Indigenous Research Convention Held at WSU

by Rio Fernandes

In what they hope to be an annual event, the WSU Chapter of the Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP), organized the WSU Indigenous Research convention. The Center for Mestizo and Indigenous Research and Engagement and the Plateau Center for Native American Programs were co-sponsors of the event.

SIP organized the convention to highlight research that has been done in the fields of education, health and the social sciences with indigenous peoples around the world. The event took place April 18th in Cleveland hall.

Those in attendance learned about a variety of studies being done to address important issues within indigenous communities. The convention drew a full house of attendees eager to listen to the various presenters. Topics varied from language preservation and South American indigenous language programs, to portrayal of Native Americans in the media, to concerns for Native American veterans. (see complete list of research and presenters here)

"The WSU Indigenous Research Convention was an opportunity for students, teachers, and professionals to share their knowledge and research about indigenous populations with the public," said Greg Urquhart (Cherokee), doctoral student in counseling psychology and president of the WSU Society of Indian Psychologists. "It was a chance to advocate through research for the unique needs of our indigenous populations around the world."

The convention planners had a limited amount of time to organize the event and the proposal submission period was only 3 weeks in length. Despite this, the convention drew over 30 presenters from three WSU campuses and from several different states, some coming as far away as North Dakota to attend and present their research.

Urquhart hopes to hold another event next year at a larger venue and open up the submission period for a longer period of time.

"Everyone in attendance had such a positive and rewarding experience. I see no reason why we couldn’t expand the convention next year and allow for more participants and more interaction discussions with the audience." Urquhart said.

For those interested in more information about the WSU Chapter of the Society of Indian Psychologists or next year’s conference please visit the WSU SIP Facebook site at the following link:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/380913785374878/