



Kerry Steiner, *Executive Director*
Mike Pence, *Governor*

November 18, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANA STUDENTS EXPERIENCE NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Approximately 800 students from across Indiana attended the “Educating Youth About Native Truth” event at the Indiana State Museum Friday as part of Native American Heritage Month.

The Miami Nation of Indiana provided the drum and singers, and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians demonstrated various dances for the audience, including a Grand Entry followed by men’s and women’s dance styles. Students were then invited to enter the circle and join in on the dancing.

Prior to the event, teachers were sent a Treasure Hunt with a list of questions for the students to answer. Some of the questions included, “What part of the cat tail plant did the Miami people eat?” and “What Tribe had Fort Ouiatenon built for them by the French in 1717?” These questions encouraged students to visit the many exhibit tables to ask questions and learn more about Native American culture and Indiana’s history as it relates to the state’s original inhabitants.

Besides the Miami Nation of Indiana and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, tribal representation included Marty Gradolf (Winnebago of Nebraska), Michael Sturgis (Cherokee descent) Dani Tippmann (Miami Nation of Oklahoma), Tony Showa (Diné) and storyteller Teresa Webb (Anishinaabe).

- more -



Educational displays were presented by organizations from around the state, such as the Native American Student Alliance (IUPUI), Sullivan County American Indian Council, Native American Educational and Cultural Center (Purdue), American Indian Center of Indiana, National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Wea Indian Tribe, and the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association.

By visiting these exhibits and talking with Native Americans, students learned more about bone carving, hand drums, plants, animal furs, weaving, and they even got to make Hawaiian leis.

The event was hosted by the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission and made possible through the sale of the Native American license plate.

All photos by Darren Thomas

Photo #1: After watching dance presentations by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, students were invited to join in and participate.

Photo #2: Patty Jo Kublick (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi) shares information with students about their traditional Black Ash baskets.

Photo #3: Close-up of Potawatomi Black Ash baskets, a tradition that has been handed down for hundreds of years.

Photo #4: Students learn about the jingle dress and the significance behind its design and purpose.

Photo #5: Sitting around the circle and lined up on the balcony, students await the Grand Entry dance presentation.

Photo #6: Hawaiian leis were a big hit among students, who got to choose their own colors and flower designs.

####

Media Contacts:

Darren Thomas
Communications Director
Indiana Civil Rights Commission
(317) 232-2624
DarThomas@icrc.in.gov