and so they deemed it to be acceptable. Again, only a few people seemed to be bothered by the mascot. It makes me wonder, when is any stereotype acceptable?

One thing common in both of these articles is the idea that if only a few people are bothered then we do not need to have serious conversation about the issue. Many people promote the idea that it should take a majority to make the change and that the minority should just keep quiet because they are “destroying” the traditions of the school or creating discomfort for some other members of society. I think of how outraged various friends or family have become about laws that have been enacted because a few people have been offended or protested that their rights are infringed on.



Why our children need and deserve culturally proficient educators

Editorial by Carol Rempp

Recently while watching the 2011 Boys State Basketball tournaments I was left pondering how many districts across that state have created new mascot names. On a recent trip to visit my parents I drove through a town I once lived in and it occurred to me that a school I once attended no longer has the Cardinal as their mascot. They are now the Cyclones. Why? They now compete with another area school in all athletic events. This got me to wondering why, as more and more districts consolidate and coop athletics which in general also involves changing mascots, is it seemingly so difficult to eliminate American Indian mascots? Professional teams move from one city to the next and with the move many times the mascot changes.

Both Mr. Staddon and Mr. Kimelberg shared in their articles that there is a sense that if people of Hispanic, African American, or Jewish decent were depicted in the same way that American Indians are frequently depicted there would be massive uprisings. However it seems that because American Indians continue to be seen as historical creatures rather than contemporary people stereotyping them is acceptable to the general public. Mr. Kimelberg concludes his commentary by stating, “Societal racism

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Remember the anticipation when looking through the oven window? The excitement, the smells!

Read the Multicultural Book Review



Porcupine and Friends is a series of books for 5-9 year olds written by Native American author Emilie Corbiere, a native from Walpole Island First Nation who currently lives in Tottenham, ON. Her first book titled *Porcupine's Bad Day*



The Eagle Books: Stories about Growing Strong and Preventing Diabetes

elementary and preschool, the series teaches about good health and diabetes. This series has been endorsed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Each set comes with an educator guide and curriculum.

The Nebraska Department of Education has about 10 sets of the books remaining to give away FREE. Email peg.kirby@nebraska.gov to reserve your set.

Talk about the benefits of exercise, eating healthy and getting back to a traditional Native diet. Then read the Eagle series. Geared for

is about a grumpy porcupine who wakes up on the wrong side of the bed and gets angry at all of his forest friends. Her second book titled *Porcupine Goes to the City* is about the same character who makes a wrong turn one foggy night and ends up in the big city where he meets a trio of colorful characters was released October 2009. A third book titled *Pork and Beans* was released in the fall of 2010. These books are written in part English and part Ojibwe. They teach children the value of friendship, cooperation and the environment. For more information visit her website at www.porcupineandfriends.com/about.html

Elizabeth S. Scott and Laurence Steinberg, 2008 Harvard University Press
ISBN: 0674057465

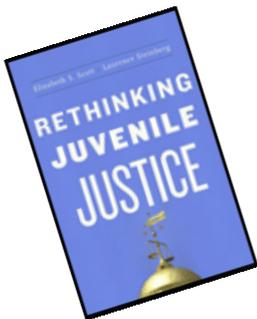
Steven Van Bockern from Reclaiming Youth has written an extensive review of this book. Rethinking Juvenile Justice has appeared on many legal sites as a book to read. Here is a brief excerpt from Dr. Van Bockern's review. Read the full review at <http://www.reclaiming.com/content/node/118>.

A 12-year-old charged with two counts of homicide will stand trial as an adult. The boy is charged in the February 2009 shooting deaths of his father's pregnant fiancée and her unborn son, Christopher. The boy was 11 at the time of the killings. If convicted of murder as an adult, he faces life in prison without parole.

Our courts are faced with the dilemma of trying to determine when children and if children should be tried as adults. Questions abound:

When is a child a child and adult an adult? Even when there is an horrendous act of violence by a child, is she less culpable by virtue of her immaturity?

- At what age does a person become fully responsible for crimes committed?
- Is trying children as adults successful? How do you define success?
- Do juvenile courts rehabilitate better than adult prisons?



What's in an American Name? Interactive Map

National Geographic has created an interactive map of Native American words. When you click on the red words, the Native American term is below.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/04/departments/native-names-interactive>

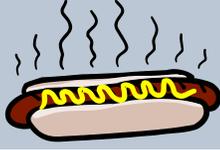


should no longer be an ad hoc affair, which is routinely accepted when directed against a certain group. It should be universally condemned. Perpetuating past wrongs and dehumanizing concepts hurts everyone.”

I was fortunate to spend a few days in February and March working with a variety of educators from around the state on the proposed Teacher and Principal standards. I was at first thrilled when I saw that the editing committees of both groups proposed a cultural proficiency standard. However being a realist I anticipated some push back from various sectors asking why it is necessary to incorporate this idea. I was hearing the cries from those who are tired of all this political correctness stuff. I could already hear those saying that this would be just another way of trying to push an agenda.

I went into the most recent meeting of the group with high hopes that others were also seeing that having culturally proficient teachers and principals was indeed valuable. I left the last drafting and editing committee meetings feeling very defeated. The educators who had been brought together in the drafting committee, who in many ways were the best and the brightest in the state, had decided that it was not necessary to have a separate standard requiring Teachers and Principals to be culturally proficient. While several of us, including the group facilitators advocated for the concept the voices stating that it is not a necessary focus for Nebraska’s educators were the loudest and in the end the majority.

Our children spend a large part of their lives with teachers and administrators. Our children deserve the best from their teachers and administrators. Part of that best is a group of educators who both understand why developing a culturally proficient society is important and who have taken the challenge upon themselves to be culturally proficient. It has been my hope that this would happen within Nebraska’s schools because educators see the value of it. The new standards may help this hope become a reality but I am very worried that the concepts that once had potential to have a strong place in the new Teacher and Principal standards will just get washed over because we listened to a majority rather than insisted on doing what is right.



Yah, you know the feeling, it's like having the hot dog at the ball game—it is just mean to be.

Experience the History 2011 Dancers of the Plains

June 17-18, 2011 Kearney, NE

and GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD ARCHWAY

Be part of a one-of-a-kind cultural event in Nebraska!

Cultural Education Day

Friday June 17, 2011 11:00 am—4:00 pm

Experience a unique opportunity to learn more about

Nebraska's history from the Otoe-Missouria Youth Leadership Initiative

Participants

Summer Schools, Home Schools and other Youth Organizations are welcome to attend with adult supervision

Friday June 17

- ^9:00 am Tipi raising
- ^10 am—11:00 Hands-on stations west of the earth lodge focus on Trail History and Settlement
- ^11 am—noon Hands-on stations in earth lodge and arena with Otoe-Missouria Youth*
- ^1:00—3:00 pm Dance demonstrations and explanations in arena

* from 10—11 am stations with Otoe-Missouria reserved for Boy Scouts working on Badge requirements

Saturday June 18

- ^Demonstrations and Vendors 9:00 am—4:00 pm
- ^ Dance Exhibition 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Camping

- Camping available at Fort Kearny
- Please call 308-865-5305

Food

- Food vendors will be available at the Archway during the powwow event

Contact Information:

Great Platte River Road Archway

Ronnie O'Brien email: robrien@archway.org
3060 East 1st St., Kearney NE 68847
PH: 308-237-1000 www.archway.org

Cost: There is no cost to your organization to attend this event! Free-will Donations Are Appreciated.



Chief Standing Bear Ceremonies May 20, 2011



Breakfast-Embassy Suites, Lincoln NE
Keynote: Joseph Marshall, narrator of the Chief Standing Bear PBS documentary.



Visit the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/chief_standing_bear.html

Table reservations and individuals tickets still available.

STATEWIDE CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD THIS APRIL

WORKSHOP DATES/LOCATIONS:

April 18: Chadron
April 19: Kearney
April 20: Norfolk
April 21: Omaha
Events will run from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Staff and volunteers of Nebraska museums, libraries, and archives are encouraged to register for these conservation workshops, which present a great opportunity to influence the future of collections care for our state, and learn more about conservation programs.

Topics to be covered include the review of a statewide collections conservation draft plan with attendee feedback on how to best save our heritage, and practical hands-on experience in caring for your own collection.

Workshops will be offered by experienced professionals on four different topics:

- Chadron: digitization and preservation of documents and records
- Kearney: photographic collections care and preservation
- Norfolk: disaster preparedness planning
- Omaha: working with conservators

Pending funding, some travel stipends will be available to help cover participants' transportation costs. Partners are Nebraska State Historical Society, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Museum Association, Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Humanities Council with project funding provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency.

To receive registration information directly, please contact Lynne Ireland, Deputy Director, Nebraska State Historical Society, PO Box 82554, Lincoln, NE 68501 at lynne.ireland@nebraska.gov. Ms. Ireland may also be contacted by phone at: (402) 471-4758.



2011 Humanitarian Dinner DIVERSITY ON TV BEHIND THE SCENES AND IN OUR LIVES

Soledad O'Brien, Keynote
CNN Correspondent

June 2, 2011 www.inclusive-communities.org



Making a baby laugh because you know they're not faking it.

BIOGRAPHY: WRITTEN LIVES

30th Annual The John G. Neihardt Spring Conference

April 30, 2011

John G. Neihardt State Historical Site, Bancroft NE

Registration information and agenda are available at

www.neihardtcntr.org/Events.html



Nebraska
Humanities
Council

History Graduate Students' Association will present a conference on

“Communities, Kinship, and Culture: The Formation and Expression of Identities”

ON APRIL 8-9 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

This interdisciplinary conference will explore the evolution of the identity, values, and cultural of individuals or groups as they relate to particular segments of society. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln History Graduate Students' Association 6th Annual James A. Rawley Conference in the Humanities seeks to explore these issues in an interdisciplinary manner and from a global perspective.

Dr. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, 300th Anniversary University Professor of History at Harvard University, will deliver this year's keynote address, entitled, “Ink and Thread: an Objective-centered History of the Nineteenth-century Mormonism.” Dr. Ulrich is the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for History and the Bancroft Prize in American History for her book *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard Based on her Diary, 1785-1812*. Dr. Ulrich also served as the 2009 President of the American Historical Association.

Preceding the conference, there will be a film screening of the PBS “American Experience” film *A Midwife's Tale* based on Dr. Ulrich's book at Mary Reipma Poss Media Arts Center, 313 N. 13th. The screening will be held on Thursday, April 7th at 7 pm with a discussion to follow. Dr. Ulrich will attend the screening.

The James A. Rawley Graduate Conference in the Humanities is one of many grants funded by the Nebraska Humanities Council.

STATEWIDE NATIVE AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 13, 2011

The two regions will link via DSL.

Contact Carol Rempp at
carol.rempp@nebraska.gov

Western Region

4:30-6:30 (MST)

Chadron State College, 309 Miller Hall

Meeting via DSL contact soar@esu13.org to register for DSL connection site.

Northeast Region

5:30-7:30 (CST)

Meet at ESU 1



June 9-10, 2011

www.nebraskamiddlelevelacademy.org

Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools

MORE INFORMATION IN APRIL

Challenging Education to Meet the Changing Face of Nebraska

Nebraska ACT State
Organization 2011 Annual
Conference



April 14, Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln
Registration <http://www.regonline.com>

Smithsonian's National Museum

Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian hosts the U.S. premier of *Qapirangaug: Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change*. Simultaneous broadcasts are available at AmericanIndian.si.edu/webcasts or www.isuma.tv. This groundbreaking documentary captures the voices of those who are often overlooked in the discussion on climate change: the indigenous communities that are disproportionately affected by it. Inuit elders recall observations and customs passed down through centuries of storytelling and how their traditional ways of life are threatened by a warming Arctic. Their insight challenges mainstream accounts and reveals why climate change has become a human-rights issue for Native people.

Architectural plans are being finalized for a Museum of African American History and Culture. The National Museum of African American

Since the founding of this nation, the issue of race has torn us apart — and brought us together. The National Museum of African American History and Culture will promote reconciliation, healing and a greater understanding of the African American experience for all visitors.

Sign up for the virtual guestbook to show your support and received additional information.

[Link to Guestbook](#)

Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals Working with Families Living in Poverty with Young Children

Jodi Pfarr
Executive Director
of Emma Norton
Services, Keynote

**May 16-17, 2011
Kearney NE**

Free workshop

Registration form and information

<http://edn.ne.gov/registration/registration2.php>



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Systemic Processes To Raise Student Achievement



Nebraska Native American Education Symposium

October 31, 2011 > 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. > Wayne State College

Hosted by the Nebraska Department of Education and ESU 1.

Keynote Speakers from aha! Processes

Full day sessions. You must select K-6 or 7-12 session when registering.

This is a hands-on workshop where you will be able to walk into your classroom the following day with new, effective tools to use. Learn the nine teacher-friendly processes that are designed to raise student achievement. Simpler processes are key to this collegial model that is designed to take less time and yield strong results. Using the book, *Researched Based Strategies* and the workbook *9 Systemic Processes to Raise Achievement*, our presenters will walk clients through a model that creates sustainable excellence. Especially excellent for low performing schools, schools with demographic shifts, schools with students from poverty, and schools struggling to meet AYP with specific subgroups.



Kim D. Ellis
Presenter for K-6



Beverly Ray
Presenter for 7-12

Limited Registration: Deadline October 1, 2011

Registration is **strictly** limited to 200 participants per presenter. No exceptions. Registration will be a first come basis. Confirmations will be sent by October 10. Nebraska Department of Education will offer a waiting list for registrations.

COST: \$25 material fee per person (ESU 1 will invoice your school district or business.) Include all staff on one purchase order.

Recommended Audience

- K-12 classroom teacher
- Administrators
- NDE staff,
- ESU staff
- Guidance counselors
- School personnel directly involved in instruction of students.

How to register*

 NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ESU #1

Group and individual registration forms are available online at www.education.ne.gov/mce Print and complete forms. To submit, use one of the following methods.

1. Fax registration form and purchase order to Peg Kirby at 402-471-8227
2. Scan in registration form and purchase order and email to peg.kirby@nebraska.gov
3. Mail registration form and purchase order

Peg Kirby
Nebraska Dept of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE 68509

NominateDo you know a teacher who is doing an outstanding job working with students in the areas of adapted physical education, dance, health and/or physical education?

Does your school or school district have an outstanding physical education program?

Do you know of an agency, business, or medical professional who is providing health education opportunities for your school?

If you know an individual or program that is making a difference in Nebraska, please consider nominating them for a 2011 Nebraska Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NAHPERD) Award.

Your nomination is just a click away!

Visit the **NAHPERD website** at http://www.unomaha.edu/nahperd/award_nomination_form.html

NAHPERD is currently seeking nominations for the following awards:

- Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year
- Dance Educator of the Year
- Health Educator of the Year
- Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year
- Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year
- High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year
- Outstanding Recreation Specialist
- Health Education Professional of the Year in the following areas:
 - School K-12, Agency, Business, Clinical, College,
 - Health Education Administration
 - Outstanding Physical Education Program

The nomination deadline is **May 6, 2011**

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES	Award	Eligibility	Deadline
<p>Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are among the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science and recognize highly qualified teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. Maximum award: \$10,000; a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities; a citation signed by the President of the United States. http://www.paemst.org/controllers/about.cfc?method=view</p>	\$10,000 maximum	Teachers grades 7-12, 5 years math or science teaching	April 1
<p>Libri Foundation: Books for Children Grants The Libri Foundation Books for Children Grants donate new, quality, hardcover children's books for small, rural, public libraries across the country. Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: Libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department. http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html</p>	Book donation	Public Libraries with children's department. Operating budget of less than \$40,000	April 15
<p>ING: Unsung Heroes Awards The ING Unsung Heroes awards program recognizes innovative and progressive thinking in education through monetary awards. http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes</p>	\$25,000	Full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff members	April 30
<p>American Honda Foundation: Grants for Education The American Honda Foundation makes grants to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and other youth-focused nonprofit organizations for programs that benefit youth and scientific education. . http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf</p>	\$60,000 Maximum	Schools and youth – focused non-profit groups	May 1
<p>Annie's Gardens Annie's Grants for Gardens from Annie's Homegrown help schools and nonprofits in the United States that intend to create gardens. The focus of these grants is on schools, community gardens, and other educational programs that will connect children to gardening. http://www.annies.com/grants_for_gardens</p>	\$250	Schools for community gardens and educational programs	Open
<p>Charles Lafitte Foundation: Grants Program The Charles Lafitte Foundation Grants Program gives funds to groups and individuals to foster lasting improvement on the human condition by providing support to education, children's advocacy, medical research, and the arts. http://www.charleslafitte.org/education.html</p>	Varies	501(c)3 institutions	Open

McDonald's Chief Standing Bear Essay Contest (deadline April 11)



Generate awareness of our youth and community of the many accomplishments of Ponca Chief Stand Bear

Elementary Grades 4-5

3 paragraphs; original thinking/own options

Topic choice reflected in essay

1. What can you do today to carry on chief Standing Bear's vision of equality?
2. What would Chief Standing Bear do if he was alive today?

Include student name, grade, school, school address, contact phone and email address. A signed release form is required and can be obtained at the Commission's website or Nebraska Department of Education at <http://www.education.ne.gov/mce>. Mail to Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, PO Box 94981, Lincoln NE 68509-4981 or email to scott.w.shafer@nebraska.gov on or before April 11.

4 statewide winners

\$50 McDonald Arch Card

Opportunity to read essay at the Chief Standing Bear Breakfast

May 20, McDonalds will publish essay winners on tray liners to be distributed in Nebraska restaurants.



NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

College scholarships awarded, all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the National Museum of the American Indian and Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation. DEADLINE: APRIL 1

<http://nativewriters.hklaw.com/index.asp>.

Need Some Help with Tuition?



<p>Writers in the Schools: Sarah Mook Memorial Poetry Contest The Sarah Mook Memorial Poetry Contest acknowledges, encourages, and rewards the efforts of student poets. It is the goal of this outreach to inspire and acknowledge young poets. http://www.a2pwebdesign.com/poetrywits/poetrycontest/sarahmook.htm</p>	<p>\$100 Max</p>	<p>Students K-12</p>	<p>March 31</p>
<p>Thurgood Marshall College Fund Merit based and financial need. http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.net/student/scholarshipprograms</p>	<p>\$2,200 per semester</p>	<p>African American students</p>	<p>Several deadlines</p>
<p>Ulman Cancer fund for Young Adults Ulman Cancer fund for Young Adults is committed to helping young adults continue their education after being affected by cancer through their own diagnosis or the diagnosis of a loved one. http://www.ulmanfund.org/University-Outreach/College-Scholarship-Program.aspx</p>	<p>\$2,500 over 2 semesters</p>	<p>At least 15 yr old</p>	<p>April 1</p>
<p>Hispanic College Fund A host of scholarships for Hispanic students. http://www.hispanicfund.org/</p>		<p>various</p>	<p>Varies starting NOW</p>

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