

Press Release 7/14/2006

Subject: Education/Tomaquag Museum Fourth Annual Teacher Institute

Contact Person: Lorén Spears, (401) 491-9063

“Presentations from Native Peoples are so powerful and hearing their “authentic” stories brings a more meaningful light to these subject areas. I feel very empowered to re-look at our curriculum with a new sensitivity.” Participant Evaluation

This is just one of the positive comments from an attendee at the Fourth Annual Teacher’s Institute sponsored by the University of New Hampshire held at Nuweetooun School at Tomaquag Museum in Exeter, Rhode Island. Educators from the Gordon School, Kingston Hill Academy, Westborough High School, in Watertown, Massachusetts and other educators had a unique learning experience on Tuesday, July 11th and Wednesday, July 12th at the Nuweetooun School.

“My thought now goes to helping other teachers to view these issues with a new perspective. My question also goes to parents of students and how to educate or perhaps help the parents unlearn their biases.” Participant Evaluation

The presenters were Dr. Naomi Caldwell, (Lenape), URI assistant professor; Dawn Dove, BsEd., (Narragansett), Elizabeth Hoover, M.A., (Mohawk/Mi’kmaq), URI Anthropology Professor & Instructor at Brown University; Lorén Spears, MsEd., (Narragansett), Executive Director of Tomaquag Museum & Nuweetooun School and Paulla Dove Jennings, (Narragansett/Niantic), Oral Historian, Storyteller, Author, Museum Consultant.

“I enjoyed learning how to incorporate Native American values, history, and traditions into my teaching curriculum.” Participant Evaluation

The topics included teaching about Columbus and Thanksgiving from a Native perspective, Narragansett tribal history and culture, past, present and future, how to evaluate books about Native Americans, Native Curriculum development and teacher resources and Native units developed by Nuweetooun School.

“You really have to get this info to the public.” Participant Evaluation

“The more the seed is spread you’ll have a greater response.” Participant Evaluation

“A couple of the resource books will help me critique the books I use, are they written in truth or stereotypically?” Participant Evaluation

The museum and school staff thanks the participants. We hope that the local community will begin to look at Tomaquag Museum and Nuweetooun School as a unique educational facility which will enable them to nurture the whole child, mind, body, and spirit in a way that fires a child’s imagination for life long learning.