

IWL Social Action
Project

Through the Eyes of Native Women Elders: Rebuilding Culture Through Wisdom and Oral History

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IWL Policy Tracks: Law and
Advocacy, Politics and Government



THROUGH THE EYES OF
NATIVE WOMEN ELDERS

REBUILDING CULTURE
THROUGH WISDOM AND
ORAL HISTORY

The logo for the Rutgers Institute for Women's Leadership. It features the word "RUTGERS" in a large, red, serif font. Below it, the words "Institute for Women's Leadership" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white rectangular background.

RUTGERS

Institute for Women's Leadership

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>.

Why a Podcast?

The voice is the
medium of
Indigenous
Storytelling



“Storied Memory”
(Archibald:236)



► Contents

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Historical background on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- 02** Meet Me!
An overview of my life growing up multicultural
- 03** Meet the Interviewees
Bios and interview clips

- 04** Importance of SAP
The relevance and need for oral history
- 05** Process and Podcast
The timeline and process
- 06** Feminist Leadership
The importance of Elder Native Women Leaders for our future



— 01

Introduction



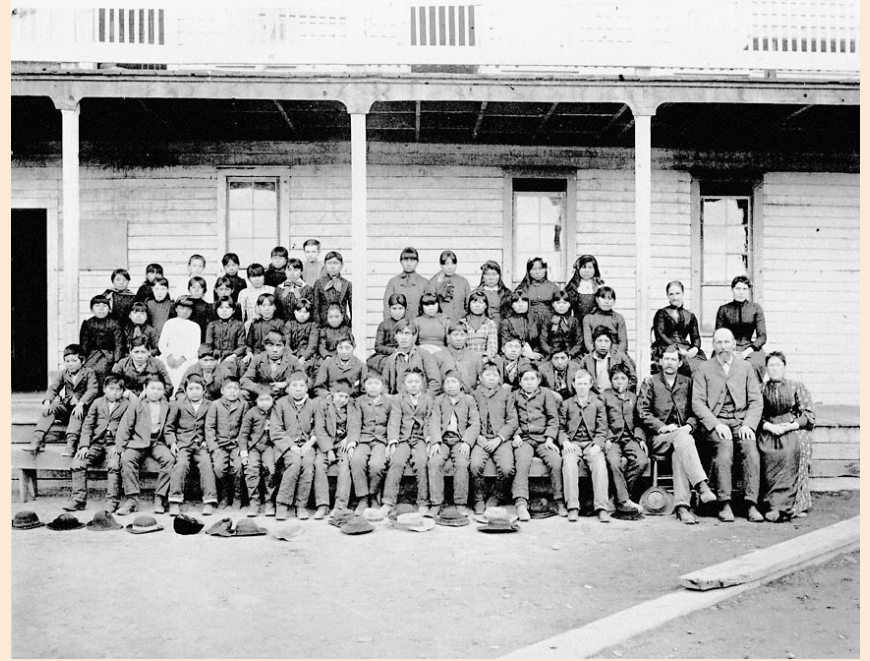
3 Teepees with Tribal Logo
(warmsprings.gov)



The Confederated Tribes of
Warm Springs, Oregon

▶ History

- ❖ The Wascoes
- ❖ The Warm Springs
- ❖ The Paiutes
- ❖ Site of a boarding school



Group of Native American children at the boarding school (Oregon History Project)



02

Meet Me!

My life growing up
multicultural



Me and my Uncle Danny with
a ceremonial drum





— 03

Meet the Interviewees



Group posing in front of truck
for the 4th of July Parade



Bios and Audio Clips

▶ Interview 1: Caroline Cruz



- ❖ As the Health and Human Services General Manager for the Confederated tribes of Warm Springs, Ms. Cruz provides leadership, management, and vision to the Branch. In this role, she leads, evaluates, develops, and implements plans to enhance the health and welfare of the community members.



▶ Interview 2: Nancy Seyler



- ❖ Nancy Seyler is the current Public Safety General Manager for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. She previously was the Prosecutor for the Tribe, supervised Victims of Crime. She is the Lead for Missing and Murder Indigenous Women on the Warm Springs Reservation (she inspired my thesis and work for MMIW after working with her my sophomore year of college!)



▶ Interview 3: Rosemary Alarcon



- Rosemary Alarcon worked for Social Security Administration for 26 years in Salinas, California, she brought those skills to Warm Springs and is working as an Aging and People with Disability Navigator. She has been a Red Cross volunteer for 30 years.



— 04

Importance of this SAP



Multiple people on a scaffold in
Shears Falls (Oregon Dept. of Fish
and Wildlife)



Why we need oral history to
remember

▶ Technology is Helpful



Preserve commonly
unknown history

Used as activism



Just Listen

- The need to ask questions about lived experiences
- Elders hold our memories
- Memories are fading, and Native Youth need to listen



The first time I was entrusted to fry the Fried Bread



People sitting on the docs at Lake
Billy Chinook

— 05

Process and Podcast



Timeline and Process

Timeline and Thought Process



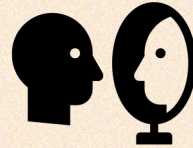
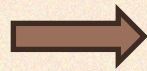
Took inspiration from my love of podcasts



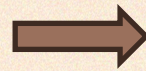
Recruited interviewees and recorded unstructured interviews



Transcribed and edited the audio recordings



Finally decided to record my story



Currently cutting and audio splicing before publish





Two people in regalia at
Pi-ume-sha

— 06

Feminist Leadership

- ▶ The importance of Elder Native Women Leaders for our future

What we can Learn and its Impact

- Had to become the women leaders themselves
- Piecing back the culture together
- Native women are at the forefront for MMIW and reform
- Culture looks different for everyone



The Red hand is the symbol for
MMIW (Indian Law Resource
Center)



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