

Program

Mayrand's Native Americans, Past to Present

Presenters

The Indigenous Archaeology of Maryland: Dr. Katherine Sterner, Towson University

Dr. Sterner is an anthropological archaeologist studying community organization and stone tool manufacture and use among pre-contact Native American groups in the Eastern Woodlands of North America. She is a proponent of public archaeology, collaborative interpretation with descendant communities, and engagement with the avocational archaeologists. Dr. Sterner is the director of the Baltimore Community Archaeology Lab. She regularly conducts field work in Baltimore City and County Parks.

Dr. Sterner received her B.A. in Anthropology at Penn State University in 2009. She completed her M.S. in 2012 and her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2018. Before becoming a professor at Towson University, she was a principal investigator for Cultural Resource Management Services at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Tribal Law and the Abuse of Indigenous Women: Caroline LaPorte, Esq, Indian Law Research Center

Caroline LaPorte, J.D. (Immediate Descendant of LRBOI)
Caroline is a Trial Court Judge/Elected Tribal Official at Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and a staff attorney for the Indian Law Resource Center. She was previously the Academic Department Head and Associate Professor of Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University. Caroline served as the Director of the Indigenous Safe Housing Center at the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and as NIWRC's Senior Native Affairs Policy Advisor in Washington, D.C. She also previously worked as an attorney and the Judicial Advisor to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Court. She graduated cum laude from the University of Miami



School of Law and is bar licensed in Texas. Her legal career has focused on Indian country, specifically child welfare, housing, human rights, and gender-based violence.

She serves on the American Bar Association's Victim's Rights Task Force, previously chaired the Victim's Committee for the Criminal Justice Section of the ABA, and is the chair of the Board of Directors for StrongHearts Native Helpline. She is also a member of the Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls.

Current Issues in Native American Higher Education Dr. Donna Brown, American Indian Higher Education Association



Dr. Brown is the Vice President of Sponsored Programs at the American Indian Higher Education Association, a position she has held since 2024, while continuing as President of the Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt, North Dakota.

Dr. Brown is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota.

After receiving her Associate of Science in Business from Sitting Bull College, Donna Brown became a three-time graduate of the University of North Dakota. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education in 1991, followed by her Master of Arts in Counseling in 1995. Donna returned to UND and received her doctorate degree in educational leadership in 2002.

From 2009 through 2019, Dr. Brown held positions of growing responsibility, overseeing Diversity, Inclusion and Affirmative Action at Minnesota State University Moorhead.