



## CONFERENCE THEME

Southeastern Oklahoma State University invites tribal members, students, scholars, and educators to attend our Fifteenth Native American Symposium. In recognition of the recent past, the event theme is “States of Sovereignty.” We ask speakers and attendees to help put the unique circumstances of the post-McGirt world in context and conversations about the contested meaning of sovereignty. As the work of scholars like Philip Deloria (Standing Rock Sioux) and Jean O’Brien (White Earth Band of Ojibwe) has repeatedly observed, Native presence has always been viewed through a settler-colonial prism relegating Native governance to a pre-modern world. These assumptions continue to inform assessments of Native sovereignty, as evidenced by the 2022 *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta* decision.

Our program also is interested in allowing participants a forum to consider the various “states” of Native sovereignty across North America. How is sovereignty expressed politically, economically, culturally, educationally, and socially in a dynamic environment? What steps must be taken by federal and state governments – working together with tribes – to affirm Native sovereignty? We invite all to share how they believe the past and present will shape future sovereignty.

The program focuses on proposals that reconsider Native business, leadership, education, career development, and inspiration. Roundtables connecting the theme of “States of Sovereignty” to other topics such as Native American history, cultural identity, literature, art, philosophy, and film. The Southeastern Oklahoma State University Symposium is pleased to announce that our keynote speaker will be Poteet Victory (Cherokee-Choctaw), artist and owner of Victory Contemporary Gallery and Studio in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The goal of the Native American Symposium is to further the dialogue between three main participant groups: members of Indian Nations, members of the public community, and members of the academic community. As a cultural bridge between these communities, the symposium aims to provide an intensive study of Native American cultures and to raise more interest in and awareness of ethnic identities in Oklahoma.

## REGISTRATION

The fifteenth Native American Symposium will be a hybrid event, conducted both virtually and on campus at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma. While we welcome a return to the in-person symposium experience, we believe retaining virtual participation capabilities will allow greater access to our speakers and participants. Registration for this event is FREE. Our virtual host platform is Whova. Details regarding registration will be emailed shortly

ALL SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS WILL BE MADE  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



# NATIVE AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

## SESSION 1 - 9:00-10:30 AM CST

- George Strong, SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, “The Choctaw People: Ancestral Lands, Removal, and Present” | **Student Union 202**
- Chad Johnson, SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, “Native American Sovereignty and Ecological Justice” | **Student Union 213**
- Dan Marshall Purvis III, CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, “Tribes of Tejas” | **Student Union 303**
- Michael Davis, SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY and Anthony Hill CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, “Paternalism in Federal Regulation of Tribal Sovereignty” | **Student Union 323**

## SESSION 2 – 10:45-12:15 PM CST

- Jennifer McMahan, EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, “Inside Despair: Suicide in Reservation Dogs and The Passenger” | **Student Union 202**
- Delanie Seals, EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, “Unconquered and Unconquerable: Post-McGirt Criminal Jurisdiction Analysis” | **Student Union 213**
- B.Steve Csaki SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, “The Problematic Paradox of Native American Sovereignty” | **Student Union 303**
- Sam Schirvar, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, “Home and Hands: The Growth of Tribally-Owned Manufacturing Enterprises During the 1970’s” | **Student Union 323**

## LUNCH BREAK – 12:15-1:30 PM CST | Classroom Building 103

## SESSION 3 – 1:30-3:00 PM CST

- Stefan Benz, UNIVERSITY OF BONN, “It’s in my blood to bang drums: Indigenous Rhythmic Sovereignty and Settler Colonial Rhythm Discourse” | **Classroom Building 103**
- Michael Taylor, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY, “Black Elk’s Life Speaks: That Much More on Sovereignty” | **Classroom Building 118**
- Christopher Allen, THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, “Tribal Sovereignty and American Indian Citizenship in the Autobiography of Zitkala-Sa and S. Alice Callahan’s Wyenma: A Child of the Forest” | **Classroom Building 120**
- Tara Embrough, UNIVERSITY OF INCARNATE WORD and Lindsey Mixon, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, “The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Personal Stress Factors of Oklahoma Women College Students: A Case Study Comparing Native Women and Men” | **Classroom Building 104**
- Amy Madewell and Kendra St. Clair, SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, “Sovereignty, Grit, and Resilience among Native American Student Raised in Low Resource Environments” | **Classroom Building 106**

## SESSION 4 – 3:15 - 4:00 PM CST

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Poteet Victory (Cherokee-Choctaw) artist and owner of Victory Contemporary Gallery and Studio in Santa fe, New Mexico | **Classroom Building 103**



# Native American Symposium Committee



Southeastern Oklahoma  
State University

## Native American Symposium Committee Members

Mark Shields  
Patricia Hornback  
Chad Harp  
Jennifer Kemp  
Stephanie Luke  
Rolando Diaz  
Matthew Sparacio

For further information, please contact:  
[nasymposium@se.edu](mailto:nasymposium@se.edu)

The goal of the Native American Symposium Committee is to further the dialogue between three main participant groups: members of Indian Nations, members of the public community, and members of the academic community. As a cultural bridge between these different communities, the symposium aims to provide an intensive study of Native American cultures and to raise more interest in and awareness of ethnic identities in Oklahoma. In order to share such knowledge, the symposium presents lectures, round-table discussions, film viewings, art exhibits, dances and music performances, and readings of Native American literature and poetry. The symposium presents a variety of textual productions by and about Native Americans and considers these “texts” as a kind of cultural knowledge uniquely available in this area.

The Native American Symposium Committee was formed in part because of the large population of Native Americans on the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University and in the surrounding area. Roughly thirty percent of our students are Native Americans, mostly of Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Creek decent. Our Committee was formed to highlight cultural issues concerning this student group, to cultivate an awareness and understanding of Native American culture, and to promote the advancement of Native American issues within the University and surrounding communities.