American Indian Heritage Center to provide Support and Opportunities

In 2020, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke was awarded a $1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Native American Serving Nontribal Institution program. Awarded to build upon the university’s ability to serve low-income American Indian students, the funding will help establish the American Indian Heritage Center (AIHC) to centralize programming for American Indian students as well as educational programming for non-Native faculty, staff and students.

The AIHC will primarily help ensure UNCP honors its heritage as North Carolina’s historically American Indian university and that American Indian students are holistically supported from their freshman year to graduation. This grant will also provide the necessary resources to develop intentional opportunities that promote student success, retention and graduation in culturally relevant and responsive ways. Temporarily located on the second floor of Old Main, the AIHC will provide support to all American Indian students including those who identify as low-income, nontraditional or first-generation.

On March 11, in celebration of Women’s History Month, the AIHC hosted its first virtual event, “An Evening with Indigenous Women in STEM.”

Six panelists—Liz Cummings, Kindra Locklear, Ashley Lomboy, Summer Montex, Audrey Oxendine and Heather Oxendine provided inspiration for young females interested in STEM, while highlighting their specific career areas and experiences. Panelists also shed light on working in primarily male-dominated fields as Native American women.

You can find a recording of the event at uncp.edu/aihc.
Student Spotlight

Name: Brent Locklear
Hometown: Lumberton, N.C.
Tribal Affiliation: Lumbee

Campus Involvement:
- Learning Community Ambassador
- Health Careers Club President
- Native American Student Organization Member
- Native Strong Committee Member
- Student Peer Advisor

Why I chose UNCP...
“I originally chose to attend UNCP for financial savings and close proximity to my family. However, after my freshman year, I realized that I would never regret attending UNCP. I have been given the opportunity to meet some amazing people, some of whom are now my closest friends. I have developed transferable skills here that will carry me far into my chosen career, and through networking, I have access to a huge pool of resources, should I ever need them. UNCP is and forever will be a part of who I am. Go Braves!”

VISIT OUR CAMPUS!
WALK-THRU OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 17
uncp.edu/openhouse
**Staff Spotlight**

Name: Myia Reyes  
Hometown: Pembroke, N.C.  
Tribal Affiliation: Lumbee  
Position: Program Coordinator for the American Indian Heritage Center

**Why choose UNCP...**

UNC Pembroke offers an abundance of opportunities and experiences for its students. Students excel academically with our small class sizes and 18:1 student:faculty ratio, can participate in on- and off-campus initiatives all while establishing lifelong friendships. This is a wonderful place to learn more about yourself, other cultures and identities, all while gaining a sense of community and benefiting from the support of your peers, faculty and staff.

---

**Tommy Statue**

The Tommy Statue was in place just four days when its legend took hold at UNCP. Basketball player Chavis Rachel was photographed climbing the rock to touch the hawk for good luck before the homecoming game on February 13, 1999. With the Braves down by two points, Rachel made a desperate attempt at a three-point shot, and perhaps guided by unseen hands, found nothing but net to win the game! Rachel’s visit with the hawk was not revealed until the following Thursday when the photograph was published by the Fayetteville Observer.

A gift from the class of ’99, the life-size bronze statue was completed in 16 weeks by Professor Paul Van Zandt from the art department. It was crafted after close observations of a red-tailed hawk, which is indigenous to Robeson County.

To this day, many students, faculty and staff rub the rock, located in front of the James B. Chavis University Center, for good luck!
Tribal Nations Represented at UNCP

- Abenaki
- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Klaboma
- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Aztec Native from Mexico
- Blackoot
- Cheroenhaka (Nottoway)
- Cherokee
- Choctaw
- Cohaire Tribe
- Diné (Navajo)
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Nation
- Echota Cherokee Tribe
- Gila River Indian Community
- Haliwa-Spaoni Indian Tribe
- Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
- Meherrin Indian Tribe
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation
- Oneida
- Pee Dee Nation of Upper South Carolina
- Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes
- Tuscarora Tribe
- Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- Ute
- Virginia Cherokee
- Waccamaw Siouan Tribe
- Yavapai-Apache Nation

American Indian Student Organizations

- Alpha Pi Omega Sorority, Inc. (American Indian sorority)
- American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES)
- Hok Nosai - promote high standards in on-campus Greek organizations at UNCP
- NATIONS (American Indian Ministry)
- Native American Student Organization (NASO)
- Phi Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. (American Indian Fraternity)
- Strengthening our Ties: American Indian Learning Community
- Sigma Omicron Epsilon Sorority, Inc. (American Indian Sorority)

910.521.6000 • choosetobea Brave.com