

Pre-Event Workshop #1

Seattle, WA

Saturday, July 18, 2026

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT

Cost: \$75.00

Building Bridges with Our Indigenous Communities--Land-Based Curriculum

DESCRIPTION

This interactive workshop introduces participants to Indigenous place-based pedagogies through the lens of the John McCoy (luliláš) Since Time Immemorial (JMLSTI) curriculum— Washington State’s comprehensive framework for teaching Native American history, sovereignty, and contemporary tribal contexts. Developed in collaboration with all 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington, the JMLSTI curriculum ensures that learners engage with accurate, tribally specific histories and fosters ongoing relationships between schools and local Tribal nations.

Facilitated by educator and curriculum contributor Dawn Hardison Stevens, Ph.D., this workshop will explore the principles of place-based learning, strategies for respectfully integrating Indigenous knowledge systems into teaching, and models for partnering with Tribes to support culturally grounded education. Dr. Stevens brings nearly a decade of experience teaching the JMLSTI curriculum within the University of Washington’s teacher certification programs and draws on her lived experience residing on the traditional lands of the Sa-He-Wa-Mish village—now home to citizens of the Squaxin Island Tribe following forced displacement.

(Workshop information continues on next page)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants will:

- Develop an understanding of Indigenous place-based pedagogies and their application in contemporary educational settings.
- Explore the design and purpose of the JMLSTI curriculum, including its commitment to Tribal sovereignty and local history.
- Learn effective practices for collaborating with Tribes in curriculum development and teaching.
- Connect curricular learning with experiential engagement during the Suquamish community visit.

Workshop Facilitator/Presenter Bio:



Dawn Hardison-Stevens, Ph.D., is an Assistant Teaching Professor of Native American Education in the School of Education at the University of Washington, Tacoma, where her work centers on advancing positive change in Native communities within academic systems. Guided by experiential knowledge and ancestral teachings, she emphasizes lifelong learning and the interconnectedness of human experience, environment, and Indigenous ways of knowing. Her scholarship and teaching draw on extensive engagement with Native nations and original inhabitant communities, focusing on holistic, relational approaches to education.

Hardison-Stevens' research explores Indigenous leadership, affirming that academic institutions and Indigenous peoples learn from and need one another. She is deeply committed to supporting Native students, families, and leaders by building bridges between cultures and fostering learning environments where diverse stories and identities thrive. Through her work, she continues to honor Indigenous philosophies and champion inclusive, community-centered educational practices.