Coming Together for Racial Understanding-Oklahoma

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Dean of Academic Affairs
College of the Muscogee Nation
College of the Muscogee Nation

• Established in 2004
• Located in Okmulgee, Oklahoma
• Land-Grant Status in 2014
• Mvskoke Cultural Community Garden in 2015
• Initial Accreditation by HLC in 2016
What is Coming Together for Racial Understanding (CTRU)?

• CTRU is about bringing people together across race and ethnicity to increase understanding about issues related to race and racism and from that base, to work together for meaningful change.
When did CTRU begin?

• CTRU is a national effort that began in late 2016, when the Extension Committee on Operations and Policy (ECOP) formed a Rapid Response Team.

• The RRT was to examine the capacity of Cooperative Extension Services (CES) ability to respond to the need of civil dialogue on racial understanding and healing.

• The objective are to build capacity within the CES system in the home state and facilitate community dialogues within the state.
CTRU Train-the-Trainer Workshops

- The intensive five-day training was designed to prepare teams of at least three individuals from Land-Grant Universities (1860/1890/1994) to conduct trainings to CES in their home state.
2018 Cohort

- 20 States Participated
- National 4-H Training Facility in Maryland
- Dr. Mike Stout (OSU)
2019 Cohort

- 6 new states participated; 2 expanded states
- Minneapolis, MN
- Monthly zoom check-ins
Civil Dialogue around Race Relations
CTRU-Oklahoma Team

• Final day of training
• Discussed our plans
• Present our poster
• Only state with all three types of Land-Grant Universities
• Iliana Rodriguez (LU), Mekko Tyner (CMN), Cheryl Newberry (OSU) and Cathleen Taylor (OSU)
2020 OSU Extension Biennial Conference

• Coming Together for Racial Understanding: The Value of Dialogue in Building Relationships
• One hour workshop
• January of 2020

• Dr. Mike Stout, OSU Extension
• Cathleen Taylor, OSU Extension
• Cheryl Newberry, OSU Extension
• Mekko Tyner, CMN
1st Training will be held in November
2nd Training will be held in February 2021

- Langston, Oklahoma
- Campuses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa
- Established in 1897 as Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University
Land Acknowledgement

• Have the LGU in your state developed a Land Acknowledgement Statements?

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Indigenous Faculty Staff Alliance Land Acknowledgement
(October 15, 2020)

As the first land-grant institution established under the 1862 Morrill Act, we acknowledge that the state of Kansas is historically home to many Native nations, including the Kaw, Osage, and Pawnee, among others. Furthermore, Kansas is the current home to four federally recognized Native nations: The Prairie Band Potawatomi, the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska.

Many Native nations utilized the western plains of Kansas as their hunting grounds, and others — such as the Delaware — were moved through this region during Indian removal efforts to make way for White settlers. It's important to acknowledge this, since the land that serves as the foundation for this institution was, and still is, stolen land.

We remember these truths because K-State’s status as a land-grant institution is a story that exists within ongoing settler-colonialism, and rests on the dispossession of Indigenous peoples and nations from their lands. These truths are often invisible to many. The recognition that K-State’s history begins and continues through Indigenous contexts is essential.
Trump Executive Order September 22, 2020

• US Constitution Preamble “We the People”
• Art. 1 Sec. 2- “excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.”
• 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th and 24th Amendment
For more information on CTRU

- Southern Rural Development Center
- Rachel Welborn, Associate Director
- http://srdc.msstate.edu/civildialogue/
Mvto! Questions?