

Collaborative Research: Learning In and From the Environment through Multiple Ways of Knowing (LIFEways) | AWARD # 2218903

Community Partners: Nancy Maryboy & David Begay (Indigenous Education Institute), nancymaryboy@indigenouseducation.org; Tim Hecox (World Forestry Center), tnhecox@worldforestry.org; Vicki Coats (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry), VCoats@omsi.edu
PIs: Martin Storksdieck (Oregon State University), storksdieck@oregonstate.edu
Co-PIs: Beth Willup (Swinomish Indian Tribal Community), bwillup@swinomish.nsn.us; Shelly Valdez (Native Pathways), shelly@native-pathways.com; Jill Stein (Reimagine Research Group), jill@reimagine-researchgroup.com

<https://stem.oregonstate.edu/research-evaluation-portfolio/projects/learning-in-and-from-the-environment-through-multiple-ways>

Project Description

We are investigating promising practices for how to include or appreciate Indigenous ways of knowing (IWK) in outdoor learning environments, such as parks, reserves, and nature centers. The project is motivated by research findings that demonstrated that IWK, or even the presence, historic role, and contributions of Native communities has been largely ignored in outdoor education and interpretation, and that many professionals who work in those fields struggle to include Indigenous voices even as they are eager and willing to do so.

Key Achievements

We completed a fieldwide online survey with practitioners, are conducting a series of institutional case studies on promising collaborations between Tribal organizations and ISE settings and have nurtured a community of practice to support transfer of project insights to practitioners.

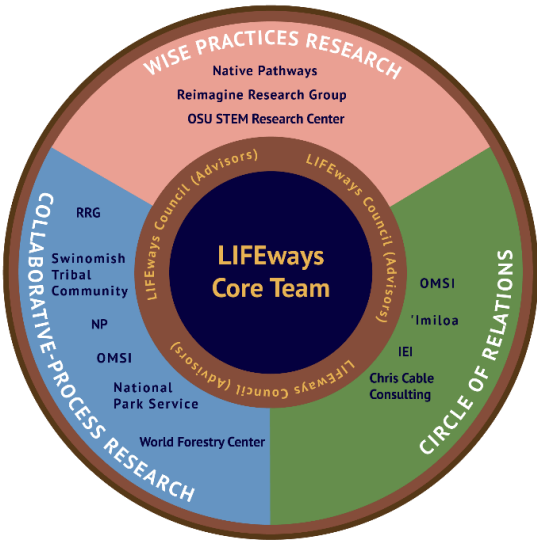
We confirmed our initial premise: There is tremendous willingness to represent Native interest in ISE and Interpretation, and we can lean on illustrative examples on how to do so successfully. Nonetheless, there is still a need for professional learning around wise practices for how to structure and implement collaborative work in this area of ISE and Interpretation.

Audience & Settings

Audience: ISE and Interpretation professionals; Tribal partners.

Discipline type: Informal outdoor education and interpretation

Learning environment: Interpretive centers of local, state and national parks; nature & science centers, natural history museums, zoos & aquariums, and their Tribal partners. Tribal youth organizations.



This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under grant 2218903. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

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