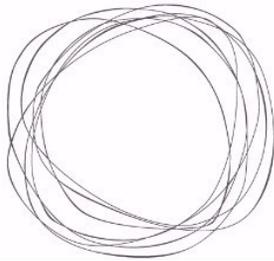


Reflect. Discover. Connect.



confluence



Join the Confluence Story Gathering at the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute

Confluence will kick off a series of public forums intended to elevate indigenous voices in our understanding of the Columbia River system. Confluence Story Gatherings feature stories from native elders, told in their own voices, as a way to explore the interconnectedness of people and places of the Columbia River system. At Tamastlikt, we'll feature audio selections of first-person narratives, produced by our partners at NW Documentary, followed by a discussion led by Roberta Conner and Elizabeth Woody.

Roberta (Bobbie) Conner, Tamastlikt Director, was raised in Cayuse Country and spent most of her formative years on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Her work as an author, speaker, local and national leader, and a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation earned the 2007 Buffett Award.

Oregon Poet Laureate **Elizabeth Woody** is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon, of Yakama Nation descent, and is "born for" the Todich'inii (Bitter Water clan) of the Navajo Nation. Elizabeth has published three books of poetry. She also writes short fiction, essays, and is a visual artist.

Confluence Story Gathering

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To reserve your seat, contact program manager Courtney Yilk at 360-693-0123 or Courtney@ConfluenceProject.org.

Confluence Story Gatherings are free and open to the public. This events are sponsored by a generous grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.



Confluence in the Classroom: Educator Profile

Brigette McConville: weaver, beadworker, basketmaker, fisherwoman and cultural educator

I am a cultural educator from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. I share traditional stories, traditional cultural information and contemporary native issues of the plateau and the Warm Spring and Wasco Tribes. I also have rich family fishing history and my personal commercial fishing stories on the Columbia River and its tributaries to share. I find it best to share my smoked salmon with the children while we get to know each other.

I have lived a very traditional life style. Growing up I was able and fortunate to spend time with all four grandparents and some of their siblings. I come from a long line of chiefs and spent much of my summers with my grandparents learning our cultural ways.

Students have a willingness to learn and know more, and as I grow older, I have a willingness to share more to understand one another's cultures through education; we all have a history, a culture, language and tradition. Young people need to know that they are a part of everything around them; to be proud of their identity, culture, and family.

Confluence in the Classroom connects students to place through art and education by introducing them to native artists and tradition keepers from the Chinook Nation, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Nez Perce Tribe.

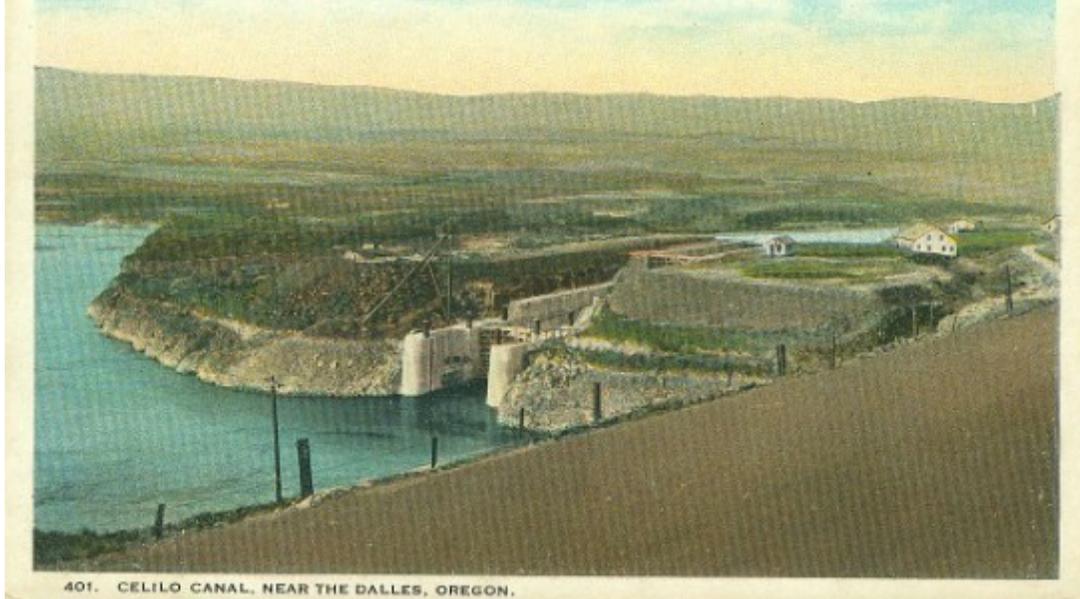


Confluence Convenes Meeting of Columbia River Ecologists and Educators

Sixteen educators and ecologists came together recently to explore ways to support one another in teaching a more inclusive ecology along the Columbia. Confluence's Inclusive Columbia River Ecology program has established an informal learning community focused on inclusive ecological teaching and partnership building. "Each participant comes to ICRE with his or her individual and professional goals. We see a rich community developing through discussions about where we have been and where we aim to be," program manager Courtney Yilk explained.

October was the inaugural meeting of the ICRE. In the spring, members will reconvene, and in the meantime, further their learning through peer-to-peer shadows, co-teaching, and research. ICRE supports Confluence's goal of creating a more inclusive understanding of the Columbia River system, and we look forward to deepening our discussion of what inclusive ecological teaching entails.

This initiative is made possible through a generous grant from the Gray Family Foundation.

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