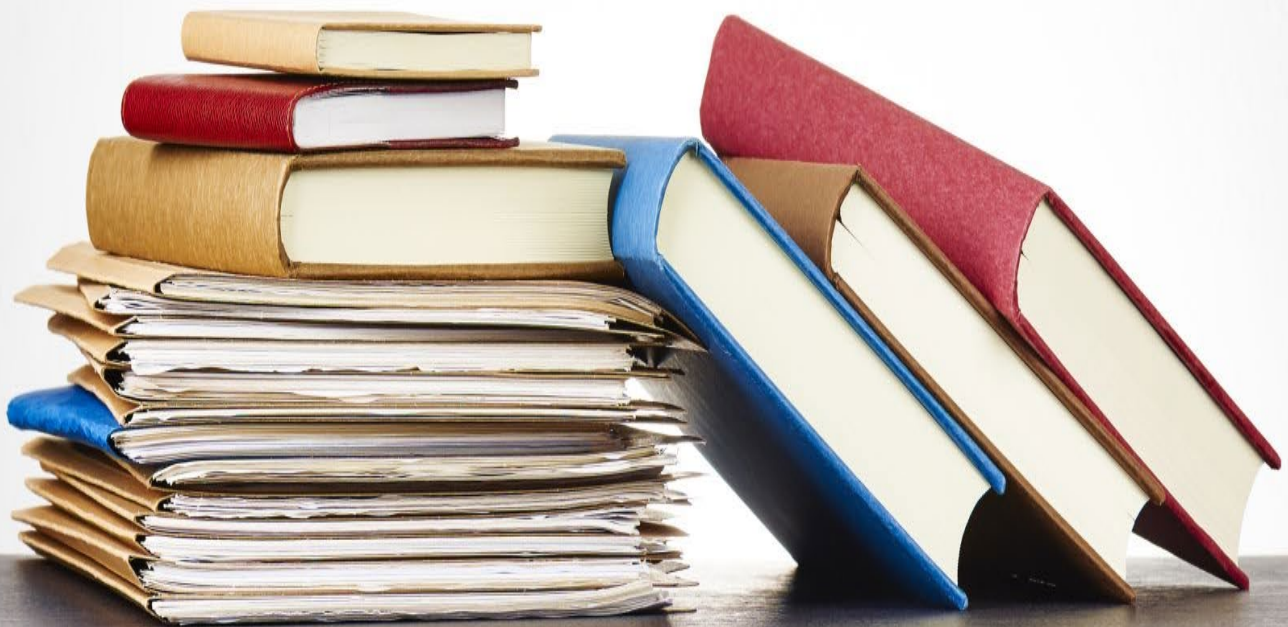


The Department of Professional Education
at Bemidji State University
presents the

2nd Annual Diverse Texts Conference

Connecting Students and Stories
With Diverse Texts

Tuesday, July 23, 2024
8:00 - 3:30



Schedule

**All events and activities are held in Bangsberg Hall unless otherwise noted.*

8:00 – 8:30	Breakfast and Registration
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome
8:45 – 9:45	Opening Keynote Speaker, Dr. Brenda Child
10:00 – 10:45	Breakout #1
11:00 – 11:45	Breakout #2
12:00 – 1:00	Anishinaabe Lunch
1:00 – 1:45	Breakout #3
1:45 – 2:15	Afternoon Social
2:15 – 3:15	Closing Keynote Speaker, Byron Graves
3:15 – 3:30	Conference evaluation, distribution of CEUs

The conference is sponsored by the Institute for Global Studies from the University of Minnesota and a grant from the Minnesota Humanities Center. Kindly provide specific feedback in the online evaluation so that we may provide feedback to the event's sponsors and make improvements to the conference for next year.



Minnesota
Humanities
Center



This work is funded in part by MHC with money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund that was created with the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Boozhoo! Welcome!

Boozhoo! Welcome to the Department of Professional Education's 2024 Diverse Texts Conference on the campus of Bemidji State University. This event aims to provide engaging professional development that encourages and supports educators in the increased use of diverse texts in classroom instruction. Messages matter. Stories matter. Texts used in the classroom have an impact on students' perceptions of themselves and others, so teachers must be strategic and intentional in the selection of course materials and the messages communicated in those texts.

This summer, the focus of our conference is highlighting ways to embed American Indian voices, language, stories, authors, and illustrators into P-12 classroom instruction (not just during Native American Heritage Month in November). As Reese (2018) emphasized, it is the teachers who are "critical in categorizing, selecting and (re)presenting Indigenous communities through children's literature" (p. 389). We are very fortunate to have keynote speakers, Dr. Brenda Child and Byron Graves, both citizens of the Red Lake Nation, share their stories and books with us and guide us in using American Indian texts in our instruction.

As life-long learners, we hope that you connect with new texts and enjoy hearing from exemplary authors and speakers. We also hope you meet other educators and administrators as you continue building your professional network and support system, guiding students in their literacy journeys. If you have extra time today, take a stroll around our beautiful campus and find a moment to relax along Lake Bemidji. Thank you for joining us for the Second Annual Diverse Texts Conference and thank you for your dedication to supporting the literacy development of our young scholars!

Chi-miigwech,
Kathrina O'Connell

Conference Committee



Kathrina O'Connell



Jessamay Pesek



Lisa Krall



Margaret Lubke



Carl Lund



Sonia O'Bryan



Layna Cole



Tammy Erickson



Porter Coggins



Aspen Easterling



Danielle Sullivan

General Conference Information

Name Tags

Kindly wear your name tag throughout the day as evidence of registration for meals.

Cell Phones

Kindly turn off your cell phone ringers while sessions are in progress.

CEUs

Certificates of continuing education may be picked up at the registration table at the conclusion of the conference.

Emergency Procedures

Campus phone for emergencies: 3888

Phone number for campus emergencies: 218-755-3888



Please refer to the emergency operating procedures in the QR code:

Link: <https://www.bemidjistate.edu/services/public-safety/emergency-preparedness/plans/>

Conference Evaluation:

Please provide specific feedback to help us make improvements to the conference next year. The QR code is located at the end of the conference program.

A **Campus Map** is located at the end of the conference program.

Book Signing and Books for Sale: 1:45 – 2:15 during the afternoon social. All participants will receive a copy of *Bowwow Powwow* and *Rez Ball*. Four Pines Bookstore will also have other books, written by Brenda Child, for purchase.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Bemidji State University is located on land and water that is the current and ancestral homeland of the Ojibwe and Dakota. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide, forced assimilation, and efforts to alienate the Indigenous inhabitants from their territory here, and we honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather, their retained sovereignty and treaty rights, and unbroken linguistic and cultural thriving. Indigenous people are the spiritual and physical caretakers of this land to which we all belong. We are committed to uplifting the names of these sacred lands as well as the community members from these Nations.

8:00 – 8:30 Registration
Main parking lot entrance/Performance entrance

8:00-8:30 Breakfast
Second floor main reception area

Pre-conference survey

A major focus of this year's conference is on teaching Anishinaabe and Dakota texts and perspectives. We would like to know if the conference has enhanced your sense of effectiveness in teaching these materials and viewpoints, and we would appreciate it if you could complete this brief, anonymous survey prior to attending conference sessions.



Welcome & Announcements
Program begins at 8:30
Keynote Speaker: Brenda Child 8:45 – 9:45
Room: Recital Hall 250

Breakout Session #1: 10:00 – 10:45

Session 1A	Session 1B	Session 1C
Students, Standards, and Success	Academically Diverse: Gifted Kids in Children's Literature	A School Year Full of Color Using the children's books <i>The World Needs More Purple</i>

<p>This presentation will demonstrate how to bundle the new English language arts (ELA) standards for effective and engaging instruction. With an emphasis on the Dakota, Anishinaabe, and diverse texts requirements, the presenters will model and provide guided practice how to connect reading anchor standards (#2, #3, #6) and listening, speaking, viewing, and exchanging ideas anchor standard #1 with diverse texts. This is a hands-on session to prepare and empower classroom teachers to guide student success using ELA standards that pivot around diverse texts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Room: 209</p>	<p>Children’s literature has a long history of including precocious protagonists. However, it has been rarer for main characters to have an identified gifted exceptionality. Portrayals of individuals who are academically gifted have varied in children’s literature. While some portrayals accurately and sympathetically depict the strengths and challenges individuals with academic gifts face, others perpetuate stereotypes about giftedness in ways that mock rather than celebrate diversity. Conversely, other works depict young people with gifts in ways that skillfully portray the whole person, rather than reduce them to a stock character. This presentation explores contrasting depictions of the academic giftedness of young people in works of realistic fiction.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Room: 250 Recital Hall</p>	<p>People by Benjamin Hart and Kristen Bell, The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt, Red; A Crayon’s Story by Michael Hall, and All are Welcome, by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman, we will introduce colorful ways of creating community and belonging as the new school year begins. Attendees will participate in hands-on activities that connect this literature to the importance of recognizing and celebrating differences in self and others. Activities will be presented for multiple modalities and grade levels across the K-12 spectrum. Focused attention will be on inclusion of diverse learners.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Room: 207</p>
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Breakout Session #2: 11:00 – 11:45

Session 2A	Session 2B	Session 2C
<p style="text-align: center;">The benefits of Teaching Warrior Girl Unearthed in a High School English Classroom</p> <p>Teaching Native American Literature is so necessary in our state, but especially rural areas close to reservations. Despite the importance, and newer state standards in ELA to support this, some teachers still feel a little lost or unsure of how to incorporate Native American Literature in their classroom. I am going to share my successful experience of bringing a modern story, Warrior Girl Unearthed, into my own classroom and how beneficial it was for both my students and I. I will be sharing lesson plans, activities and feedback from my own students from this novel study. I will have</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Read for Inclusion</p> <p>Inclusive youth leaders both with and without disabilities, come together to share their favorite books promoting disability awareness, inclusion, and kindness. Through heartfelt narratives and personal experiences, these young leaders will highlight the importance of embracing diversity and fostering a culture of acceptance in schools and communities. From advocating for equal opportunities to championing empathy and understanding, these youth will showcase the transformative power of literature in shaping attitudes and building inclusive environments. Discover how these passionate individuals have leveraged their love of</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Travel, Learn, Teach- Repeat</p> <p>To move from “learning about” Indigenous Peoples to “learning from” Indigenous Peoples, two teachers from Northeast Ohio are traveling to Winnipeg, MB Canada. Teachers of all grade levels will glean strategies for using diverse picture books in their classrooms and hear how the picture book, <i>We Are Water Protectors</i>, was the catalyst for this self-directed summer learning experience to learn from Indigenous Peoples how to advocate, preserve, and honor the environment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Room: 207</p>

materials available after my presentation for any teachers or professors looking to teach this book as well or simply incorporate more Native American Literature in their classrooms. Room: 209	inclusive literature to lead initiatives, spark conversations, and drive positive change. Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired and empowered to create a more inclusive world. Room: 250 Recital Hall	
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12:00 – 1:00 Anishinaabe Lunch
Second floor main reception area

Breakout Session #3: 1:00 – 1:45

Session 3A	Session 3B	Session 3C
<p>I Don't Want to Hurt the Students I'm Trying to Help: Navigating Trauma While Teaching Diverse Literature</p> <p>Teaching diverse literature offers opportunities to broaden students' perspectives and to represent our diverse students, but sometimes the literature we want to teach presents historical trauma, which can be upsetting and even traumatic for the students we're seeking to represent. This session will talk about issues to consider when teaching texts that include historical trauma and showcase critical analysis reading protocols that promote advocacy and allyship. Attendees will have an opportunity to practice the reading protocols, interact, and ask questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Room: 209</p>	<p>Connecting Readers to Culturally Relevant and High Quality Collections</p> <p>Let's chat about how we get that just right story into the hands of the reader who needs or wants that exact text. Being intentional in our physical space and programmatic choices preferences culturally relevant, high-quality texts as our reader's choice. Our work focuses on children birth-12 and their grown-ups. We look forward to learning how this work translates into your spaces and how your objectives lend themselves to ours for a more unified, community-driven Minnesota.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Room: 207</p>	<p>Q & A with Keynote Speakers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Room: 250 Recital Hall</p>

1:45 – 2:15 Afternoon Social
Book Signing
Second floor main reception area

2:15 – 3:30 Closing Session
Afternoon keynote: Byron Graves 2:15 – 3:15
Final Announcements
Conference evaluation
Distribution of CEUs

Room: Recital Hall 250

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Brenda Child

Morning Keynote: Dr. Brenda Child

Title:



Breakout Session #1

10:00 – 10:45

Title: Student, Standards, and Success

Presenters:

Dr. Kathrina O'Connell, Assistant Professor of Professional Education, Bemidji State University

Dr. Danielle Sullivan, Associate Professor of English, Bemidji State University

Description: This presentation will demonstrate how to bundle the new English language arts (ELA) standards for effective and engaging instruction. With an emphasis on Dakota, Anishinaabe, and diverse texts requirements, the presenters will model and provide guided practice how to connect reading anchor standards (#2, #3, #6) and listening, speaking, viewing, and exchanging ideas anchor standard #1 with diverse texts. This is a hands-on session to prepare and empower classroom teachers to guide student success using ELA standards that pivot around diverse texts.

Title: Academically Diverse: Gifted Kids in Children's Literature

Presenter: Dr. Carl Lund, Associate Professor of Professional Education, Bemidji State University

Description: Children's literature has a long history of including precocious protagonists. However, it has been rarer for main characters to have an identified gifted exceptionalism. Portrayals of individuals who are academically gifted have varied in children's literature. While some portrayals accurately and sympathetically depict the strengths and challenges individuals

with academic gifts face, others perpetuate stereotypes about giftedness in ways that mock rather than celebrate diversity. Conversely, other works depict young people with gifts in ways that skillfully portray the whole person, rather than reduce them to a stock character. This presentation explores contrasting depictions of the academic giftedness of young people in works of realistic fiction.

Title: A School Year Full of Color

Workshop

Presenter: Christine Quisley

Description: Using the children's books *The World Needs More Purple People* by Benjamin Hart and Kristen Bell, *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt, *Red; A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall, and *All Are Welcome*, by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman, we will introduce colorful ways of creating community and belonging as the new school year begins. Attendees will participate in hands-on activities that connect this literature to the importance of recognizing and celebrating differences in self and others. Activities will be presented for multiple modalities and grade levels across the K-12 spectrum. Focused attention will be on inclusion of diverse learners.

Breakout Session #2

11:00 – 11:45

Title: The benefits of Teaching *Warrior Girl Unearthed* in a High School English Classroom

Presenter: Carli Daniel, ALC (Alternative Ed) English Teacher (Detroit Lakes) and Bemidji State English Graduate Student

Description: Teaching Native American Literature is so necessary in our state, but especially rural areas close to reservations. Despite the importance, and newer state standards in ELA to support this, some teachers still feel a little lost or unsure of how to incorporate Native American Literature in their classroom. I am going to share my successful experience of bringing a modern story, *Warrior Girl Unearthed*, into my own classroom and how beneficial it was for both my students and I. I will be sharing lesson plans, activities and feedback from my own students from this novel study. I will have materials available after my presentation for any teachers or professors looking to teach this book as well or simply incorporate more Native American Literature in their classrooms.

Title: Read for Inclusion

Presenters: Shannon Murray, Kal-el Spears, Autumn Skime, & Courtney Frenzel; Lead for Inclusion

Description: Inclusive youth leaders both with and without disabilities, come together to share their favorite books promoting disability awareness, inclusion, and kindness. Through heartfelt narratives and personal experiences, these young leaders will highlight the importance of embracing diversity and fostering a culture of acceptance in schools and communities. From advocating for equal opportunities to championing empathy and understanding, these youth will showcase the transformative power of literature in shaping attitudes and building inclusive environments. Discover how these passionate individuals have leveraged their love of inclusive

literature to lead initiatives, spark conversations, and drive positive change. Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired and empowered to create a more inclusive world.

Title: Travel, Learn, Teach- Repeat

Presenters:

Gregory Boru, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Susan Tenon, Fairport Harbor Exempted Village School District.

Description: To move from “learning about” Indigenous Peoples to “learning from” Indigenous Peoples, two teachers from Northeast Ohio are traveling to Winnipeg, MB, Canada. Teachers of all grade levels will glean strategies for using diverse picture books in their classrooms and hear how the picture book *We Are Water Protectors* was the catalyst for this self-directed summer learning experience to learn from Indigenous Peoples how to advocate, preserve, and honor the environment.

Lunch 12:00 – 1:00

Breakout Session #3

1:00 – 1:45

Title: I Don't Want to Hurt the Students I'm Trying to Help: Navigating Trauma While Teaching Diverse Literature

Workshop

Presenter: Dr. Danielle Sullivan, Associate Professor of English, Bemidji State University

Description: Teaching diverse literature offers opportunities to broaden students' perspectives and to represent our diverse students, but sometimes the literature we want to teach presents historical trauma, which can be upsetting and even traumatic for the students we're seeking to represent. This session will talk about issues to consider when teaching texts that include historical trauma and showcase critical analysis reading protocols that promote advocacy and allyship. Attendees will have an opportunity to practice the reading protocols, interact, and ask questions.

Title: Connecting Readers to Culturally Relevant and High-Quality Collections

Presenters:

Katelyn Martens-Rodriguez, Washington County Library, Youth Services Librarian

Olivia Verdick, Washington County Library, Youth Services Librarian

Description: Let's chat about how we get that just right story into the hands of the reader who needs or wants that exact text. Being intentional in our physical space and programmatic choices preferences culturally relevant, high-quality texts as our reader's choice. Our work focuses on children birth-12 and their grown-ups. We look forward to learning how this work translates into your spaces and how your objectives lend themselves to ours for a more unified, community-driven Minnesota.

Title: Break Out Session with Keynote Speakers.

Presenters: Brenda Child & Byron Graves

Informal question and answer session

**1:45 – 2:15 Afternoon Social
Book Signings
Snack**

**2:15 – 3:15
Afternoon Keynote Byron Graves**

Byron Graves will share his experience in the literary industry as an American Indian author, from the querying process, signing with an agent, getting a publishing deal, and the launch of his debut novel, Rez Ball. Byron will present his perspective on the unique aspects of his journey. He will share how diversity in literature, the creative arts, and the publishing industry shapes new understanding, equity, and empathy.



Conclusion

Please complete the conference survey using the QR code below.



CEUs may be picked up at the registration table.

Miigwech!
Thank you!

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting this event and making the conference accessible for our presenters and participants.



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