Call for Papers
“Raised Voices: Learning from the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas”
Oakton Community College Des Plaines, IL April 16-17, 2015

Deadline for Proposal Submission: March 15, 2015

We invite proposals of individual papers, panels or round-table discussion groups for an interdisciplinary conference dealing with the indigenous peoples of the Americas. Papers focusing on art, anthropology, environmental science, history, language, music, philosophy, politics, as well as other disciplines are encouraged.

Our primary focus will be how to include the voices, histories, cultural contributions, and perspectives of indigenous people in our curriculum. We are aware of the colonial legacies that structure the very study of indigenous people as an academic subject, as well as the many challenges posed by the rapidly changing global political context in which we work. While keeping in mind the ways that learning indigenous culture and history can help U.S. students develop critical perspectives on western history and cultural hegemony, we also see the need to critically address contemporary contradictions and issues within indigenous communities.

We especially invite proposals on:

- Theoretical approaches on the encounter with indigenous cultures that have practical implications for teaching, and comparative approaches to culture, art, religion or politics;
- The efforts to theoretically and practically engage with real movements of indigenous peoples to preserve languages, protect biodiversity, and develop mechanisms of self-government based on their indigenous heritage;
- The efforts to teach about specific regions or specific indigenous cultures without losing sight of global contexts;
- Discipline and/or topic-specific pedagogical strategies, for example papers that explore the possibility of presenting this material in courses on environmental science, women and gender studies, and philosophy.
- Research on how the study of indigenous cultures and their contributions can aid the effort to create alternative development strategies.

Guidelines for submission:
Proposals should be limited to 500 words or less and sent as a word document via email attachment to both Carlos Briones (cbriones@oakton.edu) and Peter Hudis (phudis@oakton.edu)

In addition to individual paper proposals, we are accepting proposals for panels of three or four participants, or for a roundtable-style discussion group on a specific topic.