



**Fall 2021 Speaker Series Focuses on Indigenous Americans**  
*“Building a More Inclusive Community” seeks to promote dialogue around  
historic problems of race and exclusion*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Charlottesville, VA, October 15, 2021** — The fourth edition of The Center’s Building a More Diverse Community speaker series, “Indigenous Americans – “We’re Still Here,” focuses on Native Peoples of America and their cultures—past, present, and future. This continuing series aims to contribute to a stronger, healthier community by providing both education and a safe space for discussion of the problems of exclusion—both historical and contemporary.

The online event, organized by The Center’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, runs from 5:30–7:00 PM on the first three Wednesdays in November and the first Wednesday in December. Presentations are free and open to the public. To register, visit [thecentercville.org](http://thecentercville.org).

***About the programs:***

**November 3 — “Pre- and Post-European Contact”** - Kasey Jernigan, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and American Studies at the University of Virginia and a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She will offer an overview of Indigenous peoples’ pre-European contact, focusing on what is currently known as Virginia and the southeastern seaboard.

**November 10 — “Mapping Erasure: Acknowledging the Siouan Indians of the Piedmont”** - Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos is a Research Librarian for Art, Archaeology, Classics, and Indigenous Studies at the University of Virginia and is of North Carolina Saponi heritage. She will discuss her exploration of the Catawba deerskin map and colonial settler maps of Piedmont North Carolina and Virginia.

**November 17 — In the Local Schools: Efforts to Re-center Indigenous American Identities and Lenses”** - Lars Holmstrom, Equity Specialist with Albemarle County Public Schools, will share how the school division is working to build partnerships and take actions to re-center Indigenous American identities and perspectives, prioritizing those of the seven federally recognized Tribes of Virginia.

**December 1 — “Panel Discussion - The Future of Native Americans”** – Retired Clinical Social Worker Michael Wilson, of Potawatomi heritage, will moderate a panel of Native young adults as they describe their personal journeys growing up, attending post-secondary education, and moving into their chosen careers in a culture that has been impacted by continued attempts at erasure of Native Americans.

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**About The Center at Belvedere**

The Center at Belvedere is a nationally-accredited, award-winning nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for healthy aging through social engagement, physical well-being, civic involvement, creativity, and lifelong learning. For more information about our programs, visit our website at [www.thecentercville.org](http://www.thecentercville.org).