



Metropolitan Community College
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Nebraska's Native American history to be showcased at powwow

OMAHA, Neb. — Metropolitan Community College will host its 23rd annual Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow Saturday, Sept. 13, from 1 to 7:30 p.m. at MCC's historic Fort Omaha Campus on the parade ground, 30th and Fort streets. Celebrating Native American cultures, the powwow honors the traditional dance, music, artistry, oral history and foods of various tribes across Nebraska and the surrounding region, including, but not limited to, Northern Ponca, Omaha, Santee Sioux and Winnebago.

Bring Nebraska's history to life by experiencing Native American traditions at this educational event. Dancers in colorful regalia will perform throughout the day, starting at 10 a.m. with the Gourd Dance, a tradition honoring military veterans that originated with the Kiowa and features men dancers with gourd rattles.

Grand entry begins at 1 p.m. Dancers five years old and under perform in a tiny tot special at 2 p.m. Study circles, an opportunity to learn from Native experts, begin at 3 p.m. outside the powwow arena. Steve Tamayo, Sicangu Lakota and consultant for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, will lead a study circle on Plains Lodges. The theme of this year's powwow is Honoring Grandmothers (the Givers of Life). Families are invited to honor their grandmothers by taking them into the arena during a special song in the afternoon. Other events include the princess contest at 4:30 p.m. and a closing prayer at 7:15 p.m.

Several hundred artists participate in this family-friendly event. Tommy Christian, Assiniboine Sioux, will serve as emcee and Kennard Parker, Omaha, will serve as arena director. The head man dancer is Alfred White Eyes, Omaha, and the head lady dancer is Michelle Madrigal, Northern Ponca. Wahpekute from Sisseton, South Dakota, will serve as the host northern drum and HayLushKa from Winnebago will serve as host southern drum. Summer Barea, Omaha, the powwow's first crowned princess (1994) will serve as princess judge. The princess crown was created and donated by AlexAndrea Aldrich Pasquayak from Saddle Lake Alberta, Canada, in honor of her Grandmother Brenda Aldrich of the Omaha Native Community.

The event is free and open to the public. Bring lawn chairs for seating. Food and craft vendors will be available. Coolers are welcome. No alcohol permitted. For more information, call 402-457-2253.

The powwow is made possible with the support of the Nebraska Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts. The event is funded in part by Douglas County Visitors Improvement Fund.

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 unique credit and noncredit students.