



**Identity, Belonging, and Citizenship: Sustaining Our Tribal Nations
Agenda**

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
1:30pm to 4:00pm
Wisconsin Center
Room 102B

Please join us for an informative roundtable discussion exploring one of the most important and complex set of issues facing tribal nations: identity, belonging, and citizenship. A growing number of tribal nations across Indian Country are actively engaging these issues in different ways with a variety of goals in mind – from strengthening tribal cultures, core values, and social cohesion to ensuring the long-term sustainability of their populations. Exploring this movement and the growing body of scholarship documenting it, this session will delve into questions that are critical to the future of tribal nations, including:

- How are tribal nations working to develop greater unity about who belongs?
- How are they nurturing a deeper sense of individual and collective identity among tribal citizens?
- How are they fostering engagement and connectedness between tribal government and tribal citizens?
- How are they cultivating a more informed, meaningful sense among tribal citizens about their obligations to one another, to the nation, and to its future?

Participants will hear from representatives of tribal nations that have developed their own approaches to advance these objectives, as well as leading scholars on the subject. Participants will leave the session equipped with new perspectives, tools, and tribal examples that they can use to seed constructive dialogue with their tribal communities about identity, belonging, and citizenship.

Session Moderator:

- **Hepsi Barnett**, Former Staff Member, Government Reform Commission, Osage Nation (invited)

Session Panelists:



- **John “Rocky” Barrett**, Chairman, Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- **Justin Beaulieu**, Coordinator, Constitution Reform Project, Red Lake Nation
- **Jill Doerfler**, Associate Professor of American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota-Duluth
- **Norbert S. Hill Jr.**, Area Director of Education and Training, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
- **Carlos Hisa**, Governor, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Session Agenda:

1:30 p.m. Welcome, Introductions, and Framing of Session

The moderator will frame the session around three interrelated themes that are touchstones in the growing movement among tribal nations: identity, belonging, and citizenship.

1:40 p.m. Key Perspectives from a Growing Movement

The assembled panelists each offer opening remarks (1) summarizing their nation’s journey and (2) highlighting a key aspect of their nation’s journey that is common to many other tribal nations that are engaging their people about this subject.

2:25 p.m. Looking Towards the Future: Our Sustainability as Tribal Nations

This conversation will focus on the need for tribal nations to engage the question of what they want their tribal nations to look like several generations into the future, how they will work to achieve that future, and what that means for how they define and enforce their criteria for who belongs to the nation.

- Moderator frames issue and asks 1-2 questions to seed discussion
- Q&A/discussion with participants

2:50 p.m. Drawing on the Past: Our Core Values and How They Informed – and Still Inform – Who Belongs

This conversation will focus on how tribal nations defined belonging traditionally, the cultural core values that informed those definitions, and how tribes are invoking those definitions and values in determining who belongs today.

- Moderator frames issue and asks 1-2 questions to seed discussion
- Q&A/discussion with participants

3:15 p.m. Focusing on the Present: Engaging the People: What Works and What Doesn’t



This conversation will focus on lessons learned (what has worked, and what hasn't) from the processes that tribal nations have undertaken to engage their people in order to answer the question of who belongs.

- Moderator frames issue and asks 1-2 questions to seed discussion
- Q&A/discussion with participants

3:40 p.m. Next Steps: How Do We Continue the Conversation – and the Work?

- Now what? Where do we go from here? (Ask a few audience members to volunteer one thing that they plan to do when they return home)
- What else do we need to empower the conversation in your nation?
- What tools/approaches will help our nation promote and deepen our “sense of belonging” as we choose to define it?
- How can we engage more and more people in the conversation?
- Additional resources for further learning

4:00 p.m. Closing