

2023 Annual Report

INDIANA NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

Mission & Organization

2

A Word From Our Chairperson

3

A Word From Our Director

4-7

Native American Heritage Day

8-9

Events and Outreach

MISSION & ORGANIZATION



The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission ("INAIAC") was established to study issues common to Native American residents of Indiana in the areas of employment, education, civil rights, health, and housing. Based on this effort, INAIAC makes recommendations to appropriate federal, state, and local governmental agencies in these areas of concern to our state's Native and non-Native people. INAIAC's goal is to bring the Native community together, support a diverse and thriving Native culture, and help identify opportunities to enhance social, educational, and economic development for Native American and Indigenous people in Indiana.

Pursuant to IC 4-23-32-4, INAIAC consists of fifteen voting members and four nonvoting members. Eight Native American Indians from across the state are appointed by the Governor as voting members. The other seven voting members are various state agency heads or their designee. The four nonvoting members are members of the Indiana General Assembly, appointed by the majority and minority leaders of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

A staff director working within the Indiana Civil Rights Commission provides support and facilitation for INAIAC meetings, programs, events, and initiatives.

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



In 2023, the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission was able to continue strengthening relationships with the Native American community in Indiana. Powwows and gatherings brought people of all backgrounds together to learn and explore, as well as celebrate, the rich Native American history and heritage.

The Commission's commitment to provide resources for educators and students continued by attending events and going to destinations that provided learning opportunities in Indiana.

In 2024, the Commission looks forward to expanding programs with our partners by developing a plan to advance our mission.



Scott Brewer **Chair**

Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission
Enrolled Citizen, Pokagon Band Of Potawatomi Of Michigan and Indiana



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

In October of 2023, I had the distinct honor and pleasure of becoming INAIAC's Director. It has been my honor and privilege to work alongside a dedicated group of individuals who are passionate about educating the people of Indiana, while celebrating the rich heritage of the Indigenous people who first occupied our great state.

In 2024, INAIAC will continue to do the work that has already begun by providing outreach opportunities and bringing awareness to Hoosiers about the past, present, and future of the Native American people of Indiana.

Nicole C. Owens
Director, INAIAC



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY 2023



On November 1, 2023, INAIAC was presented with House Concurrent Resolution No. 8. It was introduced by Representative Chris Campbell and was co-sponsored by Senators Shelli Yoder and Rodney Pol, Jr. Although INAIAC has received Proclamations from the Governor in past years commemorating Native American Heritage Month, this is the first time since the INAIAC's inception that the Indiana General Assembly has introduced and sponsored a resolution.



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY 2023



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. _____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing November
as Native American Heritage Month.

Campbell

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20231505

2023

HC 1009/DI 140



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY 2023



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. _____

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing November
2 as Native American Heritage Month.

3 *Whereas, Native Americans are descendants of the original,*
4 *Indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;*

5 *Whereas, The Census Bureau estimates the United States is*
6 *home to around 8.75 million people who identify at least*
7 *partially as American Indian or Alaska Native, making up*
8 *around 2.6% of the total population;*

9 *Whereas, Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and*
10 *traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;*

11 *Whereas, Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy,*
12 *triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future*
13 *generations;*

14 *Whereas, Native Americans speak and write in their*
15 *Indigenous languages, which have influenced and contributed*
16 *in a variety of ways to the United States, including the naming*
17 *of places and sites throughout the country and state of Indiana;*

18 *Whereas, Native Americans have made distinct and important*
19 *contributions to the United States and the world in many fields,*
20 *including agriculture, environmental stewardship, wayfinding,*
21 *medicine, music, dance, language, and art;*

22 *Whereas, Contemporary applications of traditional*
23 *knowledge systems of Native Americans have expanded*
24 *scientific, environmental, and intercultural understanding;*

2023

HC 1009/DI 140

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY 2023



2

1 *Whereas, Native Americans have distinguished themselves as*
2 *inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;*

3 *Whereas, Native Americans have served with honor and*
4 *distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States for*
5 *centuries and have the highest per capita involvement of any*
6 *population currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United*
7 *States;*

8 *Whereas, In 1990, President George H.W. Bush declared the*
9 *month of November as National American Indian Heritage*
10 *Month, and in 2007, President George W. Bush declared that*
11 *the day after Thanksgiving would be recognized as Native*
12 *American Heritage Day; and*

13 *Whereas, The people of the State of Indiana have reason to*
14 *honor the great achievements and contributions of Native*
15 *Americans and their ancestors: Therefore,*

16 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives*
17 *of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,*
18 *the Senate concurring:*

19 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly recognizes
20 November as Native American Heritage Month.

21 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
22 Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to State
23 Representative Christine Campbell for distribution.



EVENTS & OUTREACH 2023

Events and outreach are important to INAIAC. Not only did we celebrate the culture and achievements of Native Americans, we also strived to educate and bring awareness to the public.





EVENTS AND OUTREACH 2023



Nourish at The Eiteljorg



Native American Heritage Day



**IUPUI Native American
Speaker Series**



Contact us, today!



317-670-6195



www.in.gov/inaiac



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Indianapolis, IN 46204

