

NATIVE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE
MONTH



HISTORY OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Nationally observed in November, Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of the communities.

NAHM is a time to educate the general public about unique challenges that Native people have faced both historically and in the present, as well as the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to overcome the challenges.

In 1990, Congress passed and Former President George H. W. Bush signed into law a joint resolution designating the month of November as the first National American Indian Heritage Month (aka Native American Indian Month). In 2008, the commemorative language was amended to include the contributions of Alaskan Natives, as well.

The U.S. government officially recognizes 574 Native American tribes in the contiguous 48 states and Alaska. The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides contact information for each tribe's Tribal Leader.





FIRST NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTER

First Nations Educational and Cultural Center (FNECC) opened in April 2007 and is administered by the Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs (OVPDEMA). FNECC serves as a gathering place for Native American students and allows them to feel valued and find a sense of unity on campus.

Its mission includes four components:

1. To build a safe, supportive, and inclusive Native community within IUB
 2. To actively support the recruitment and retention of Native and Indigenous students at IUB
 3. To connect with and provide support to students, faculty, and staff who have historical roots to present-day Indiana
 4. To provide educational opportunities that spread awareness of issues within Native and Indigenous communities and create a welcoming environment for many perspectives
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ORGANIZATIONS AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Native American Student Association

NASA is a Native Community that is dedicated to the strengthening, advocacy, and expression of indigenous identities, creation of safe spaces for Native community members, and adherence to Native cultural values.

American Indian Student Association

AISA is geared toward undergraduate students who are both Native and non-Native and are interested in indigenous academics, culture, and issues. AISA now holds meetings each week over dinner or coffee to discuss a specific issue that is currently affecting indigenous communities.

Native American Graduate Students' Association

NAGSA works to serve the needs of Native American students at Indiana University, and is open to anyone interested in learning, sharing, and preserving the culture and heritage of Native Americans. NAGSA aims to raise awareness of indigenous issues and increase student and community involvement.





NOTABLE PEOPLE
OF

NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE

IN
HISTORY



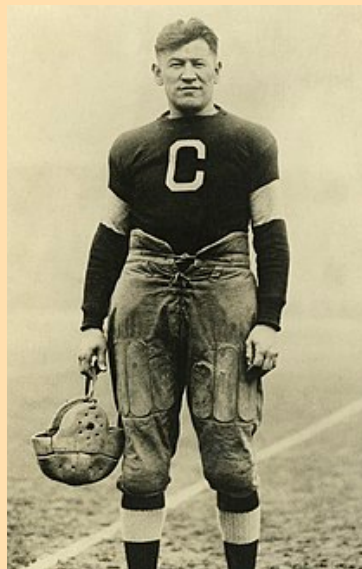
DEB HAALAND

U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, has made history when she became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and is a 35th generation New Mexican. Laguna Pueblo is one of the 19 native pueblos in New Mexico. The Interior Department manages the country's public lands, endangered species, natural resources, and is responsible for the government-to-government relations between the U.S. and Native American tribes. Haaland was also the first woman to be elected to the board of directors for the Laguna nation's development corporation.



JIM THORPE

Jim Thorpe, byname of James Francis Thorpe, was one of the most accomplished all-around athletes in history. Thorpe was of the Native American Sac and Fox tribes' descent. In 1912, he won the pentathlon at the fifth modern Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden. He placed first in the broad jump, 200-meter sprint, discuss throw, and the 1,500 meters. In 1950, Jim Thorpe was selected by American sportswriters and broadcasters as the greatest gridiron football player and the Associated Press named him the greatest athlete of the first half of the 20th century.



WINONA LADUKE

Winona LaDuke is a Native American activist, economist, and author. She is an Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg. Her father brought her to powwows and other tribal functions, and she spent her summers living in Native communities to strengthen her connection with her heritage. LaDuke graduated from Harvard University in 1982 with a degree in rural economic development. At Harvard, LaDuke spent a summer working on a campaign to stop uranium mining on Navajo land in Nevada, and testified before the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland about the exploitation of Indian lands. She also became involved in a lawsuit filed by the Anishinaabeg people to recover lands promised to them in an 1867 federal treaty. In 1989, she completed a master's degree in community economic development from Antioch University, and founded the White Earth Land Recovery Project the same year.





SOURCES

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