

Representatives From Lenape Communities Meet at Swarthmore College for Second Lenape Language Conference

In May of 2008, The first Lenape Language Conference was held at the University of Pennsylvania. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together Lenape Communities throughout the country in a collaborative effort to develop resources and support for language revitalization projects, as well as to explore ways in which universities could provide assistance. The conference was attended by representatives from Lenape communities in Oklahoma, Canada, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Also in attendance were representatives from area colleges as well as various prominent linguists. It was agreed that collaborative work on language revitalization would continue. The second Language conference will be held at Swarthmore College on May 1st, 2010 from 9:30AM until 5:00PM. The conference is open to the general public. The goals of the conference are to assess progress, to address concerns, and to set specific goals for future revitalization efforts.

Lenape representatives in attendance include:

Canada

Glen Jacobs - Munsee Delaware Nation, Moraviantown, Ontario

Bruce Stonefish - Munsee Delaware Nation, Moraviantown, Ontario

New Jersey

Vince Williams - Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians, Bridgeton

Tina Fragoso - Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians, Bridgeton

Oklahoma

Ann Dapice - Lenape Nation of PA

Curtis Zunigha - Bartlesville, Ok

Pennsylvania

Chief Bob Red Hawk - Lenape Nation of PA

Shelley DePaul - Lenape Nation of PA

Susan Taffe - Eastern Lenape Nation

Wisconsin

Molly Miller - Stockbridge Munsee/Mohican

Shawn Stevens - Stockbridge Munsee/Mohican

Lenape speakers from each area will give a formal presentation regarding language issues in their communities. Representatives from various local universities and linguistics students currently studying the Lenape Language at Swarthmore will also be in attendance. The conference will end with a discussion regarding cooperative strategies between universities and Lenape communities. A bonfire and social, drumming circle will be held in the Crum Woods section of the Swarthmore campus at 7:30 in the evening. A program agenda and details regarding the conference will be published on the Lenape Nation website (www.lenapenation.org) as they develop.