

Contact:

Jennifer Howell

Public Relations

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

(847)475-1030

jhowell@mitchellmuseum.org

**Mitchell Museum of the American Indian's
Annual Benefit "Nurturing the Land" February 28**

Feb 17, 2015, EVANSTON, IL—The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian will host its annual benefit "Nurturing the Land" at the Crystal Ballroom (529 Davis St.) in Evanston on Saturday, February 28 from 6:00-9:30pm. This year's event will feature elegant cuisine, a silent auction, grand prize raffle drawing, and a presentation by the Chi-Nation Youth Council honoring their advocacy efforts in land preservation and how Native culture is nurturing the land today.

Proceeds from the annual benefit will support the Mitchell Museum's mission to promote and share a deeper understanding and respect of Native American peoples. Since 1977, the Mitchell Museum has worked to dispel the misconceptions and stereotypes that fuel discrimination against American Indian peoples today, while also revealing the beauty and inspiration behind their unique genre of art.

"Our annual benefit is a wonderful way for community members, board and staff to come together in support of our mission," said Kathleen McDonald, Executive Director of the Mitchell Museum. "Guests can bid on some great auction items, enjoy thoughtful conversation and good food, while helping to ensure that the museum can continue to provide meaningful exhibits and stimulating programming to the public for years to come."

Among this year's silent auction items are tickets to a variety of theater and sporting events, limited edition and one of a kind art pieces, custom jewelry, restaurant and spa packages, and unique handmade clothing items. Guests can get in the spirit of the museum's "Native Haute Couture" exhibit by bidding on an elegant, handmade beaded leather jacket.

Emcee Mark Denning (Oneida/Menominee) will lead the evening presentation, which will conclude with the grand prize raffle drawing of a trip package to Winter Park, Colorado for five nights in the summer or three nights during ski season. The package includes a stay in a three bedroom/ two-bath condo that sleeps eight, and \$1,000 gift card to use for travel expenses and entertainment as the winner sees fit. The winner need not be present to win, and raffle tickets are available for purchase now up until the time of the drawing for \$20 each or \$100 for six.

To purchase tickets for both the benefit and grand prize raffle, contact the Mitchell Museum at (847)475-1030 or email visitor services at rsvp@mitchellmuseum.org. Tickets are \$135 per person. Tables that seat 8-10 are also available for \$125 per person.

The event is underwritten in part through the generous support of The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts Program, Susanne E. Driscoll, 1st Bank and Trust of Evanston, Blue Island Newspapers Printing, Inc., and John J. Cahill, Inc. Special thanks to the gracious host committee including Ivan and Shelly Berk, Jan and Jeff Berkson, Gary and Laura Cooper, Beth and Peter Lent, Sue and Tim Salisbury, and Colonel (IL) Jennifer Pritzker IL ARNG of the Tawani Foundation.

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 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.

###