

Hodinöhsö:ni' Kindness' work takes 1st Place pg 2

Oneida artist's push leads to UWSP public acknowledgement of burial ground on campus



Photo courtesy Jim Kelly

Oneida Nation citizen and UWSP graduate Karen Ann Hoffman was a stalwart in the drive to have a permanent memorial placed on the campus of UW-Stevens Point (UWSP) commemorating a large, unacknowledged Indigenous burial ground on the land.

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An Indigenous burial site on the grounds of where the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point (UWSP) now sits will finally be given the respectful recognition it's been denied for nearly 150 years. Oneida

Nation citizen and former UWSP student Karen Ann Hoffman, along with retired UWSP history professor and archaeologist Dr. Ray Reser, spearheaded an effort to get the university to finally acknowledge the existence of the site.

"Honestly, I feel like the ancestors led the charge on this one," Hoffman said. "I feel our dead deserve to

rest because daily, weekly, people walk on their graves and they don't even think about it and that level of disrespect is disturbing to me and our deceased."

During the mid-1800s Native people from many tribes including Menominee, Ho-Chunk, Potawatomi, and Ojibwe were on the move after being forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands by the United States Government. An encampment had been established at the current UWSP site where a prehistoric Menominee village once stood. The encampment was home to an estimated 1,000 inhabitants at various times. A Scarlet Fever epidemic broke out in Stevens Point between 1863 and 1870 and soon spread to the camp, taking the lives of many of the Native population.

Stevens Point residents of the time refused to allow their bodies to be buried in area cemeteries, so they were buried in a common grave in an old quarry without any traditional ceremonies, feasts, or prayers. Following the epidemic, the remaining Natives at the site moved on, and locals began using the quarry as a garbage dump. The State of Wisconsin eventually took over the land and UWSP was established on the site in 1894.

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UWSP Burial Ground

CULTURE

Tshatekołshélha Midwinter Ceremony Celebrated

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TALK BACK

Ask the Business Committee Tehassi Hill

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We are made of Stories - Elder interviews return

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