



September 24, 2019

Gallup McKinley County School District  
640 Boardman  
Gallup, NM 87301

Dear Ms. Carmen Moffett,

On behalf of the University of New Mexico's Institute for American Indian Research (IFAIR), I am writing to invite high school students from the Gallup McKinley County School District to attend the *Indigenous Knowledges Conference* at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque on November 14 & 15, 2019. The festival is free and open to the public.

IFAIR was founded in 2004 to promote Native and Indigenous education, research, and service and host and support many events to foster the study of Indigenous nation building, community organizing, and Indigenous peoples. The institute strives to foster Native and Indigenous-centered education, research, and service at the university. We plan to continue to collaborate with nearby Indigenous nations and communities.

The festival will include the following sessions on November 14: Opening Plenary titled *A Celebration of Indigenous Knowledges*, Honest Conversation/Dialogue specifically for high school students, *Native American/Indigenous Studies: A Discipline and Across the Curriculum*, *Land as Pedagogy*, and *Pueblo Feminists*. Lunch will be provided to attendees on this day.

For November 15, we will have the following sessions: Poetry workshop for high school and college students, *Gender & Sexuality/Writing Story*, Emerging Diné Writers Institute and Oak Lake Writers Society, and a film screening TBA. Lunch is on your own for this day.

We will also have book exhibits on both days.

The festival will have over twenty-five scholars, writers, performers, and community members. They include the following: Sandy Grande, Connecticut College; Nepia Mahuika, University of Waikato, New Zealand; Rangimarie Mahuika, University of Waikato, New Zealand; Sherwin Bitsui, Northern Arizona University; Radmilla Cody, Diné performance writer; Kristen Simmons, University of Chicago; Tiffany Lee, University of New Mexico; Leola Tsinnajinnie-Paquin, University of New Mexico; Glenabah Martinez, University of New Mexico; Lemannual Loley, Emerging Diné Writers Institute; Nick Estes, University of New Mexico; Melanie Yazzie, University of New Mexico; Laura Harjo, University of New Mexico; and many others.

We are looking forward to your students attending the festival. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can contact me through email at [jdenet@unm.edu](mailto:jdenet@unm.edu) or call Delia Halona at 505-277-3917. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Denetdale  
IFAIR Director  
University of New Mexico