

Press Release

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Morris Area Public Library to Explore Native American Representation in Media

Morris, IL - September 10, 2026 - How much of what we think we know about Native Americans has been shaped by what we see in the media? Morris Area Public Library will host “**No One Ever Sees Indians: Native Americans in Media**,” a thought provoking presentation that explores how Native Americans have been represented in film, television, and other forms of media throughout history. The program will be held on **Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 10AM-12PM** in the Library’s new Community Room.

Loosely structured as a three-part magic act, the presentation invites audiences to look more closely at the images and stories they have been shown. **Illinois Roads Scholar Speaker Ernest M. Whiteman III** will examine the long history of Native American representations in media and explore how these portrayals have influenced public perceptions of Native peoples, cultures, and contemporary issues.

The presentation will also consider the difference between lived experience and outside expertise, as well as questions of cultural ownership and who gets to tell the stories of Native peoples. Through these themes, Whiteman demonstrates how what audiences have traditionally seen, and not seen, about native Americans in the media has often been an illusion.

“We’re excited to bring this program to our community because the everyday “people’s history” is often overlooked in our society,” said Jackie Hanson, Library Director. “Especially with the influx and expansion of different forms of media over the last several decades. This presentation provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the stories that are being told, how they are being told, and what might be left out of the common narrative”

The program is presented in partnership with the **Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau**, which brings engaging humanities programs to communities throughout Illinois. Through Road Scholars, local nonprofit organizations can offer free cultural and educational programs featuring speakers on topics ranging from history and literature to film, music, politics, and more.

The event is free and open to the public. **Please note:** This presentation includes mature themes and discussion of historical representations of Native Americans and may not be suited for children under 14. Caregivers are encouraged to use their discretion when deciding whether the program is appropriate for younger attendees.

For more information about this and other events at the Morris Area Public Library, please visit our website at www.morrislibrary.com or contact us at 815-942-6880.

About Morris Area Public Library: The Morris Area Public Library's mission is to provide materials, programming, and space to cultivate curiosity, enlighten the mind, and strengthen the community. We strive to offer diverse and enriching experiences for all members of our community.

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