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
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)
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Introduction

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)
Meet Me!

My life growing up multicultural

Me and my Uncle Danny with a ceremonial drum
Meet the Interviewees

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

Bios and Audio Clips
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.
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.
Importance of this SAP

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
Process and Podcast

Timeline and Process

People sitting on the docs at Lake Billy Chinook
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
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)
Works Cited

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- "Youth Activist Toolkit."
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