



NATIVE PEOPLES - NATIVE HOMELANDS CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP II

FINAL REPORT
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NOVEMBER 18-21, 2009
MYSTIC LAKE ON THE HOMELANDS OF THE
SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY
PRIOR LAKE, MINNESOTA

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE COMMUNITY



The workshop was organized to hear from as many Native participants as possible, and while we tried to capture and transcribe most presentations for the report, the large numbers of excellent speakers exceeded our recording capabilities, so we must offer our apologies to those whose statements are not fully transcribed in the report. Instead, it became necessary to compile the essence of many discussions throughout the workshop in shorthand listings of "bullets" during the sessions.

PHOTOGRAPHS



1
00:00:00,506 --> 00:00:08,546
[Music]

2
00:00:09,046 --> 00:00:13,506
My name is Joseph Connolly, and
I'm an aerospace engineer here

3
00:00:13,506 --> 00:00:15,066
at the NASA Glenn
Research Center.

4
00:00:15,866 --> 00:00:18,346
As an aerospace engineer
here, I've been working

5
00:00:18,346 --> 00:00:21,226
on a commercial supersonics
project where we're trying

6
00:00:21,226 --> 00:00:22,696
to develop new technologies

7
00:00:22,806 --> 00:00:25,126
to enable a supersonic
commercial vehicle

8
00:00:25,126 --> 00:00:27,906
that will be able to fly
supersonically over land.

9
00:00:28,566 --> 00:00:31,196
Working in a research
environment is really fantastic.

10
00:00:31,196 --> 00:00:32,566
It's something that
I'm really passionate

11
00:00:32,566 --> 00:00:34,856

about because it's an
opportunity where we get

12

00:00:34,926 --> 00:00:38,296

to define new problems that
haven't been explored before

13

00:00:38,586 --> 00:00:40,326

and be part of solutions
that are going

14

00:00:40,326 --> 00:00:42,526

to advance the current
state-of-the-art of technology.

15

00:00:43,256 --> 00:00:44,796

I grew up in Niagara
Falls, New York.

16

00:00:45,146 --> 00:00:47,726

The Irish side of my
family is actually

17

00:00:47,786 --> 00:00:49,986

from Niagara Falls, Ontario.

18

00:00:50,406 --> 00:00:53,256

The native American side
of my family is actually

19

00:00:53,436 --> 00:00:55,276

from Six Nations of Grand River,

20

00:00:55,516 --> 00:00:58,216

Ontario-is the reservation
that I was part of.

21

00:00:58,786 --> 00:01:01,086

I think inclusion is very
important for my work

22

00:01:01,176 --> 00:01:04,146
because it allows people to
have different perspectives

23

00:01:04,196 --> 00:01:06,346
to come together and
figure out new solutions

24

00:01:06,476 --> 00:01:08,596
to technology problems
that we have to solve.

25

00:01:08,666 --> 00:01:11,646
If we're going to be solving
problems that are going to be

26

00:01:11,646 --> 00:01:13,916
for the benefit for all
people, and if we're going

27

00:01:13,916 --> 00:01:15,466
to be doing that, we're
going need perspectives

28

00:01:15,466 --> 00:01:16,646
from all different
people to come

29

00:01:16,646 --> 00:01:17,856
up with the correct solutions.

30

00:01:19,016 --> 00:01:22,766
For Native American ceremonies,
sports is really a big part

31

00:01:22,856 --> 00:01:24,456
of the religious experience.

32

00:01:25,086 --> 00:01:27,206

Most of the sports, we
call it a healing game,

33

00:01:27,206 --> 00:01:29,236

and our main healing game
is actually Lacrosse.

34

00:01:29,616 --> 00:01:32,666

So during the ceremonies
if one of the elders

35

00:01:32,666 --> 00:01:35,476

or if someone's having some
physical pain, some back pain

36

00:01:35,506 --> 00:01:39,266

or something's bothering them,
they'll request a Lacrosse game

37

00:01:39,486 --> 00:01:42,886

and during the ceremony
everyone would go outside

38

00:01:42,886 --> 00:01:46,246

and we'll actually have a
Lacrosse game for their benefit.

39

00:01:46,726 --> 00:01:48,506

One of the things that
makes me so proud to work

40

00:01:48,506 --> 00:01:50,916

at NASA is NASA does
a lot of outreach

41

00:01:51,096 --> 00:01:52,436

to Native American communities.

42

00:01:52,976 --> 00:01:55,876

They have done this through
a conference called Native

43

00:01:55,876 --> 00:01:57,116
People's Native Homelands.

44

00:01:57,756 --> 00:01:59,286
And basically this
was a conference

45

00:01:59,356 --> 00:02:02,116
where they're bringing
together NASA climate experts

46

00:02:02,486 --> 00:02:04,346
and Native American elders

47

00:02:04,536 --> 00:02:07,466
to do a cultural an information
exchange in terms of some

48

00:02:07,466 --> 00:02:09,846
of the important things
that have been changing

49

00:02:09,896 --> 00:02:11,896
in our climate and
within our environment.

50

00:02:11,956 --> 00:02:14,106
It was an amazing
opportunity to be a part of.

51

00:02:15,226 --> 00:02:17,686
So one of the things that I
think was really important

52

00:02:18,096 --> 00:02:21,026
to me growing up was that
I always had my grandmother

53

00:02:21,026 --> 00:02:23,426
and the Native American
culture all around me,

54

00:02:23,606 --> 00:02:26,086
and it was something that I
somewhat took for granted.

55

00:02:26,226 --> 00:02:28,956
When I left Niagara
Falls in the area

56

00:02:28,956 --> 00:02:31,846
where there is a relatively
rich Native American culture

57

00:02:31,846 --> 00:02:34,936
and history there and went
to the Ohio State University,

58

00:02:34,936 --> 00:02:38,136
I found that there was basically
no Native American support

59

00:02:38,166 --> 00:02:39,946
network at Ohio State
at the time.

60

00:02:40,266 --> 00:02:43,186
And through that experience
that's when I really started

61

00:02:43,256 --> 00:02:45,686
to become engaged with my
Native American culture.

62

00:02:46,216 --> 00:02:48,856
I really started to make
sure I sat down and talked

63

00:02:48,856 --> 00:02:51,596

with my grandmother so we
could have language lessons.

64

00:02:51,756 --> 00:02:53,556

We made sure that we
went to the social

65

00:02:53,666 --> 00:02:56,236

and cultural ceremonies
whenever I was back in town.

66

00:02:56,616 --> 00:03:00,036

And really spending a lot more
time becoming more familiar

67

00:03:00,036 --> 00:03:03,106

and understanding the practices
that I would want to pass