

Contact:

Jennifer Howell
Public Relations
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian
(847)475-1030
jhowell@mitchellmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian Presents
“Through Native Eyes: Columbus Day and Thanksgiving”
-A Lecture by Renowned Professor Dr. Lola Hill-

October 1, 2013—The Mitchell Museum of The American Indian announces a special lecture on Sunday, October 13 entitled “Through Native Eyes: Columbus Day and Thanksgiving”. The program, led by Dr. Lola Hill, of the Bad River Band of Ojibwe, will explore the history and contemporary interpretations of these two U.S. holidays that often misrepresent actual events and presence of American Indians.

The presentation will be held from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the Mitchell Museum Stanley Golder Library. The fee is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. The whole family is welcome to attend, and teachers may earn CPDU credits.

“In continuing our mission to promote and share a deeper understanding and respect of Native American peoples, the museum is thrilled to be able to offer this program to our visitors,” said Kathleen McDonald, Executive Director at The Mitchell Museum of The American Indian. “Examining these holidays from a Native perspective, they have entirely new meanings that need to be shared.”

“Columbus Day is a national holiday to celebrate a lost sailor who’s lofty claims of discovery began a chain of events that shattered the lives of millions of indigenous people. This is not the perspective you get in most classrooms, but it is how many indigenous people experienced this,” Ms. McDonald continued. “Thanksgiving is often celebrated to honor the American Indians who shared their harvest and knowledge with the early European settlers, later dubbed pilgrims. However, today people often dress up as Indians in a way that degrades and insults American Indian cultures and forget in their celebration the unpleasant aftermath for the Wampanoag and other tribes.”

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Lola Hill coming to the museum to discuss these holidays”, said Ms. McDonald. “Dr. Hill’s expansive knowledge of American Indian history has contributed much to helping dispel myths about Native American life and culture.”

-more-

2/2- Through Native Eyes: Columbus Day and Thanksgiving

Dr. Hill was the first American Indian to graduate with a doctorate degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she received her degree in May 1987. She is enrolled member of the Bad River Band of Ojibwe, Odanah, Wisconsin.

Dr. Hill has taught English Composition & Literature, and American Indian Studies, for several universities and colleges, retiring from the Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1995. After retirement from UMD, as an adjunct, she taught composition (English 101 & English 102) courses for 15 years at Joliet Junior College. Currently, she is retired from JJC but teaches occasional American Indian Studies courses within the American Indian Association of Illinois (AIAI), a Chicago partner of Eastern Illinois University.

The Mitchell Museum houses around 10,000 artifacts, and is one of only a handful of museums in the country that focuses exclusively on the art, history and culture of American Indian and First Nation peoples throughout the United States and Canada. In 2012, The Mitchell Museum was named “Best Museum of The North Shore: Up and Comer” by *Make it Better* magazine, won the Superior award by the Illinois Association of Museums and was named a national finalist by the American Association of State and Local History Leadership in History Award program.

For more information about The Mitchell Museum of The American Indian, visit www.mitchellmuseum.org. or call 847-475-1030. The museum is open Tuesday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday- Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students and children and Free for Mitchell Museum members and Tribal members.

#