

Wabanaki Studies in Action

Developing Cultural Humility and Decolonizing Curriculum



Webinar Agenda for 5/14/20

- Overview of Equity and Curriculum Work in Portland (1)
- Professional Development in Wabanaki Studies (2)
- Barriers to Compliance with LD 291 (3)
- Curriculum Planning Guide and Future Plans (4)
- Q and A with Fiona and Bridgid (5)



Equity and Achievement



Our Priorities

ACHIEVEMENT

EQUITY

WHOLE STUDENT

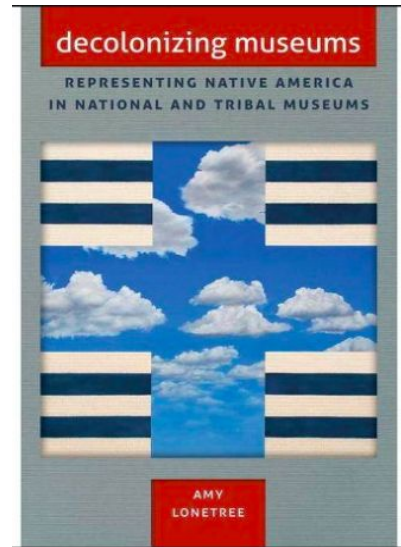
PEOPLE



Cultural Humility and Decolonization

“Cultural humility is about looking deeper and discovering the complexity of our cultural inheritance . . . Regardless of whether we are on the upside or the downside of sociopolitical power, we all participate in and uphold a socially constructed hierarchy that benefits some and marginalizes others. By listening to ourselves, we can begin to recognize that participation as well as our own biases, limitations, and unconscious stereotypes.”

Charlene Leung, Shambhala International



Collaboration

Who are the original people of this land and what is my responsibility to them?”

Dina Gilio-Whitaker, Coleville Confederated Tribes



Curriculum Intensive for Portland Teachers at Penobscot Nation



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Indigenous Perspectives

Educators need to amplify Indigenous voices.

Maria Girouard, Penobscot, Executive Director of Maine-Wabanaki REACH



Veterans' Day display at Motahkomikuk (Indian Township) School, November 2018



Truth-Telling

“How do I bring dignity to a society built on colonialism and slavery?”

Starr Kelly, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Abbe Museum Curator of Education



The Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor, Maine



Relationship Building and Learning

- Tribal Leaders and Communities
- Indigenous families
- The Abbe Museum
- USM Osher Map Library
- Maine-Wabanaki REACH
- The Upstander Project
- Friends of the Presumpscot River
- Maine Historical Society
- Teacher Summer Intensive on Sugar Island, Penobscot Nation



Chief Clarissa Sabattis, Bridgid Neptune, Fiona Hopper, and Aselis Neptune-Hood





Community Gathering for Indigenous Families in the Portland Public Schools, April 2019



Logo designed by Native students in PPS



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Photos from Curriculum Intensive at the Penobscot Nation



“This trip will directly inform the way that I teach students about Wabanaki history and Wabanaki present. In addition, I think it has pushed me to reconsider my own colonial mindset and to do a lot more learning and unlearning of my own.”

Participant in Curriculum Intensive on Sugar Island





Photos from Decolonizing Education Workshop, REACH workshop, and Passamaquoddy Ancestors' Paddle



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Barriers

- Settler Colonialism
- White Supremacy



Dundee Dam, Presumpscot River, Maine



Settler Colonialism

Settler-colonization is the removal and erasure of Indigenous peoples in order to take the land for use by settlers in perpetuity.

Teaching Tolerance

“Settler Colonialism is said to be a structure not an historic event, whose end game is always the elimination of the Natives in order to acquire their land, which it does in countless seen and unseen ways.”

Dina Gilio-Whitaker, Coleville Confederated Tribes



White Supremacy

A system and/or form of government founded on an ideology of the inherent superiority of white Europeans over non-whites.

Robert Jensen, The Heart of Whiteness

“...people of color are seen as inferior to white in the making and keeping of the nation...we are entitled to more privileges and resources because we are “better” people.”

Robin DiAngelo



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“We see it [truth-telling] as something very deep, a necessary transition from being an occupier, to being a neighbor.”

Gkisedtanamoogk, Maine TRC



Foundational Work

- Common Memory
- Decolonizing curriculum



Chief Polin Memorial, Westbrook, Maine



Common Memory

“Where common memory is lacking, where people do not share in the same past, there can be no real community. Where community is to be formed, common memory must be created.”

Georges Erasmus, Dine, Tribal Leader



Decolonization Tool

1. Existence
2. Colonization and Resistance
3. Sovereignty and Diplomacy
4. Sustainability and Endurance



Making Change

- Curriculum map
- Social Studies Vertical Team
- Ongoing Professional Development



Dawn over Back Cove, Portland, Maine



Resource Highlights

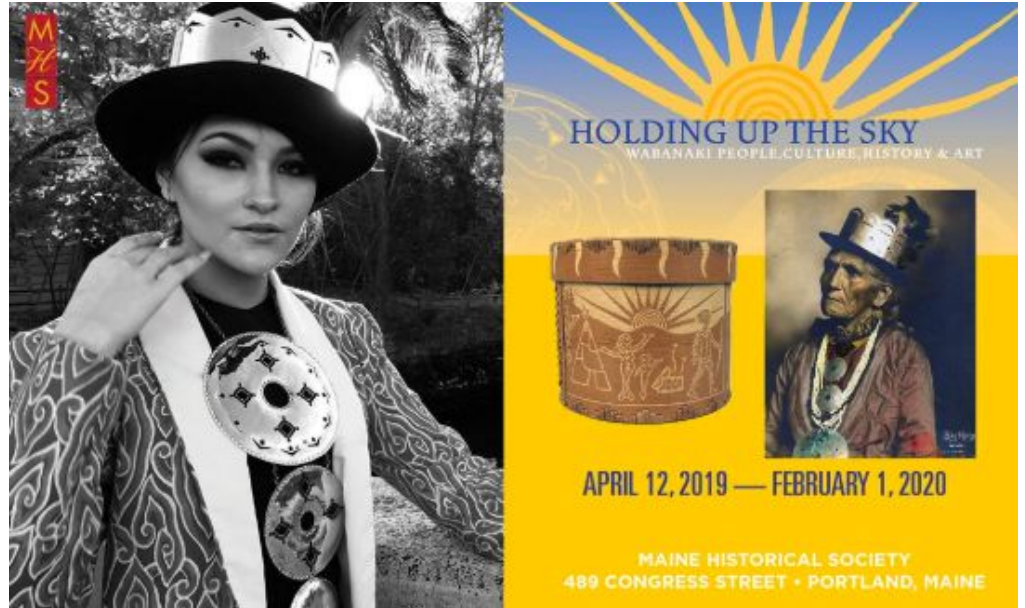
The Abbe Museum

The Wabanaki Collection

Passamaquoddy people

Penobscot Culture

Holding Up the Sky



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Portland Teachers on the Penobscot River



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