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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **November Declared Native American Heritage Month**

### **-Learn about Native Culture at Evanston's Mitchell Museum of the American Indian -**

October 28, 2014—Evanston, IL—For the second year, Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl declared through proclamation that November will be Native American Heritage Month in the city of Evanston. Mayor Tisdahl urges Evanstonians to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities. Evanston's own Mitchell Museum of the American Indian has events scheduled every week throughout the month of November for all age groups to learn more about American Indian life through lectures, crafts and exhibits.

With more than 40,000 Native Americans living in the Chicago area, including Evanston, the proclamation acknowledges the American Indian people's significant contributions to the history and culture of the area. The Mitchell Museum has been educating local and international visitors for over 37 years about the art, history and culture of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

Native American Awareness Week began in 1976. Recognition was expanded by Congress and approved by President George Bush in August of 1990 when he designated the Month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month. The national designation was later changed to Native American Heritage Month. Today, every November is celebrated nationally as Native American Heritage Month.

"We are thrilled that the City of Evanston has recognized the importance of the American Indian peoples, their history, and culture. While the museum offers excellent programming throughout the year, we hope that people will take advantage of the great programs we have to offer to celebrate Native American Heritage Month." said Executive Director Kathleen McDonald.

Programming includes:

\*Thursday, Nov. 6 (6:00-8:00pm) First Nations Film and Video Festival hosted by the Mitchell Museum. The FNFVF is the only film festival that deals exclusively with Native American film and video makers across the country. Come watch the full-length feature film "Indian 101", about Comanche Activist Ladonna Harris, as well as several film shorts. *Free admission. Refreshments at an additional cost. All proceeds benefit the Mitchell Museum.*

\* Wednesday, Nov. 12 (6:00-8:30pm) The Mitchell Museum welcomes Richard West, Jr. (Southern Cheyenne) as the keynote speaker for the Dr. Carlos Montezuma Honorary Lecture. West is President and CEO of the Autry National Center of the American West, and Founding Director and Director Emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. West's presentation "Museums and Native America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Journeys in Interpretation" focuses on how representation and interpretation of Native peoples and communities in museums has experienced great change within the past generation. *Fee: \$12 Members/ \$15 Non-members/ FREE for Tribal Members*

\*Saturday, Nov. 15 (3:00-4:00pm) Enjoy a curator led tour of our newest exhibit, "All My Relations: A Seneca History" in collaboration with visual artist and dancer Rosy Simas (Seneca). The exhibit introduces the history of the Seneca culture through milestones in the lives of Ms. Simas and her relations including a focus on the treaty signed by George Washington and her ancestor Cornplanter that was later broken to flood Seneca lands and build the Kinzua Dam. *Free with regular admission.*

\*Sunday, November 23 (2:00-3:00pm), John Dall (Ho-Chunk) will present a lecture on the history and culture of the Ho-Chunk nation including a tour of our ciporoke lodge built in September by a delegation from the Ho-Chunk nation. Teachers can earn CPDU credits. *Fee: \$10 members/ \$12 non-members.*

\*Saturday, November 29 (10:00-11:30) "Native Peoples Today" presentation followed by a tour of the Ho-Chunk ciporoke. "Native Peoples Today" helps to dispel American Indian stereotypes and provide a deeper understanding of past and present American Indian cultures. *Free with regular admission.*

\*Families can also stop by the Mitchell museum on Saturdays and Sundays to make a Native American inspired craft. Mitchell museum staff and volunteers lead kids in DIY projects to make simple versions of traditional Native American items including Talking Sticks, Northwest Coast Rattles, Woven Baskets, Canoes and more. Kid's crafts are offered Saturdays 11:00 am- noon and Sundays, 12:30-1:30 pm. The crafts are free with regular paid admission. The craft schedule is as follows:  
November: 1-2 Talking Sticks, 8-9 Northwest Coast Rattle, 15-16 Canoes, 22-23 Woven Baskets, and 29-30 Loom Beading.

The Mitchell Museum 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 award program.

For more information about The Mitchell Museum of The American Indian, visit [www.mitchellmuseum.org](http://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.