



History of the Symposium

Recognizing the incredible parallels between Native and Hmong experiences, culture, spirituality, community and issues with education we have designed this symposium to focus on addressing educational issues of both communities. The symposium seeks to help educators learn how to authenticate materials, infuse curricula, teach about Wisconsin Native American & Hmong history, culture and critical/multicultural pedagogy and to address contemporary issues in education and community life.

In 1989 Wisconsin passed Act 31 mandating K-12 educators teach about Native American history, sovereignty and treaty rights in Wisconsin. This legislation originated in response to the racial conflicts over treaty rights that emerged from widespread educational failure and a lack of understanding of Native peoples, sovereignty and culture.



Today Hmong communities face many of the same issues. In response to the continuing racism and recent violence against Hmong communities, the state is trying to pass another bill; which would mandate teaching about Hmong history, culture and the role in the Vietnam War.

Through the symposium, we hope to create an environment in which educators can learn aspects of Indigenous education and cross cultural critique in order to better understand their students and communities as well as policy issues affecting the classroom and how to teach anti-racism, and to inspire understanding, acceptance, critical pedagogy and respect for all.

Our Mission



The symposium is designed to follow traditional values in bringing people together to provide a culturally responsive model of multicultural and Indigenous education to assist all teachers and students in developing a critical consciousness.

The symposium provides participants with interpersonal interactions, presentations and multiple opportunities to meet with Native and Hmong elders and educators to build relationships that will provide a solid basis through which to learn about Native and Hmong cultures, contemporary and historical issues, sovereignty, Indigenous educational practice and educational policy.

Participants will learn to become aware of and deconstruct their biases and stereotypes to see how their practice and policies is value laden and can be problematic for many students, as well as have the opportunity to authenticate resources and learn positive strategies and ideas to infuse a more meaningful and inclusive curriculum through a critical framework to use within your class, educational policy, or social justice work .

The symposium is open to the public, anyone interested in education, critical pedagogy, public policy, Native or Hmong cultures and issues or those seeking to simply learn more. In addition, this year there will be an option for CE credit.

It is imperative that we maintain hope even when the harshness of reality suggests the opposite.”

-Paulo Freire



Helping teachers to teach Wisconsin Native American & Hmong history, culture, critical pedagogy and how to authenticate materials and infuse curriculum

Thursday- Saturday

April 15-17th

Speakers/Exhibits/Workshops

Lunda Center

Western Technical College

400 7th St. North, La Crosse, WI



Resources/Materials

The symposium provides participants the opportunity to meet with Native and Hmong leaders and educators to build relationships and provide a solid resource base, to learn about important pedagogical, and cultural issues.

One of the main focuses of the Symposium is to teach how to authenticate educational resources. We offer opportunities to observe and critique curriculum and meet with and utilize resources from:

- HONOR (Honor Our Neighbors Original Rights)
- Hmong ABC Books
- Great Lakes Intertribal Council
- Full Circle
- Rethinking Schools
- WI DPI



Each participant receives a packet of handouts, project materials and resources, as well as a cd of culturally appropriate practical resources and methods.



Standards

This event covers a variety of education student standards for both WI and MN and can easily be used to fulfill requirements for reflective practice and e-portfolios.

All participants will receive a certificate to be used as proof of attendance or an artifact.

Event Schedule

Thursday 5-8pm Hmong Community Cultural Center 1815 Ward Ave. La Crosse, WI

- Introductions and getting into small groups
- Keynote presentation
- Traditional foods dinner



Friday: Lunda Center
8:30am- 6:00pm

- Interactive exhibits and displays
- Workshops and presentations
- Keynote, lunch
- Workshops and presentations
6:00-9:00pm
- Traditional Foods Dinner and work groups
- Keynote presentation
- Interactive performance

Saturday: 8:30-5:00

- Presentations
- Keynote
- Lunch and working groups
- Presentations
5:00-6:00pm
- Closing and final working group presentations

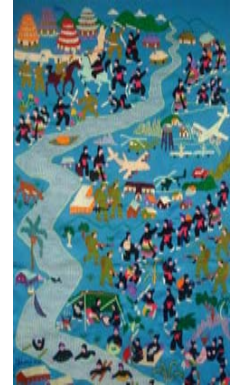


A complete up to date schedule and list of presenters is available on our website at <http://www.edtech.uwlax.edu/ocs/index.php/wtc/tes>

Presentation Topics

The symposium contains a wide range of Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, activists, students and policy makers designed to maximize critical exploration on:

- ❖ Issues of Indigenous students
- ❖ Native/Hmong culture, history
- ❖ Contemporary issues
- ❖ Culturally responsive education
- ❖ Social and environmental justice in education
- ❖ Curricular infusion
- ❖ Building resources
- ❖ Critical race theory
- ❖ Critical Pedagogy
- ❖ Indigenous and multicultural educational practice and theory
- ❖ Educational policy and methodologies
- ❖ How to authenticate resources, understand bias, privilege and stereotypes



The symposium addresses these topics and more through presentations, workshops, performances, individual discussions, papers, storytelling, displays, exhibits and other forms.

- ❖ *We welcome opportunities to provide suggestions on participant developed curriculum so please bring a project or unit plan for questions or a one on one critique.*

Call for Presentations

We are now accepting submissions for presentations, projects, exhibits and topics and speaker suggestions.

Please send us a presentation abstract, presenter bio, technology and material needs you will have and how much time you need, or you can fill out and return the presentation application found on our website. Please contact us by **March 1st**



Important Information

Symposium Price and Scholarships:

The cost of the Symposium varies for students, current educators, those with institutional support (school district or university support) and community members. It is based on our evaluations of ability to pay. However, scholarships are available and we can work on any option, please contact us directly. **You can register the day of the symposium, however, we may not be able to guarantee seating.**

We ask that all participants please try to pre-register by March 19
Or contact us at:
608-785-8838
<http://www.edtech.uwlax.edu/ocs/index.php/wtc/tes>

Attendance:

The symposium is Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday and participants can attend at anytime and come and go as they need to. Participants taking it for credit must be there all days.

Childcare:

Childcare can be provided. Please contact us.

Meals:

We provide all meals including a traditional foods meal on Thursday night.

Accommodations:

For participants from out of the La Crosse area there are a number of lodging options available at state discount rate and below from the following hotels:

1. Best Western Midway 781-7000 \$70-\$80
2. Super 8 781-8880 starting at \$62

Say you are with Widening the Circle

White Privilege Conference Subsidy:

If you are planning on attending both the WPC and Widening the Circle you can receive a discount of \$20. Please contact us for details.

The symposium is fully accessible



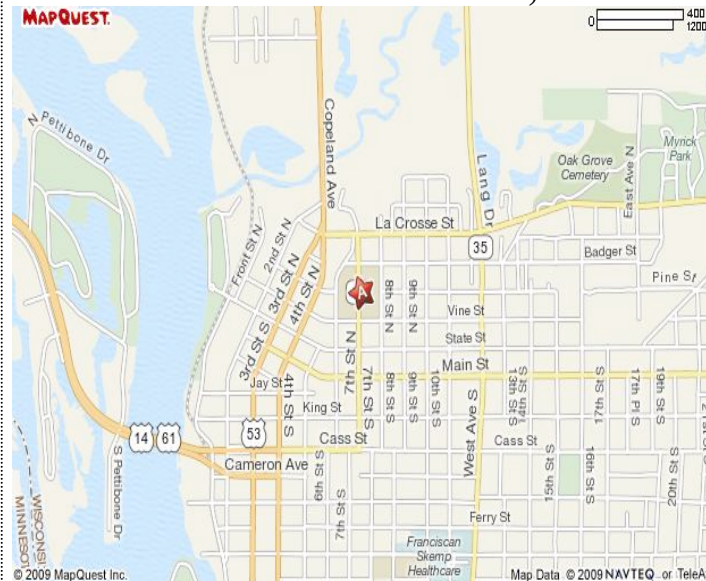
Event Locations

This year's symposium will be held in two locations:
Thursday evening events will be held at the

Hmong Community Cultural Center
1815 Ward Av. La Crosse, WI

Friday and Saturday at the Lunda Center

Lunda Center
Western Technical College
400 7 St. North La Crosse, WI



CONTACT US

To contact us for any reason please contact:

Sam Lawien (608) 797-0159
or Guy Wolf (608) 785-8838
245 GMH UW-L

indigenouseducation@gmail.com

Or visit

<http://www.edtech.uwlax.edu/ocs/index.php/wtc/tes>

Hope to see you there!

Immersion Experience/credit option

This year we are accepting a limited number of participants for an immersion experience for credit with our presenters, host families. This is meant to be an intensive introduction to Hmong and Native American Indigenous culture, education and critical pedagogy.

Designed mainly for beginning teachers and those new to culturally responsive teaching, this cohort of learners will gain knowledge of critical models of how to implement the practices, principles and pedagogy discussed throughout the conference. This is an excellent professional development opportunity.

Participants will explore the ways in which professional practice is seemingly neutral and yet simultaneously value-laden and shaped by normative perspectives of power relationships, educators will learn how to better understand the hidden ways in which education can indeed be problematic for many students.



Requirements

The immersion experience will be intensive and participants will be expected to:

- Work in small groups with facilitators to develop a culturally responsive project, lesson/unit plan, or curriculum piece as part of a guided critical process throughout the conference.
- Attend the entire conference beginning Thursday evening and present work on Sunday morning
- Keep a reflective journal,

Participants should bring a current curricula piece; not necessarily about Native or Hmong people.

To register please contact us directly: 608-785-8838

For registration questions please contact:
Carmen Boortz at 608-785-8225

Online Registration:
<http://www.edtech.wisc.edu/edcenter.php?ref=na>
Mail in Registration:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

Please consider donating an extra amount to provide scholarship opportunities for others.
Please make checks to **NASA**
244 GRH UW-La Crosse
1725 State St.

	Please check one		Two days		One day		Check One	
	Students	Institutional Support (School District, University or other institution provided)	Early Reg.	Regular Rate	Early Reg.	Regular Rate	Fri	Sat
Continuing Education Credits \$450.00 (1 graduate credit)			\$15.00	\$18.00	\$10.00	\$12.00		
Community member/Non-Institutional Support			\$50.00	\$55.00	\$35.00	\$40.00		
Other _____			\$	\$	\$	\$		
Scholarships Available			\$	\$	\$	\$		
Continuing Education Credits \$450.00 (1 graduate credit)			Scholarship Donation \$ _____					
If you are unable to afford the symposium price please contact us for arrangements!								
Please inform us of any special needs or vegetarian options:								
Special Needs:								Vegetarian Option

Sponsors



Hmong Organization Promoting Education

University Wisconsin -La Crosse
UW-L School of Education



La Crosse Hmong Mutual Assistance Association



Center for Cultural Diversity and Community Renewal



UW-L OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SERVICES

Asian Student Organization



Native American



Hmong Initiative

“There are times when hope and history collide to make the world a better place. Now is one of those times. For far to long education has been the primary tool for assimilation towards the acceptance and perpetuation of injustice. Today education must serve as either a tool of conformity of the mind to perpetuate current systems of injustice or as a tool of multifaceted activism to fight oppression, racism, environmental degradation. We have the possibility to build a critical community consciousness and foster sovereignty in action to strip dominant societies of their power of assimilation by teaching, justice, critical thinking, cultures, history and positive self identity. For if we can imagine the injustice, than we can imagine its opposite, and we can have justice.”