

Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society
August 6 – 7, 2026

*Conference Sponsor: Hinono'etiit Ho'owu &
NSILC – Natives Strengthening
Indigenous Languages & Cultures
Conference Host: University of Montana*



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2026 Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society

About the Conference Founder, Organizer, & Keynote Speakers



Dr. Neyooxet Greymorning earned his Ph.D. from Oklahoma University in 1992. He began his academic career at the University of Alberta and is a full professor in the departments of Anthropology and Native American Studies at the University of Montana. He has conducted language teacher training workshops in Australia, Canada, Germany, and the United States, and maintains an active research and teaching agenda that includes *Indigenous Peoples and the Ethics of Development*, *Contemporary Issues of Indigenous Peoples*, *Indigenous Ethnobotany and Spirit Healing*, *Culture as Expressed Through Language*, and created a certificate for *Native Language Rejuvenation*. Professor Greymorning served as the Acting Director of the Indigenous Governance Programs at the University of Victoria in British Columbia from 2001-2002. He was also a visiting scholar at Southern Cross University in Australia, 2009 – 2012, and New England University, also in Australia, 2014, and 2018. Neyooxet's work in developing strategies toward strengthening and sustaining Native languages led to him to develop Accelerated Second Language Acquisition (ASLA©™). He is the founder and Executive Director of Hinono'eitiino'owu' – Arapaho Language Lodge and was named three times to Who's Who Among America's College and University Teachers. In 2018, Dr. Greymorning was the recipient of a Life Achievement Award for his work in Anthropology, and in 2019 he delivered a President's Distinguished lecture about his work that tests dolphins for language cognition. Most recently Neyooxet's work with the Gumbaynggirr in Australia was instrumental in creating several highly proficient speakers of Gumbaynggirr who in 2022 enabled the creation of the first Indigenous language school in the state of New South Wales.

Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society About the Keynote Speakers



Principal Sachem Dr. Ronald Yonaguska Holloway is the hereditary Sachem of the Sand Hill Band of Raritan Lenape and Cherokee Indians. Sachem Yonaguska's background and repertoire includes a diverse array of experiences that stem from his Doctorate of Divinity, his time in the Marine Corps, his suite of current Security Licensing Series certifications, as well as his notable expertise in the sphere of international relations. Sachem Yonaguska is the standing Minister of International Affairs for the Federation of Aboriginal Nations of the Americas- a transnational confederation in treaty with entities such as the State of the African Diaspora, known as the African Union's sixth region and including the Supremo Consejo Nacional Indígena de México otherwise referred to as the Supreme National Indigenous Council of Mexico. With experience in speaking at the World Health Organization (WHO) to discuss issues with regard to Female Native Americans, introducing international treaties between sovereign nations and growing eHealth companies like UNIDOC, to addressing the 2nd International Native American Congress on the importance of higher education, law, and economics; Sachem Yonaguska endeavors to contribute to the evolving process to reverse the augers of colonialism that can facilitate an evolution in how tribal governing bodies may express agency and actionable sovereignty in the 21st century.



Anna Marie Prentiss received her PhD from the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University in 1993. She has been employed at the University of Montana since 1995 where she is now Regents Professor of Anthropology. Her research interests focus on the archaeology of ancient Indigenous fisher-forager population dynamics, technological systems, settlement and subsistence strategies, and social change. Her research has been conducted in collaborative partnerships with Indigenous groups in the North American Pacific Northwest, Plains/Rockies, and Arctic regions. She has worked with Xwísten, the Bridge River Indian Band, since 2003, focusing on K'etxelnaz, the Bridge River housepit village. This research has incorporated Band members in field and lab work and has had impacts on community approaches to heritage management, public education, language training, and Band member employment. Research outcomes have been extensive spanning reconstruction of broad village history to detailed insights into ancient households. A recent highlight is the Housepit 54 project, focused on reconstruction of a long-lived house with its 17 identified occupation floors, one of which was occupied as late as the mid-19th century during the late British Columbia Fur Trade period. Planned research in the near-future will focus on the establishment and early growth of the village in comparison to similar histories in ancient Japan, St. Lawrence, and southern Baltic regions.



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Keynote Speakers' Abstracts

Raritan Lenape scholar **R. Yonaguska Holloway** will deliver Monday's, August 6 talk, ***Powers of Dreaming: The Birth of a Confederation***

This talk explores the influence forces of dreaming have on social coordination and action. Among the Delaware Nation, Dreaming Rituals are a pillar through which cosmological expressions reinforce their ecological normative orders. To the Delaware, they are not passive experiences, rather, Dreams shape the conduct of interpretive habits and can influence expression-forms in significant ways. Dreaming and political circumstances have intimate relationships with key points among social evolutions in select Delaware communities, the Raritan Lenape being the case in point. Dream-recitation processes have continuously been enforced to address different strategies that help maintain cultural stability. Historically, dreams have impacted significant political events like Pontiac's Rebellion when a Delaware Prophet navigated the implications of colonial expansion. Today, Dreaming Rites influenced the enforcement of socio-legal chains through which the Federation of Aboriginal Nations of the Americas emerged as a strategy to channel collective agency into actionable sovereignty. As the Federation's legacy is grounded in an honor for the sacred, this talk explores how this Confederation is motivated by contents of tradition.

Regents Scholar **Professor Anna Prentiss**, will deliver Thursday's August 7, talk ***The Bridge River Archaeological Project: Lessons and Accomplishments from a 20-year Indigenous Nation and University Collaborative Partnership***

The University of Montana has partnered with Xwísten, the Bridge River Indian Band (a member of the St'át'imc Nation) since 2002 to conduct archaeological research at K'etxelnáz, the Bridge River housepit village in south-central British Columbia. The collaboration with Xwísten has permitted our teams to address research question of mutual interest to all. Most recently, our research has focused on the remarkable record of Housepit 54, with its 16 fully intact occupation floors, the majority of which date between about 1100 and 1460 years ago. In this talk, I introduce traditional St'át'imc culture and overview the Housepit 54 project with a focus on what we have learned about the processes of demographic growth and decline, subsistence variation, and the emergence and ultimate rejection of wealth-based social inequality all on an unprecedented inter-generational scale. Beyond insights into key elements of Indigenous history and resolution of anthropological questions, our research has offered benefits to the Indigenous descendent community in the form of highlighting traditional culture in the local schools, employment for Band members on the field project, opportunities for higher education, and collaboration in the development of heritage tourism.