



FALCON
Annual Conference
[Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale Resort](#)
5001 N. Scottsdale Road,
Scottsdale, Arizona 85250

October 24-26, 2025

Event Agenda

First American Land Grant Consortium

Friday, October 24, 2025

- 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Registration
Location: Silverman Foyer
- 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Ecological Society of America
Location: Desert-Encanto I

Saturday, October 25, 2025

- 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Registration
Location: Silverman Foyer
- 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Location: Mohave I-Hacienda III
- 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM

Keynote Speaker
Location: Mohave I-Hacienda III
Speaker: Ahniwake Rose
- 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

"Ignite the Sparkle: An Indigenous Science Education Curriculum"
Location: Mohave I-Hacienda III
Speaker: Dr. Gregory Cajete
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch-On Your Own
- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Student Panels

Student Panel I
1:00 PM - 3:45 PM
Location: Mohave I-Kiva III

Student Panel II
1:00 PM - 3:45 PM
Location: Hacienda I-III

Student Panel III
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Location: Paloma I-III
- 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Break
Location: Silverman Foyer
- 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Poster Session and Reception
Location: McDowell Room

Sunday, October 26, 2025

- 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Registration
Location: Silverman Foyer
- 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM

TCU President Address
Location: Mohave I-Hacienda III
Speaker: Stephen Schoonmaker
- 9:15 AM - 9:30 AM

Break
Location: Silverman Foyer

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM	General Session-AI: Invitation to Cheat or Chance to Redesign Learning? Building Sovereignty-Centered Classrooms Location: Mohave I-Hacienda III Speaker: Karen Colbert
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	1994 Land Grant Director LunchNetworking Session (Invitation Only) Location: Roberta's
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch on Your OWN
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Faculty Presentations Faculty I 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Location: Mohave I-Kiva III Faculty II 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Location: Hacienda I-III Faculty III 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Location: Kive I-III
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Roundtable and Networking Session: Open Space and Conference Close Location: Mohave I-Kiva III



Ahniwake Rose is the President & CEO of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Ahniwake brings 20 years of experience in Tribal policy and mission-driven state, national, and Tribal nonprofit organizations. Her passion for developing effective policy solutions that are evidence-based and reflective of impacted communities is central to her entire professional career.

Prior to joining the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Rose served as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Policy Institute, a statewide think tank that works to advance equitable and fiscally responsible policies through nonpartisan research, analysis, and advocacy. The throughline of her career has been serving Indian Country, where she held the positions of Deputy Director at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and Executive Director at the National Indian Education Association (NIEA).

A citizen of the Cherokee Nation and of Muscogee (Creek) descent, Rose serves on several education and youth-related boards and is a founding member of VEST, an Oklahoma-based organization dedicated to connecting women to positions of power and influence. Most importantly, she is the mother of two daughters, Waleah and Tanagila-win.



Dr. Stephen Schoonmaker has nearly 40 years of experience as a college administrator. He earned his Doctor of Education in Educational Administration with an emphasis in Community College Leadership from New Mexico State University, Master of Science in Student Personnel Administration from Western Illinois University, and Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from the University of Vermont. Stephen has served universities, private colleges, community colleges, and tribal colleges in Vermont, Illinois, Maryland, Oregon, New Mexico, Arkansas, California, and Arizona.

Leading Tohono O’odham Community College is President Schoonmaker’s third presidency, which have included an Aspen Prize Top 10 Finalist in Arkansas, and the top ranked rural community college for student success in California. He has also served in vice presidencies overseeing Student Services, Instruction, and Administrative Services. He served as a Leadership Coach for Achieving the Dream for nine years; and began coaching with Tohono O’odham Community College in 2017. Since 1999, Dr. Stephen has taught courses in developmental math, business communication, group dynamics, and leadership.

Stephen is a father to three grown children and a doting grandfather to two lovely granddaughters. Stephen and his wife Joy enjoy travel, skiing, watching college football, and attending a wide variety of performing arts events. In his spare time, Stephen enjoys writing, photography and cooking; he has extensive music and film collections. His favorite crafts are origami and Ukrainian Easter Egg decorating.



Karen Colbert is an education strategist, data scientist, and nationally recognized advocate for culturally grounded STEM education. She currently serves as the General Education Department Chair and Lead Math Faculty at Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, where she advances quantitative and computational literacy for Indigenous students.

Karen was named an RStudio Scholar in 2021 and became the first Data Carpentries Instructor Trainer among Tribal Colleges, helping bridge the digital divide in Indigenous higher education. She also serves on the Faculty Advisory Committee for the American Indian College Fund and leads national conversations on equitable AI in education and research. Karen’s work challenges institutions to lead with cultural integrity in the age of AI, ensuring that non-traditional, re-entry, and adult scholars are not left behind.

Karen was recently featured on the *Explainable AI* podcast by the University of Pittsburgh, delivered the opening keynote "We won't Code Switch for the Algorithm: The future of AI and the Urgency of Digital Sovereignty" at the 2025 MS-CC Annual Meeting, presented “AI is Learning, But are We?” at the 2025 Michigan Mathematical Association of America annual meeting, as well as providing key contributions at the Achieving the DREAM 2025 opening panel on AI in education.

Karen’s upcoming book, *The Algorithm Wasn’t Built for Us: Reclaiming the Future of AI, Education, and Culture*, launches July 4. Learn more at karencolbert.com



Gregory Cajete is a Native American educator whose work is dedicated to honoring the foundations of Indigenous knowledge in education. Dr. Cajete is a Tewa Indian from Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico.

Dr. Cajete is a practicing ceramic, pastel and metal artist. He is extensively involved with art and its application to education. He is also a scholar of herbalism and holistic health. Dr. Cajete also designs culturally-responsive curricula geared to the special needs and learning styles of Native American students.

He worked at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico for 21 years. While at the Institute, he served as Dean of the Center for Research and Cultural Exchange, Chair of Native American Studies and Professor of Ethno- Science. He is the former Director of Native American Studies (18 years) and is Professor Emeritus in the Division of Language, Literacy and Socio Cultural Studies in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. In addition, he has lectured at colleges and universities in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Italy, Japan, Russia, Taiwan, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, England, France and Germany.

Dr. Cajete has authored 10 books: “Look to the Mountain: An Ecology of Indigenous Education,” (Kivaki Press, 1994); “Ignite the Sparkle: An Indigenous Science Education Curriculum Model”, (Kivaki Press, 1999); “Spirit of the Game: Indigenous Wellsprings (2004),” “A People’s Ecology: Explorations in Sustainable Living,” and “Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence” (Clear Light Publishers, 1999 and 2000). “Critical Neurophilosophy and Indigenous Wisdom,” Don Jacobs (Four Arrows), Gregory Cajete and Jongmin Lee) Sense Publishers, 2010. “Indigenous Community: Teachings of the Seventh Fire,” (Living Justice Press, 2015). His most recent books are edited volumes entitled: “Native Minds Rising” and “Sacred Journeys” (John Charlton Publications, 2020). Dr. Cajete also has chapters in 36 other books along with numerous articles and over 350 national and international presentations.