

We Embrace



Spreading awareness of diversity-related issues while promoting inclusion of our diverse faculty, trainers and staff.

A quarterly newsletter from the Diversity and Inclusion Committee | Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health | Fall/Winter 2022

Committee Co-Chairs

Kimberly Alba, PsyD; Anna Coward, PhD; Ryan Montes, PsyD; and Veronica Tapia, MD. Please reach out to us as we continue to promote diversity, equity and inclusion and to join our multidisciplinary committee. If you would like to know more get involved, visit our [website](#).

Celebrating

November is [Native American Heritage Month](#), also known as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. This is a time to recognize and celebrate Native American and Indigenous people with all their contributions, histories, cultures and traditions. The month is described as: "What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose."

Quick Facts

- "American Indian" and "Native American" are synonymous and both terms are appropriate to use. When referring to Indigenous people in Alaska, the term "Alaska Native" is used. "American Indian/Alaska Native" or "AI/AN" is used to describe both groups.
- As of 2020, there were 574 federally recognized Native American tribes in the United States. Of these, 229 are located in Alaska.
- There are currently 6.9 million AI/AN people in the United States, comprising about 2.9 percent of the country's population.
- Each tribe has a tribal council, with members elected by the district. There is also usually an executive officer, called a "tribal chairman," "president," "governor," or "chief."
- Native Americans own about 24,000 businesses in the United States.
- The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was founded in 1944 and is the most representative AI/AN organization serving the broad interests of tribal communities.

Stony Brook Spotlight

Stony Brook Southampton Hospital offers ongoing support to members of the Shinnecock Nation, providing medical, mental health and dental care services at a clinic located directly on the Shinnecock reservation. The Shinnecock people have lived on Long Island for about 13,000 years and they are the oldest self-governing tribe in New York State. Today, there are only about 1,600 tribal members.

The [Shinnecock Indian Nation](#) was federally recognized in October 2010 as the 565th Indian tribal nation in the United States. Shinnecock, meaning "people of the stony shore," speak an eastern Algonquian dialect. With reservations located around the Town of Southampton, there is a 900-acre reservation at Shinnecock Neck, a peninsula that juts into Shinnecock Bay, where about half the tribal members reside. They also have jurisdiction over about 100 acres along the Peconic Bay.

Upcoming Events

Stony Brook University's library is offering opportunities to celebrate Indigenous peoples during this month with five [online, open-access](#) library resources. All are encouraged to visit the National Museum of the American Indian in Manhattan or view it [online](#). You can also visit the National Congress of American Indians [website](#) to learn about the rich cultures that embrace the Native American and Indigenous people.

Doing the Work

Podcasts: [All My Relations](#)

[The Red Nation Podcast](#)

[Native America Calling](#)

Books: [Night of the Living Rez](#) — Morgan Talty

[Woman of Light](#) — Kali Fajardo-Anstine

[There There](#) — Tommy Orange

[The Seed Keeper](#) — Diane Wilson

[The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present](#) — David Treuer

[Almanac of the Dead](#) — Leslie Marmon Silko

Films: [American Experience: We Shall Remain](#) (2009), PBS and [Amazon](#)

[Native American History and Society: Native American Influence on the U.S.](#) (2016), [Amazon](#)

[Native America](#) (2018 series premiere), PBS



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