

Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: INDIGENOUS RESEARCH FORUM

Research forum featuring presentations, discussions, posters, & demonstrations centering and exploring the concept of Indigenous research.

Date of Event: April 1 2024

Location of Event: Madison, Wisconsin Discovery Building

Sponsoring Organization(s): UW College of Agriculture and Life Science UW Law Nelson
Institute University Extension

Conference Summary

The conference discussed types research and how to do research that is respectful and is supportive to Indigenous communities. The conference highlighted resources about Indigenous communities that were done in a respectful way and were beneficial for both. The presenters talked about getting permission to do research and including the communities in the process. This includes what to study and not telling the communities what the researcher wants to study. The speaker all said you have to build relationships with communities, and make sure what you are putting information out into the world belongs out in the world.

By building relationships, you make sure information will benefit future generations, people first, and then the outer world point of view. When looking at resources, is the research in plain language? Does the information restore our relationship with plants and animals? How does the research material impact mental health, and are you documenting knowledge instead of statistics? Respectful research gives communities control over one's life. It is important to note that information about Indigenous people should have historical and cultural knowledge to back it up. Language and stories hold information from the past.

Speakers represented many disciplines of study as well as many Indigenous communities from Wisconsin and other parts of the United States. Speakers talked about food systems, Indigenous knowledge, and how it marries with Western science, health, and STEM.

Looking at our collections and programming to make sure we have the best resources that honor the Indigenous communities. We want to make sure the information was intended to be put out into the world by Indigenous standards. We can look at who authored the materials, and if not from those communities, were they co-authored by people from those communities? Does the material benefit the next seven generations and reconnect with the natural world? Also, a huge takeaway is how we, as the library, can move forward with building relationships and learning ways to enhance our programs using Indigenous knowledge.