The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
“With our work, we wanted to remind people that Native Americans are still here. We are not a thing of the past, and we are still making art and creating and existing.”

- Katherine “Supernova” McCleary
  (Little Shell Tribe of the Chippewa Cree and Crow Nation)
Statement of Recognition

We recognize that we are two non-Native students presenting on the Native population, and hold the utmost respect for this diverse and resilient community.

We also recognize that Rutgers University is built on Native land, and want to promote our project as a means to remedy our university’s past.
01. About Us
The Problem:

Rutgers is one of the only schools in the Big 10 without a significant Native American and Indigenous Studies commitment, manifested as either a department, program, minor, or certificate program. **Rutgers offers none of these.**
Throughout the 2019 Fall Semester and month of November, Native American Heritage Month, we researched, attended events, and formed numerous connections to learn about issues impacting Native Americans to produce episodes for our podcast, RU Native.

- We discuss Native American history and culture within the United States,
- Feature the latest news topics that shape the Native American way of life,
- Other topics we discuss include healthcare delivery, education, economic opportunities, native youth, music, art, and many more.
- This initiative is produced in collaboration with the Institute for Women’s Leadership, as well as the History and American Studies Departments at Rutgers University.

So far, we have conducted a total of three interviews, published two episodes, and have four more episodes pending, with five interviews scheduled.
02. Intellectual & Conceptual Foundation
PODCASTING PROCESS

- RESEARCH
- OUTREACH
- CONTENT CREATION
- LISTENERS
03. Feminist Leadership Connection
MEET YOUR HOSTS

MELANIE ARROYAVE
Loves to Hike & Kayak
CSPI OT at U.S. Coast Guard
Labor Studies Major
Public Health & WGS double minor
Born in Jersey City, New Jersey

BARBARA SHI
US citizen as of September!
Enjoys embroidering and journaling
History and Geography double major
Born in Auckland, New Zealand

As feminist leaders, we took initiative in forming our project and worked with Native women, allies, and scholars in our journey to promote awareness about their diverse community.
MELANIE’S INTERVIEWS

**DR. CAMILLA TOWNSEND**
Rutgers Distinguished Professor of History
Specializes in Early Native American & Latin American History

**JANENE YAZZIE**
Member of Navajo Nation in New Mexico
Sustainable Development Program Coordinator for the Economic and Social Council General Consultative Status United Nations (EcOSOC)
Co-founder Sixth World Solutions LLP Navajo Nation Little Colorado River Watershed Chapters Association

**WALTER LAMAR**
Member of Blackfeet Nation in Montana
Descendant of the Wichita Tribe of Oklahoma
Federal Law Enforcement Specialist
Former FBI Agent who worked on Zodiac Killer, the Oklahoma City Federal Building Bombing, and the Branch Davidian
Former Deputy Director to the the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Law Enforcement

**CHIEF VINCENT MANN**
Chief of the Turtle Clan of the Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation in New Jersey
Recipient of Russ Berrie Award for his work on preservation of land issues in the Ramapo Mountains

**ALIA HEAVYRUNNER**
Member of Blackfeet Nation in Montana
Miss Blackfeet 2019-2020
Freshman at Blackfeet Community College in Montana

Courtesy of Rutgers SAS
UN Photo/Loey Felipe
Courtesy of NPR
Courtesy of Building a Place for History
Courtesy of Instagram @AliaHeavyRunner
Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women

506 MMIWG cases were identified across 71 selected urban cities
128 were cases of missing Indigenous women
280 were cases of murdered Indigenous women
98 were cases with an ‘unknown status’
29 The median age of MMIWG victims

Photo of Alia HeavyRunner
Courtesy of Instagram @AliaHeavyRunner

Photo of Chief Vincent Mann
Courtesy of The Meadowlands Nature Blog

Photo of Janene Yazzie
Courtesy of Landscape News

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS
10 CITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CASES

Photo of Janene Yazzie
Courtesy of Cultural Survival
BARBARA’S INTERVIEWS

JOSEPH ZORDAN & KATHERINE MCCLEARY
Native graduates from Yale University
Curated the first Native Art Exhibit in the Yale University Art Gallery: “Place, Nations, Generations, Beings”

JASMINE GURNEAU
Manager for Native American and Indigenous Initiatives in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Northwestern University
Builds sustaining partnerships with tribal communities and public school systems

JACOB LEE
History Professor at Penn State, which is also in the Big 10 but with few Native student initiatives
Faculty Liaison for the Newberry Consortium
“Places, Nations, Generations, Beings”

Photo courtesy of Marie Watt

Photo courtesy of Will Wilson Photography

Photo courtesy of the Yale University Art Gallery

Photo courtesy of Barbara

Photo courtesy of the Yale University Art Gallery
04. Lessons & Insights
LESSONS

Communication
Improved and overcame working styles

Accountability & Professionalism
Worked as professionals to get the job done

INSIGHTS

Knowledge is Power
Cared, Absorbed, Disseminated - Environment

Continue Podcasting
An SAP turned into a long-lasting hobby
TIMELINE

Episode 1
- October
  - We recorded our trailer episode

Episode 2
- October
  - Interviewed Our First & Second Interviewee

Episode 3
- November
  - Interviewed Our Third Interviewee & Published First Episode

Episode 4
- December
  - Interviewed Our Fourth Interviewee & Published Second Episode
Where We Visited

- Newark, NJ
- Ringwood, NJ
- New York City, NY
- New Haven, CT
- Washington D.C.
Places & People We’ve Met

Washington D.C.  Newark, NJ  New Brunswick, NJ  New York City, NY

All Photos Courtesy of Melanie’s Personal Photo Album
Places & People We’ve Met

New Haven, CT

New York City, NY
05. Impact
MEDIA PRESENCE

INSTAGRAM

SPOTIFY PODCAST

APPLE PODCAST

RESULTS

3 Episodes

70+ Plays

On All Published Episodes

15+ Listeners

EPISODES

PUBLISHED

Episode 1: Trailer
Episode 2: Meeting the Demand
Episode 3: A Conversation on “Place, Nations, Generations, Beings”

PENDING PUBLICATION OR INTERVIEW

Episode 4 & 5: Janene Yazzie (Part 1 & 2)
Episode 6: Walter Lamar
Episode 7: Chief Vincent Mann
Episode 8: Alia Heavyrunner
Episode 9: Jasmine Gurneau
Episode 10: Jacob Lee
SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Garnered 100+ Followers

GOALS

1. Maintain a steady audience
2. Grow following
3. Continue to share with both Rutgers & non-Rutgers Community
PROMOTION THROUGH
05 ½. Future Impact
EMPOWERING FUTURE IWL PODCASTERS

CONTINUE TO PODCAST
“When the Indian, being a man and not a child or thing, or merely an animal, as some of the would-be civilizers have termed him, fights for his property, liberty, and life, they call him a savage. When the first settlers in this country fought for their property, liberty, and lives, they were called heroes. When the Indian in fighting this great nation wins a battle it is called a massacre; when this great nation in fighting the Indian wins, it is called a victory.”

Susette La Flesche A.K.A INSHATA-THEUMBA
Excerpt from her 1880 Essay “The Indian Question”
06. Bibliography


Exhibit Opening: Our Land, Our Stories.


Inadequate Data on Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.


