



United Tribes of North Carolina

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Friday, March 8th, Session III 3:15pm - 4:30pm

Workshops	Description	Speaker	Speaker	Speaker	Location
Exhibition of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs	The Department of Administration houses the North Carolina Commission of Indians Affairs with a multitude of programs and opportunities for our American Indian Communities. This session will provide information on the Housing, Workforce Development and Training, SUNS, LIAEP, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking and the Tobacco Survey Program which exists to promote a multitude of opportunities for our American Indians in NC. Our goal is to foster relationships with our tribal communities to ensure the advocacy that we provide is known by all members of the North Carolina Tribes.	Maria Richardson, NCCIA - WIOA Director; Steve Maynor, NCCIA - Housing Director; Kimberly Hammonds, NCCIA - SUNS Program Director	Shanae Brewington, NCCIA - LIEAP Director; Nikki Locklear, NCCIA - Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Director	Laury Rose Chavis, NCCIA - Whittemore Tobacco Grant Survey Director Candace Lowry, NCCIA Deputy Director	Olmstead
Sappony Heritage Camp: 22 Years of Keeping Culture Alive	Started in 2001, the annual Sappony Youth Camp has grown to be one of the biggest events of the year in the High Plains community. Held at Mayo Park and our tribal community in northern Person County, NC and southern Halifax County, VA, it brings together members of all seven Sappony family clans, even those who live far away, for a week of fun and learning about Sappony heritage and history. This intergenerational effort that spans children, teens, young adults, and Elders incorporates Sappony history learning and culture, and builds lifelong bonds that are essential to the sustainability of the Sappony community. Learn how young Sappony adults have taken on the mantle of responsibility for this camp with the guidance of Elders, how they incorporate history learning and cultural revitalization, bring the tribal community together, and the outcomes the Sappony have seen after 22 years strong.	Skyler Stewart (Sappony) Sappony Heritage Camp Committee Member	Martin Saniga (Sappony) Sappony Heritage Camp Committee Member	Teryn Brewington (Sappony) Sappony Heritage Camp Committee Member	Burnham

<p>Not Your Mascot: Retiring Offensive Native American Mascots in NC</p>	<p>This workshop will explore the issue of offensive Native American mascots through the case study of South Point High School in Belmont, NC, home of the “Red Raiders.” Members of the Retire the Red Raider coalition, including Native leaders, will share about their efforts in Gaston County as they work to retire the Red Raider mascot as a result of the extensive research on the harms of such mascots as well as their personal experiences. They’ll also share about their work at the state level to address this issue through legislative action and how you can get involved. Whether you are supportive of, opposed to, or on the fence about Native American mascots, we welcome you to this discussion, which also touches on issues of tribal sovereignty and education.</p>	<p>Becky Gaither (Cowichan/Salish Clan), Retire the Red Raider Campaign, Bank of America - Assistant Vice President</p>	<p>Rebecca LaClaire Lumbee Retire the Red Raider campaign Toni Henderson Lumbee Retire the Red Raider campaign</p>	<p>Elizabeth Boney Parent Gaston County Schools Cindy Scruggs Johnson Social Worker, Child Welfare, Racial Equity Parent Gaston County Schools</p>	<p>Welwyn</p>
<p>Stories We Tell: Documenting, Healing From, and Guarding Against Extractive Research</p>	<p>Extractive research “talks over” Indigenous peoples, silencing our voices by taking both knowledge and materials away from our communities for colonial projects that erase and devalue our identities. Left unanswered, such research can bloom into disinformation that undermines tribal sovereignty. Native communities in North Carolina and elsewhere, have been subjects of extractive research for more than a century. This workshop provides a brief overview of this tragic history, explains how it threatens tribal self-determination, and offers recommendations both for healing the harms of extractive research and for preventing it from happening in the future. We then invite participants to share stories from their own communities about extractive research as part of an interactive discussion about strategies to overcome and prevent this type of harm.</p>	<p>Karen Dial Bird (Lumbee), Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina - Grants and Planning Manager</p>	<p>Wendy Moore (Lumbee), Lumbee Tribal Council Representative</p>	<p>Terry White (Lumbee), Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina - Residential Cultural Specialist</p>	<p>Walden</p>
<p>NCNAYO - The Children Living the Legacy: A Roundtable Discussion with Native Youth</p>	<p>Native youth in the state of North Carolina will play a critical role in the future of Indian affairs. While their leadership titles are yet to come, they know that now is the time to learn, listen but also share their voice on what is going on in Indian affairs. Join us for a roundtable discussion on hot topics in Indian Country.</p>	<p>Leslie Locklear (Lumbee, Waccamaw Siouan, Coharie), North Carolina Native American Youth Organization - Co-Advisor</p>			<p>Harris (upper lobby level)</p>

WORKSHOP SESSION III SPEAKER BIOS

Exhibition of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs

Ms. Maria Richardson has over 20+ years in customer service and has continued that journey as the new Director of American Indian Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program. In 2019 Maria joined the Department of Administration for the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs as a program coordinator for the WIOA program and Inspector for the Housing department of NCCIA. Her passion is helping others and her position allows her to help North Carolina's American Indians increase academic, occupational, and literacy skills to enhance their abilities to be competitive in the workforce.

Exhibition of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs

Ms. Candace Lowry BS, MPA, CDF has 17+ years in Workforce Development Training. She served 2+ years as the Director of American Indian Workforce Programs (WIOA) at the Department of Administration for the Commission of Indian Affairs and has over 5+ years as a Case Manager for WIOA/NCWorks Career Center-Career Advisor and as a Human Resource and Development Instructor at Robeson Community College for over 13 years. In these positions, Ms. Lowry has had the opportunity to work with federally funded classes and grants geared toward training and development for gainful employment. Ms. Lowry is currently the Deputy Director for the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs in North Carolina where she is over 40 employees and around a 10 million dollar budget in programs. These programs consist of Housing/Section 8, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Human Trafficking, Tobacco Survey, Workforce Programs, Economic Development Programs, Low Income Energy Assistance Programs, State Recognition program and Indian Child welfare. These programs service around 180,000 American Indians in North Carolina. Ms. Lowry's previous position was the Director of the American Indian Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program for the NC Commission of Indian Affairs within the Department of Administration. In this position, she managed the agency's WIOA Section 166 program and also serves on the following committees: The Economic Development and Employment and Training Committees for the Commission of Indian Affairs; the Recognition Committee for the Commission of Indian Affairs, and the Commission Sub-Committee Recognition Working Group. Ms. Lowry also serves as the Deputy Secretary's Designee for the North Carolina NCWorks Commission committee.

Exhibition of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs

Steve Maynor is a lifelong resident of North Carolina. He grew up in a close-knit community, proud of his American Indian heritage as a member of the Coharie Tribe. From a young age, Steve showed a keen interest in genealogy, and by the time he reached his teens, he had already become an accomplished genealogist. His passion for exploring his roots continued to grow, and he has now been researching his family history for 28 years.

After completing his formal education, Steve went on to study Business Administration. He then returned to his Tribal Community, where he established himself as a distinguished young American Indian leader and successful businessman. After years of experience in Tribal government and the health care industry, Steve joined state government at the North Carolina Department of Administration's Commission of Indian Affairs in 2012. In 2020 Steve was appointed Housing Director at the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, a position he still holds today. With 10-plus years of housing experience, he is particularly proud of his role as the housing director and chairman of the Southeastern Regional Section 8 Housing Association Legislative Committee, which aims to improve housing conditions and opportunities for all North Carolinians.

Exhibition of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs

Kimberly Hammonds has over 30 years of experience servicing the citizens of North Carolina. As the Economic Development Director for the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, she provides information and referral assistance to the state's American Indian tribes, organizations, and citizens in developing economic opportunities. Notably, Kimberly is the creator of the Supporting Undergraduate Native Students Program (SUNS), which provides educational support services, scholarships, and incentive payments to American Indian college students. Under her leadership, this program has helped numerous students achieve their goals and gain economic stability. Kimberly is passionate about making a significant and lasting impact in the lives of those she serves.

Exhibition of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs

Pamela "Shena" Brewington is an enrolled member of the Coharie Tribe with strong family affiliation with the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology from Wesleyan University and a double Associate Degree in Information Technology and Security from Sampson Community College. She is currently employed with the Commission of Indian Affairs as the LIEAP Director and resides in Clinton, NC. The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will continue to provide educational and outreach to all participating communities for the American Indians and veterans. These services are provided by the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) at the local DSS offices. The counties we serve are Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Halifax/Warren, Harnett, and Sampson. While also strengthening our goals of accomplishments by continuing to hold workshops for the American Indians, Veterans, and those with disabilities. We extended our outreach to others who are unaware of the LIEAP program by directing them to the location and the dates that are available in their areas.

Exhibition of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs

Ms. Nikki Locklear brings 17 years of experience in Domestic Violence Advocacy, with a decade dedicated to direct services as both an advocate and shelter Director at a Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Human Trafficking Agency. In these roles, she has actively engaged with state and federally funded grants, focusing on delivering culturally congruent services to the American Indian community. Currently serving as the Director of Victim Services Programs at the NC Commission of Indian Affairs within the Department of Administration, she continues to champion the cause. Throughout her career, Ms. Locklear has been involved in various projects in North Carolina, committed to aiding and informing victims of violence within tribal communities. Her contributions extend to serving on the board of the NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking, The Governors Interstate Indian Council, and the Cumberland County Re-Entry Council. For the past five years, she has taken on the responsibility of drafting the Governor's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Awareness Day Proclamation. Driven by a goal to assist victims of interpersonal violence in North Carolina and tribal communities, Ms. Locklear strives to ensure the provision of culturally specific services that contribute to supportive care.

Exhibition of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs

Laury Rose Chavis (Lumbee) is 38 years old & lives in Fayetteville with her 4 daughters & husband John, & also has a stepson. Laury currently is currently working with NCCIA as a Program Director but formerly was an educator for 12+ years. She is a 2008 UNCP graduate & was born & raised in Robeson County. Aside from serving the tribal communities in NC she still volunteers her time to the educational setting & spends a great deal of time supporting her daughters in the powwow circuit & staying grounded in their culture as well as supporting her daughters academic & extracurricular pursuits in musical arts. Laury also serves as a lead in her church children's ministry department. Laury enjoys supporting those around her be it through serving, praying, caring for, giving, & loving no matter the place or people.

Sappony Heritage Camp: 22 Years of Keeping Culture Alive

Skyler Stewart is a proud member of the Sappony. She is an elementary school teacher, and also works as a project manager and camp committee member for the Sappony. She has served as a camp committee member for seven years and has worked on tribal projects for two years. Skyler works to educate both natives and non-natives about Sappony culture, history, and traditions, while also promoting growth in the Sappony community.

Sappony Heritage Camp: 22 Years of Keeping Culture Alive

Martin Saniga is a citizen of the Sappony Tribe from the High Plains community in Person County, North Carolina and Halifax County, Virginia. He has worked in the museum field for nearly 10 years and has been creating traditional artwork and teaching lifeway skills for nearly 25 years. In 2021, Saniga coordinated with other Tutelo-Saponi speaking tribal nation representatives to launch the Yesanechi Language Project to support language revitalization efforts of Tutelo-Saponi speaking people. He has produced objects for the teaching collections at the National Museum of the American Indian, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He has also created many of the traditional objects for the Manassas Museum for the Native Legacy of the Patawomeck Indians in Virginia exhibit. Saniga was commissioned to create a traditional wampum belt for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. His personal passions are working in his own tribal community on community history research, language revitalization, and youth cultural programming. He currently lives in Richmond, Virginia with his two children, Nikonha and Hamonti Gates.

Sappony Heritage Camp: 22 Years of Keeping Culture Alive

Teryn Brewington, an enrolled member of the Sappony Tribe, currently serves as the Tribal Liaison and Manager for Community Relations for Tribal Communities at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC. After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill with a BA in 2013 and Master of Social Work degree in 2016, she began her career working with Native communities at the UNC American Indian Center on a number of initiatives such as grant writing, research, health & wellbeing, and culturally-appropriate interventions. Teryn has served her tribal community as a member of the Sappony 5K Committee, Youth Camp Committee, as a Tribal Council Member and now serves as the Tribal Secretary. She is a sister of Alpha Pi Omega, Inc. and resides in Clinton, NC with her husband and three children.

Not Your Mascot: Retiring Offensive Native American Mascots in NC

Becky Rice Gaither is Native American from the Cowichan Tribe of the Coast Salish Peoples. She currently resides in Belmont, North Carolina. She is the mother of three children who attended Gaston County and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Her oldest son attended South Point High and her youngest is currently at Belmont Middle. Becky seeks to establish a new mascot that will better reflect an inclusive and safe environment for all students. Becky has volunteered at NC Public Schools since 1996, to educate non-Native students on cultural understanding of Native culture and peoples. She has conducted classroom and school-wide educational sessions to foster a more inclusive environment for her children and grandchildren. Becky is currently a Co-Chair of Charlotte Chapter of the Native American Employee Network at Bank of America, where she has been employed for 25 years, and organizes and hosts a Native women's group that meets regularly. She received her Bachelor of Arts from University of North Carolina Charlotte.

Not Your Mascot: Retiring Offensive Native American Mascots in NC

Rebecca Jones LaClaire, Lumbee, is the Executive Director of Metrolina Native American Association and the Co-owner of Oasis Destination Travel Agency. She is an advocate on Native American affairs and has worked tirelessly to remind everyone that "Native Americans should not be mascots." Rebecca resides in Charlotte and is the proud mother of a navy Sailor Nicholas and Molly.

Not Your Mascot: Retiring Offensive Native American Mascots in NC

Elizabeth Boney is a lifelong resident of North Carolina, and has resided in Gaston County for 23 years. She is the mother of two children who have benefited greatly from Gaston County Schools. Her son is a graduate of South Point High, and her daughter, currently at Belmont Middle, is excited to be a future South Point student. Elizabeth seeks to establish a new mascot that better reflects an inclusive and safe environment for all children.

Not Your Mascot: Retiring Offensive Native American Mascots in NC

Cindy Scruggs Johnson has lived in Gaston County for the past 20 years. Her four daughters graduated from South Point High School between the years of 2010 and 2017. She has spent the past 20 years of her social work career in Child Welfare with a focus on racial equity. Cindy graduated from Monroe High School in 1984 when the mascot was the Rebel. In 1995, the MHS mascot was changed from the Rebel to the Redhawk.

<p>Not Your Mascot: Retiring Offensive Native American Mascots in NC</p>	<p>Toni Henderson, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, is a resident of Belmont, NC. She is the mother of one daughter who attended Gaston County Schools for her sixth to tenth grade years. Her daughter was assigned to attend South Point High School; however, Toni compelled Gaston County Schools to reassign her daughter to a school without an offensive mascot. Toni previously served on Metrolina Native American Association board, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Indian Education Parent board, and currently organizes and hosts a Native women's group that meets regularly. Toni seeks to establish a new mascot at South Point High School that reflects an inclusive safe environment for the students attending the school and the community.</p>
<p>Stories We Tell: Documenting, Healing From, and Guarding Against Extractive Research</p>	<p>Ryan E. Emanuel is associate professor of hydrology at Duke University and an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Based in the Nicholas School of the Environment, he studies water and ecosystems in his ancestral homelands and beyond. Emanuel also studies barriers to Indigenous participation in environmental decision-making.</p>
<p>Stories We Tell: Documenting, Healing From, and Guarding Against Extractive Research</p>	<p>Karen Dial Bird is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and serves as the Tribal Grants and Planning Manager. She delights in both the written language and the oral tradition, and in delving deeply into the history and culture of her People.</p>
<p>Stories We Tell: Documenting, Healing From, and Guarding Against Extractive Research</p>	<p>Wendy Moore is a resident of Prospect Community and is employed as a Utility Analyst with McKim and Creed Engineering, located in Raleigh, NC. Moore served as a delegate on the 1993 Lumbee Tribal Constitution Assembly. She served from 2006-2009 as Lumbee Tribal Council Representative for District 7 (South Pembroke). In 2019, she was elected Lumbee Tribal Council Representative for District 5 (Oxendine/Prospect), where she continues to serve. Moore is the Vice-Chair of the Lumbee Tribal Council, as well as the Chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.</p>
<p>Stories We Tell: Documenting, Healing From, and Guarding Against Extractive Research</p>	<p>Terry White is the Residential Cultural Specialist for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. He has worked as a cultural consultant and facilitator in the community for over 30 years and has been employed with the Lumbee Tribe for a total of eight years. White is from the Red Banks community. He is an activist, respected mixed-media artist, and an advocate for Native rights, traditions, and culture.</p>
<p>NCNAYO - The Children Living the Legacy: A Roundtable Discussion with Native Youth</p>	<p>Leslie Locklear, a member of the Lumbee and Waccamaw Siouan tribes, hails from Hoke County, NC. Leslie is a May 2013 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Leslie received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. In July of 2014, Leslie completed her Master's of Education in School Counseling. In December of 2017 Leslie completed her doctoral degree in Educational Studies and Cultural Foundations at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Leslie is currently employed at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and also serves as the Co-Chair of the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO) (http://ncnayo.weebly.com/)Adult Advisory Committee. As a student and educator Leslie's passions include culturally relevant curriculum, working with Native American youth councils, college and career counseling and supporting educators in the classroom.</p>

END OF SESSION III