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**Mitchell Museum of the American Indian Welcomes  
New Curator Janelle Stanley (Diné/ Acoma)**

August 19—The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is pleased to announce Janelle Stanley (Diné/ Acoma) has joined the museum as our new curator. Ms. Stanley is a respected Native artist as well as a historian of Native culture.

“The Mitchell Museum is thrilled to bring Janelle Stanley on board as our new curator,” says Kathleen McDonald, Executive Director. “Janelle brings a passion, direct experience and a knowledge base for Indigenous culture that will further our mission to promote and share a deeper understanding of Native American peoples through the collection, preservation and interpretation of traditional and contemporary art and material culture.”

Ms. Stanley comes to the Mitchell Museum after interning in the anthropology department at the Field Museum in Chicago working on Native American exhibits. She is also active in the Chicago area Native American community through her involvement with the American Indian Center. Previous to her tenure in the Chicago area, Ms. Stanley completed an internship at the prestigious Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona.

“I feel fortunate to be in this role where I’m able to be a caretaker of Indigenous culture in a professional capacity,” said Ms. Stanley. “I’m excited to learn more about other native cultures and expand my knowledge and awareness.”

After completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Arizona State University, Ms. Stanley was commissioned by the city of Phoenix to create two art installations at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport that will be debuting this November. The first installation in the Terminal 3 Station Platform is a floor design the size of a football field based on an Acoma pottery basket design. The second is the Terminal 3 Station Bridge, and is a weaved piece that resembles the inner portions of a Navajo wedding basket and abstract rug design.

Prior to being an urban Native, Ms. Stanley grew up on a Diné reservation in the Southwest surrounded by an extensive family. She speaks conversational Diné and credits her strong cultural identity to her grandparents.

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-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 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.

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