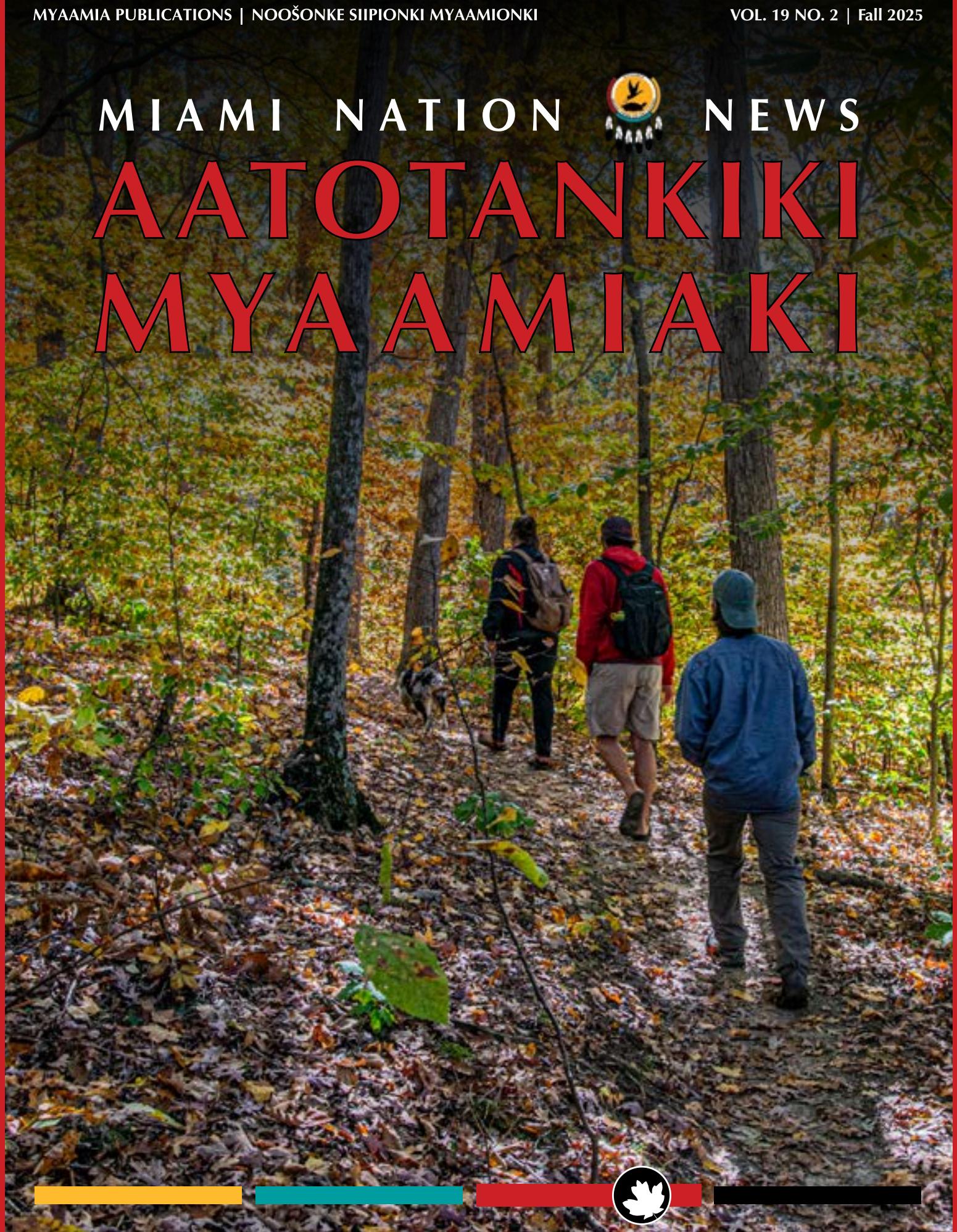


MIAMI NATION NEWS



AATOTANKIKI MYAAMIAKI





aatotankiki myaamiaki

MIAMI NATION NEWS is published by the Sovereign Miami Tribe of Oklahoma for our enrolled citizens. Aatotankiki Myaamiaki is distributed by mail and made available for download from the Miami Nation's website. A single copy is mailed free of charge to each tribal household. College students living away from home may request a copy be mailed to their campus, or off-campus, address.

This publication is printed in Stigler, Oklahoma by Stigler Printing. Publication design and layout is done in-house by the Miami Nation Cultural Resources Office staff. Requests for special articles or publication of community information, including births, deaths, marriages, family news, anniversaries, etc., are welcomed and encouraged.

MYAAMIA PUBLICATIONS

Miami Nation Cultural Resources Office

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Julie Olds, Joshua Sutterfield, Doug Peconge,
Meghan Dorey, Nate Poyfair, Jordan Poyfair,
Karen Baldwin, Bobbe Burke, Madalyn Richardson.

Submission Requirements:

Photos: Photos submitted electronically should be saved at a resolution of 300 dpi, sized at standard 4x6 or larger, and saved in jpg, tif, or pdf formats.

Obituaries, Birth Announcements and other time sensitive submissions will be amended to show past tense text unless the family submitting the information expressly requests the text remain unaltered.

Advertisements: Enrolled citizens of the Miami Nation who are business owners, artists or crafts persons, etc. are eligible to receive free ad space once per year. Allotted ad size is 5" x 5" and should be sized at 300 dpi and saved as a jpg, tif or pdf file. Ad layouts, or links to download such from your Dropbox or other cloud storage site, should be emailed to mtocro@gmail.com.

MIAMI NATION ELECTED OFFICIALS



Chief: Douglas Lankford

Second Chief:
Dustin Olds

Secretary Treasurer: Donya Williams

1st Councilperson: Tera Hatley

2nd Councilperson: Scott Willard

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Miami, OK 74354
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P.O. Box 1326
Miami, OK 74355

MYAAMIA CITIZENS STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

Miami Nation Website,

www.miamination.com

Facebook:

“MYAAMIAKI Miami Tribe of Oklahoma”

“Aatotankiki Myaamiaki”

Public Page, listed as “Miami Nation Events”

MHMA Page, Listed as
“Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive”



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aacimwita akima

'The Chief's Report'

Akima Eecipoonkwia

Chief Douglas Lankford

Aya ceeki eeweemakiki – Greetings to all my Tribal relatives from our Nation's headquarters in myaamionki noošonke siipionki. Pipoonwi – the winter season - is upon us, and, like many of you, I have been enjoying hunting season and, of course, the return of Myaamia storytelling. As we all prepare for the holidays, I send our Tribal leaders' good wishes for your health and happiness.

The return of winter also brings our annual winter gathering. This event is a community favorite and is fixed on our Tribal calendar for the last Friday and Saturday in January each year. This year, we will gather on January 30 & 31, 2026, for our 29th annual Myaamia Winter Gathering, and we look forward to seeing you there. Be sure to check out the agenda for the gathering, included in this edition, and watch for updates on our website and social media sites.

We are excited to announce we will begin sharing information on community services, event updates, and more via a new text service called ??? The service requires Tribal citizens to opt in through the text service, not directly with the Tribe. Read about the service on page ??, and consider joining to keep up to date with Tribal events and announcements.

Before I begin updates on Tribal business, I want to address the misinformation in the Fort Wayne, Indiana area regarding the Tribe's property locat-

ed on Fritz Road, which we call Peehkahkionki, meaning the beautiful place. We have seen incorrect media reports that the Tribe will build a casino on the property despite multiple statements by the Tribe stating otherwise. In an effort to correct this misinformation, the Tribe sent correspondence to the Mayor of Fort Wayne and local state officials again explaining the work of the CREO and again affirming the Tribe has no intent to conduct casino activities. Further, the Tribe informed that it is precluded from gaming on the land because of affirmations made to the Department of Interior that no gaming would occur on that property in its fee to trust application.

The Tribe has always and remains fully committed to establishing our Cultural Resources Extension Office and Myaamia Community Center at Peehkahkionki. As you know, we completed construction of the 7,900-square-foot building in June of 2024, and multiple community events have been hosted there. Furthermore, we have invested in creating a community garden, lacrosse field, fishing pond, and walking trails at Peehkahkionki all for the benefit of our Tribal families. The spread of rumors regarding a casino being built there, on that place set aside for our cultural needs, is disrespectful to the Tribe and our citizens. Our commitment for the use of the property has not and will





not change. Peehkahkionki will always be where we come together to learn more about our language and culture, and a beautiful place in KiihKayonki – part of our homeland - to enjoy being Myaamia.

Illinois Legislation

The Tribe continues its work to get Congressional approval of legislation permitting the Tribe to bring a land claim for loss of historic tribal lands in southeast Illinois. Senator Markwayne Mullin (Cherokee), a staunch advocate for the Tribe for the past eight years, reintroduced the bill this session - H.R. 2827 – entitled A Bill to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes. Oklahoma Congressman, Tom Cole (Chickasaw) joined the bill again last winter as a sponsor. Congressman Cole is a longtime advocate for tribes and Indian Country and has been a good friend and staunch supporter of the Tribe for years. I traveled to D.C. in May and July to discuss efforts to move the bill this session. A trip planned in October and November were canceled due to the federal shutdown. My next scheduled trip to D.C. is December 11th and 12th.

Once the bill is authorized by Congress, H.R. 2827, a bi-partisan bill will grant jurisdiction to the Court of Federal Claims to consider and decide the Tribe's land claim. The Tribe hopes to see movement on the bill this session. We are committed to continuing our important work on this bill to get our day in Court.

Federal Litigation

The Miami Tribe remains active in its efforts to obtain a federal court ruling to confirm that its reservation lands constitute Indian Country. In December 2023, the Miami Tribe, joined by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Ottawa Tribe, and Seneca-Cayuga Tribe filed federal lawsuits in Northern District Court in Tulsa, requesting that the Court declare the reservation lands of the plaintiff tribes to be intact, never having been disestablished. A decision from the federal court will help the Tribe to secure essential federal funding for the Tribe's court to address its criminal docket, which has increased nearly 2,000 percent. This follows the United States Su-

preme Court's 2020 landmark decision in McGirt v. Oklahoma, which held that the Muscogee Creek Nation reservation was never disestablished by Congress, the Miami Tribe, like other Oklahoma tribes actively assumed its governmental responsibilities policing and exercising jurisdiction over its reservation lands. The Department of Interior, post McGirt, without any federal directive, tied federal funding allocated for Oklahoma tribes for policing and court needs to tribes with formal court rulings upholding a tribe's reservation.

The Tribes are awaiting the Court's decision, which has been under advisement for over a year. The Tribes contacted the Court in October regarding the status of the pending motions and requests for status conference and received a Minute Order directing the Tribes to stop contacting the court for updates citing case overload in the court system in both criminal and civil cases post McGirt.

The tribes have had positive discussions with Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond and hope to work towards a resolution of the parties' differences. These discussions are ongoing.

SAUSA

The Miami Tribe and other Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Consortium Tribes (Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Wyandotte Nation, Ottawa Tribe, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and Shawnee) continue to work with Special Assistant United States Attorney David Youll, a legal professional from Tulsa retained by the Consortium Tribes to prosecute federal offenses which occur on the Tribe's reservation lands. David Youll brings years of legal experience serving as a prosecutor, Judge and as SAUSA in the Eastern District. Funding for this position is through a Justice Department Coordinated Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) Grant. We are pleased to have David Youll working with us as our federal representative in the United States Attorney's Office.

Miami Tribe District Court

The Miami Tribe District Court was scheduled to hold its first week of jury trials the week of December 8th in the newly remodeled, state-of-the-art, Mi-
Continued on pg 6A >>



<< Continued from pg 5A

ami Tribe of Oklahoma District Court courtroom. The prosecutor and defendants reached plea agreements on Friday, December 5th precluding the scheduled trial docket. Some hearings did take place on the 8th and all in attendance were so pleased with the aesthetics of the new court space.

The new court space employs a pallet of calming, neutral earth tone colors and is complimented by handmade ash wood furnishings with Miami geometric patterns both designed and constructed by tribal member Jody Gamble. The new court space includes a courtroom with a new Judge's bench large enough to seat three Appellate Justices for cases appealed to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Appellate Court, a witness stand, clerk desk, a jury box and seating for those attending court. Ash paneling covers sections of walls with inlay wood design throughout the courtroom. The beautiful woodwork and furnishings in the court room are enhanced by a state-of-the-art audio/video recording system. The interior of the court is truly something to be proud of and is likely one of the nicest tribal courtrooms in Northeast Oklahoma.

Outside of the court entryway, designs are underway for a portico to protect court attendees from inclement weather entering and exiting the building. Plans to enhance the exterior include a fence to hide existing HVAC equipment in that area as well as landscaping. New court signage and flags are yet to be placed in and around the court parking area as well. The court improvements are funded by a Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) Court Remodel Grant.

The Tribe's District Court holds a criminal docket twice a month and family court and civil dockets once a month, or more frequently as needed. The Tribe holds trial dockets twice a year in the fall and spring and holds quarterly cost dockets to ensure fines and fees are paid timely. The Tribe looks forward to using this new beautiful space in its work to exercise the Tribe's inherent authority on its reservation lands.

Trust Land

On December 2nd the Bureau of Indian Affairs worked to conclude moving a 71-acre parcel of land

in Cherokee County Kansas bordering other Miami Tribal property on the Oklahoma/Kansas border into trust status. A fee-to-trust land acquisition, or "land into trust" involves the transfer of land title from the Tribe to the United States, to be held in trust for the benefit of the Tribe. Trust land will be held in perpetuity for the benefit of all tribal members and enhances the Tribes jurisdiction over the land. This acquisition marks the first time that the Tribe has had tribal trust land in the state of Kansas in nearly 160 years.

Federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply for trust land acquisitions for any land owned by the tribe in fee simple status. Fee simple means the landowner may sell or encumber the land. Once land is in trust status, state law, with a few exceptions, does not apply, nor is a tribe required to pay state property taxes associated with the land. Fee to trust land acquisition applications are evaluated by the Secretary of the Interior according to criteria published in the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR 151).

Since September 2017, the Tribe has successfully moved into trust status 12 parcels of land including the Fritz Road property in Ft. Wayne Indiana – the first Miami lands in the Tribe's historic homeland owned and under the jurisdiction of the Miami Tribe in almost 180 years.

The 12 parcels now in trust represent some 440 acres. Currently, the Tribe has six more parcels in process for fee to trust applications. These in-process applications represent an additional nearly 400 acres to be moved into trust status.

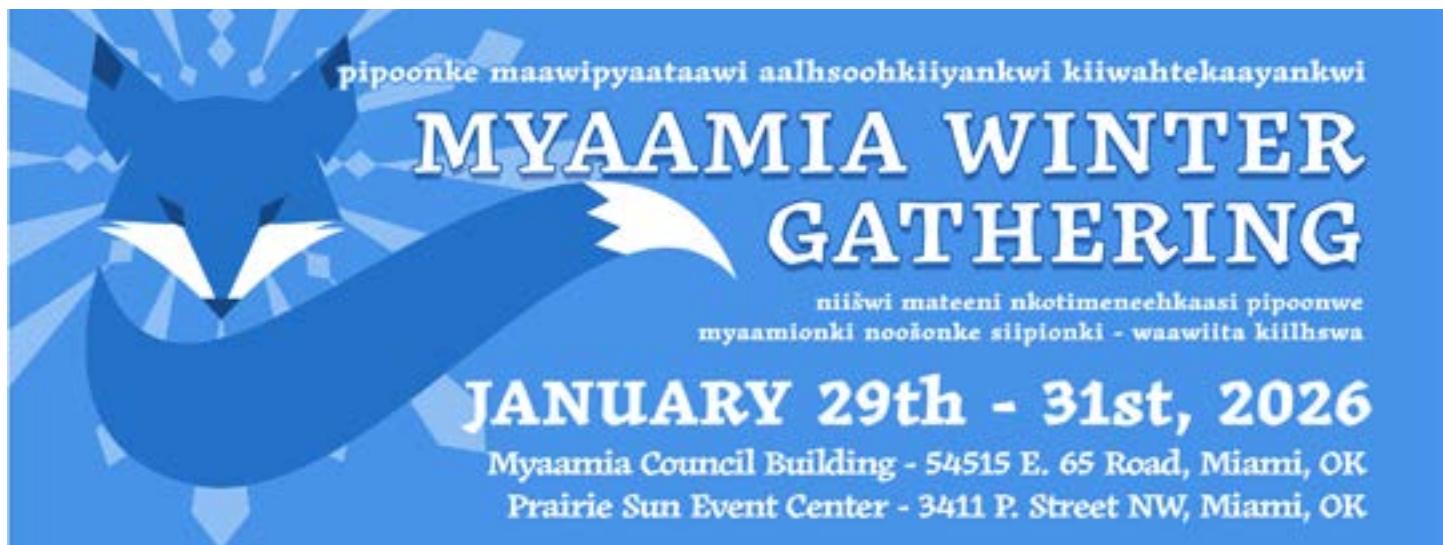
In closing, I encourage all Myaamia citizens to follow Tribal social media, visit our website, and take advantage of the new text service to stay up to date. I wish the very best to all Myaamia citizens and send prayers and good thoughts to you and yours for the coming year.

OFFICIAL NOTICE:
*The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
will host their Annual Meeting
on Saturday June 27th, 2026.*



TRIBAL CITIZEN IDENTIFICATION & ENROLLMENT CARDS

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Tribal Citizen/Member Identification and Enrollment Card card allows for the inclusion of a photograph of the Enrolled Citizen/Member and also allows the inclusion of a Myaamia name. Tribal citizens who wish to obtain the new card should contact Tera Hatley, Member Services Manager, at thatley@miamination.com or by phone at 918-541-1324.



LODGING INFORMATION

BUFFALO RUN HOTEL
8414 S. 580 Road, Miami, OK
918-542-2900

If you chose to book a room at Buffalo Run for Friday January 30th through Sunday February 1st, the Miami Nation Winter Gathering (Self-Pay) block booking id # is 730. Each guest will call in, and reservations will need to be made at that time. Any rooms still in this block a week before the event will be released.

DAYS INN
2120 East Steve Owens Blvd., Miami, OK
888-942-6215

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
509 Hendley Avenue, Miami, OK
918-542-7424

HAMPTON INN
115 S. Deacon Turner Road, Miami, OK
918-541-1500

MICRO-TEL
2015 E. Steve Owens Blvd., Miami, OK
918-540-3333

MYAAMIA COMMUNITY & GUEST AGENDA

Thursday, January 29th

**5:30 p.m. Open House - Myaamia Heritage Museum
28 N. Main Street - Refreshments Served**

Friday, January 30th

9 a.m. - Light Breakfast - Prairie Sun Event Center (PSE)

**10 a.m. Welcome by Chief Douglas Lankford - PSE
Noon - Lunch - PSE**

Presentations begin at PSE:

**1 p.m. - "Myaamia Education in the Past:
A Conversation with Historian Cam Shriver"**

**1:45 p.m. "Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the
Myaamia Center" - Presentation and panel discussion.**

2:30 p.m. Winter Stories Discussion - George Ironstrack

3:00 p.m. - About Stomp & Social Dances - Nate Poyfair

6 p.m. - Supper - Myaamia Council Building

7:30 p.m. - Storytelling - Myaamia Council Building

Saturday, January 31st

Noon Lunch - Prairie Sun Event Center

1:30 p.m. - Intro to Stomp & Social Dances - PSE

3 p.m. - Gourd Dancing Begins - Myaamia Council Building

6:30 p.m. - Supper Break

7:30 p.m. - Stomp & Social Dances - Myaamia Council Building

Contact Information:

Julie Olds 918-541-3131 Nate Poyfair 918-325-0295

General Info: Tribal Headquarters 918-541-1300 (Receptionist)

For Updates go to Facebook: MYAAMIAKI Miami Tribe of Oklahoma or www.miamination.com

Miami Tribe Police on Duty

**No firearms allowed except for law enforcement and
emergency management officials. NO drugs or alcohol**

tolerated. Non-smoking facility. Not responsible for accidents or lost or stolen items.



peehkhkanaweko - Safe Travels!





Book Release: Our People Believe in Education Now Available — Includes Discount Code!

Staff Article

Our People Believe in Education: The Unlikely Alliance of the Miami Tribe and Miami University is now for sale, and you can get it at a discount!

This powerful new book explores how two very different communities, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, came together to support the revitalization of the Tribe's language and culture. What began as a chance meeting in the 1970s grew into a lasting, meaningful collaboration rooted in respect, education, and shared history.

The book provides a reflective examination of why this relationship developed and how it has evolved since the 1970s, when Chief Forest Old's first visited with President Phillip Shriver at Miami University.

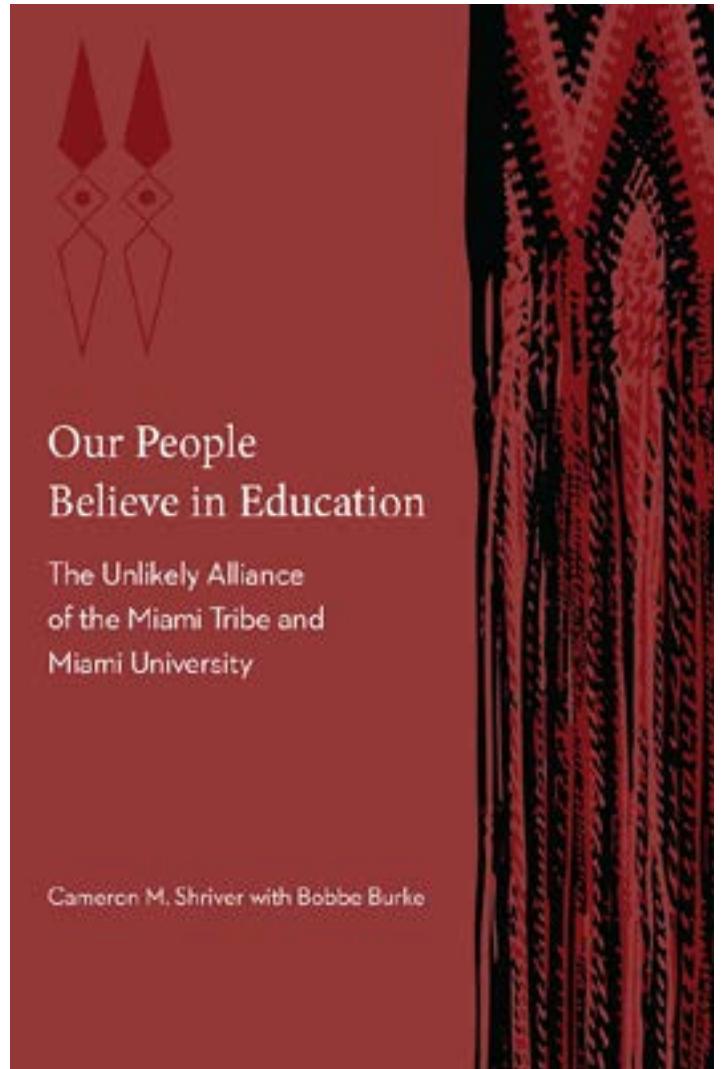
Author Dr. Cameron Shriver, a historian at the Myaamia Center and grandson of former Miami University President, tells this remarkable story with the help of Bobbe Burke, Miami Tribe Relations Coordinator Emerita. Together, they bring decades of experience, research, and personal insight to this moving and important narrative.

This book isn't just about history; it's about relationships, resilience, and the power of education.

Our People Believe in Education is a must-read for anyone interested in the university-tribal partnership.

The book is available now, and the Miami Tribe is invited to use the exclusive author's discount code: 6D40 for 40% off at checkout!

nebraskapress.unl.edu/nebraska/9781496237798/our-people-believe-in-education/



New book by Dr. Cameron Shriver and Bobbe Burke now available for purchase online and at the Miami Nation Gift shop!

Cover design by Julie Olds.



PRAIRIE SKY MARKET is your tribally-owned, community-driven indoor market featuring local food and seasonal goods.

TRY OUR TRIBAL BEEF

Fattened on grass and grain, these animals are born, raised, and processed on tribal lands. No artificial growth hormones or antibiotics are used in the production of our beef.

Our goal is to be the source of beef for our families and provide a superior homegrown meat at a great price. Remember to bring in your tribal membership card to Prairie Sky Market and get your discount, which includes no sales tax.



ON FACEBOOK AT PRAIRIE SKY MARKET | (918) 541-1444 309 N. MAIN ST., NORTH MIAMI, OK 74358



stomp ribbon skirt guide

Learn to sew your very own ribbon skirt with the step-by-step guide on Šaapohkayoni, the Myaamia education portal.

Visit myaamiaportal.com to create an account and access the course.







DID YOU MOVE?

We hope you enjoy your new place!

NOW IT'S TIME TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

Tribal members contact Tera Hatley at thatley@miamination.com or 918-541-1300



Fall Gathering 2025 in Peehkahkionki

Claudia Hedeen
CREO Staff

2025 has been an exciting record-breaking year for the Cultural Resources Extension Office in *kii-hkayonki* ‘Fort Wayne’. It is our first year holding indoor events in a tribal community building on our own trust land. This may have impacted community enthusiasm for citizen attendance as RSVP numbers have been at their highest since the ribbon cutting in June of this year.

On Saturday September 13th, the tribal Business Committee hosted Fall Gathering, which has taken place in the Fort Wayne area for over a decade. Throughout the day, about 140 community members attended activities at *peehkahkionki*, our ‘beautiful land’. This event is significant to the *kiihkayonki* area community who are unable to attend events in Oklahoma. The agenda begins with an hour of meet and greet time before noon, when citizens can better acquaint themselves with tribal



The first Fall Gathering hosted in the new community hall. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

leadership and other visiting staff.

The highlight drawing most citizens is lunch hosted by the Business Committee. As the meal winds down, Chief Doug Lankford addresses the group, sharing updates regarding the nation’s business and other endeavors. Tribal citizens are recognized for their military service and other support of the Miami people. This year the Business Committee recognized five military veterans for their service with a commemorative gift. Larry Hedeen, tribal spouse, was recognized for his continued support of myaamia cultural revitalization; Larry has assisted in locating items related to myaamia material culture and in developing the creation of lacrosse sticks and other wood crafts.

Following the informational meeting, afternoon activities are opened across the *peehkahkionki* property surrounding the cultural building. While



Lacrosse action is ongoing throughout the day.
Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

Continued on pg 2B >>



<< Continued from pg 1B

staff-guided traditional games are offered at every CREO event, many participants are drawn outdoors when the weather is fine. The day cleared after beginning with light rain, launching many favorite outdoor activities.

Some winners of last spring's fishing derby were on hand to help others new to the sport. The lacrosse field was consistently buzzing with players, pausing only for meals. Food Program Director Dani Tippmann chatted all afternoon with plant enthusiasts. As part of this year's Eemamwiciki theme, *Living on the Land*, Dani focused on our relationship to land through cultivated and gathered plant materials. This includes how we interact with introduced species, both their negative impact and positive uses.

By late afternoon, the crowd grows hungry again. The CREO provided a main entree to accompany a community potluck dinner. Citizens contribute their favorite sides and desserts to create the feast.

Many participants stay the whole day while others join when they can; all are looking forward to



Lucky draw for giveaways, delivered with a hug.
Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

the evening stomp dance. Fall Gathering is one the few opportunities for kiihkayonki area myaamia to participate in this special part of our cultural revitalization. Those with *makhisina* 'moccasins', skirts, and shawls are eager to wear their myaamia regalia in the dance.

Whether you are ready with shimmering regalia or just your natural myaamia radiance, we look forward to celebrating another year of community with you at the CREO next year!



Akima Doug Lankford leads the evening Stomp Dance. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

Explore online at
aacimotaatiiyankwi.com



INDIAN CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM

In Oklahoma, over half of native children in foster care are in non-compliant homes. The Miami Tribe ICW calls for kind-hearted individuals to establish loving, ICWA-compliant homes, ensuring safety and nurturing cultural heritage for every child, shaping brighter futures.



Make A Difference Today!

If you are a Miami Tribal Member and are interested in becoming a resource home, or if you know of anyone interested in becoming a Miami Tribe resource home or have questions, please call Corinna Evans at 918-325-9078 or Trina Grayson at 918-961-1395.

Start getting MORE rewards as an ECLIPSE

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Registering is simple, easy and FREE!

New Eclipse Club Member = \$10

Birthday Month = \$10

Email = \$10



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202 S Eight Tribes Trl
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 541-1455

Hours of Operations:
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 24 hours
Sunday - Wednesday 8am - 12am



MYAAMIA EDUCATION OFFICE BACK-TO-SCHOOL FUND & SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

NOTICE! ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED AND IN OFFICE BY THE DEADLINE!

Back-to-School Funds

Spring and Fall Semester Back-to-School applications will be mailed to all enrolled Miami Tribe of Oklahoma children from Pre-School through High School (ages 4-19 years). Spring applications will be mailed out in September of each year and Fall applications will be mailed in June of each year.

Eligible tribal members may apply for the following funds:

- ◊ **Pre-School (min. age of 4 years): \$50.00**
- ◊ **Kindergarten through 6th grade: \$75.00**
- ◊ **7th & 8th grade: \$100.00**
- ◊ **9th through 12th grade (max. age 19): \$150.00**

Fall Semester Applications must be **received** by **JUL 1** or postmarked by **JUN 17**.

Spring Semester Applications must be **received** by **NOV 15**. or postmarked by **NOV 5**.

We will not process late applications.

Applications must be filled out completely. Read

instructions on the application carefully and make sure it is signed at the bottom before returning to the Myaamia Education office by the application deadline. If you do not receive an application, it can be downloaded from the ***miamination.com*** under Services, Myaamia Education Office, Back-to-School Funds or call for a new application to be mailed. Please ensure your address is up-to-date with the Member Services Department. If you have questions, contact the Education Office at **918-541-2176**.

To receive Back-to-School Funds an application must be completed for each semester. Checks will be mailed within 3 weeks after the Fall semester application deadline, and after Christmas for the Spring semester.

**The Tribe may require, at any time, the recipient of back-to-school-funds to produce receipts for items purchased with said funds as a requirement for receiving future funding. *The policy of the Miami Tribe related to any matter involving a minor tribal member is to communicate with the biological parent or legal guardian.*

You can now submit your application online using the new education portal! **myaamiaportal.com**

Scholarships

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is committed to supporting the education of Myaamia people of all ages through the funding of scholarships and continuing education programs. The Myaamia Scholarship Selection Committee is made up of 3 tribal members appointed by the Business Committee and given the responsibility of

awarding scholarships through a blind application process on behalf of the General Council. **All scholarship applications must be fully completed upon submission or the application will not be considered.** *Note: All scholarships offered by The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma are for enrolled members/citizens of the tribe only. Scholarships are available only for Spring and Fall semesters.*



If selected to receive a scholarship, only one scholarship will be awarded. When applying, check any of the boxes for which the student qualifies. If changing colleges after award checks are mailed, it is the responsibility of the awardee to recover the scholarship amount and have it sent back to the Myaamia Education Office to be redistributed. It is also the awardee's responsibility to notify that the school selection has changed

Scholarship Applications

If you have any questions please contact the Myaamia Education Office. Donya Williams: dwilliams@miamination.com, 918-541-2176.

*All awards are subject to change per the Business Committee.

**Fall Scholarship Application
DEADLINE OCTOBER 1ST.**

**Spring Scholarship Application
DEADLINE APRIL 1ST.**

SCHOLARSHIP ON THE SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:

***CASINO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AWARD
DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.**

Application Eligibility:

- ◊ Full-time undergraduate status (enrolled in 12 credit hours).
- ◊ Must have 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Award:

- ◊ **\$2,000 per academic year.**
 - ◊ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester, or split between Fall and Spring.
- ◊ Pays up to eight consecutive Fall/Spring semesters (4 years).
- ◊ Renewable annually with Spring Scholarship Application.

Renewal Requirements:

- ◊ Maintain full-time status (minimum 12 credit hours each semester).
- ◊ Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA.

and send the new information to the Myaamia Education Office.

PLEASE NOTE THAT LATE, INCOMPLETE OR UNSIGNED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED. THE MYAAMIA EDUCATION OFFICE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR RETURNING INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS TO BE SIGNED OR COMPLETED.

JOSEPHINE GOODBOO WATSON MEMORIAL BOOK SCHOLARSHIP DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

(Established by the surviving descendants of tribal member Josephine Goodboo Watson).

Application Eligibility:

- ◊ Full-time graduate or undergraduate status.
- ◊ Must have 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Award:

- ◊ **\$500 per academic year.**
- ◊ Renewable annually with Spring Scholarship Application.

Renewal Requirements:

- ◊ Maintain full-time status (minimum 12 credit hours/undergraduate; 6 credit hours/graduate, each semester).
- ◊ Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA.

TAX COMMISSION CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility:

- ◊ Full-time undergraduate status.
- ◊ Must have 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Award:

- ◊ **Award amount changes; awarded each academic year.**
 - ◊ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or split between Fall and Spring.
- ◊ Renewable annually with Spring Scholarship Application.

Renewal Requirements:



- ◊ Maintain full-time status (minimum 12 credit hours) or part-time status (minimum 6 credit hours).
- ◊ Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA.

NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility:

- ◊ Full-time undergraduate status (minimum 12 credit hours).
- ◊ Must have 2.5 cumulative GPA (high school or college, whichever is most recent).
- ◊ Must be 5 years since completion of last semester in high school or college.

Award:

- ◊ **\$2,000 per academic year.**
 - ◊ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or should be split between Fall and Spring.
- ◊ Non-renewable.

FRESH START SCHOLARSHIP

DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility:

- ◊ Freshman (apply senior year of high school).
- ◊ Must have 2.0-2.4 cumulative GPA.
 - ◊ This scholarship is for a student who does not carry a 2.5 GPA, which is a requirement for all other Miami Tribe of Oklahoma scholarships on the Spring application.

Award:

- ◊ **\$400 one-time award for Fall Semester.**
 - ◊ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or should be split between Fall and Spring.

- ◊ Non-renewable.

CRANE AWARD

DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility:

- ◊ Graduate or post-graduate student.

Award:

- ◊ **\$2,000 per academic year.**
 - ◊ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or should be split between Fall and Spring.
- ◊ Renewable annually with Spring Scholarship Application.

SCHOLARSHIP ON THE FALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:

VOCATIONAL OR TRADE SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP

DUE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility:

- ◊ Must be enrolled full-time in a state-accredited vocational or trade school.
- ◊ Full-time undergraduate status (minimum 12 credit hours).
- ◊ Must have 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Award:

- ◊ **\$2,000 per academic year.**
 - ◊ Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester or should be split between Fall and Spring.
- ◊ Renewable annually with Fall Scholarship Application.

Renewal Requirements:

- ◊ Maintain full-time status (minimum 12 credit hours each semester).
- ◊ Maintain 2.0 cumulative GPA.

NOTICE! ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED AND IN OFFICE BY THE DEADLINE!



Madison Bastress Earns Ph.D. with Research on Myaamia Connections to Land

George Ironstrack

Originally published at: aacimotaatiiyankwi.org/2025/09/10/madison-bastress-myamia-connections-to-land/

This summer, historian Madison Bastress successfully defended her dissertation, “Sustaining Lands: Enduring Myaamia Connections to Place, 1600-1702,” and completed her two years as a visiting scholar at the Myaamia Center.

Madison was previously profiled on this blog back in October of 2023 when she was just beginning her residency at the Center. Over the intervening two years, Madison conducted countless hours of research into the history of Myaamia people. As a visiting scholar, Madison was able to connect directly with the staff of the Myaamia Center and thereby

ethically include Myaamia language and culture into her historical work. As a non-Native scholar, Madison always carried herself with the utmost respect for the sovereignty of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. Madison was also an active member of the community on campus. She helped with student activities and engaged deeply and meaningfully with the Aancitahkia graduate students in their shared office.

For those unfamiliar with advanced academic degrees, a dissertation is a lengthy, in-depth scholarly writing that reflects time-intensive investigation of an original question or topic relevant to the researcher’s area of study. Madison’s dissertation was guided by her primary advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Ellis. Liz is a citizen of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and

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Madison Bastress (right) attends a workshop on painted hides as part of the Reclaiming Stories Project. Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.



Madison participated in a semester-long class on Myaamia storytelling with the Myaamia Center. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.



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is considered a great friend and colleague by the Myaamia people working on the Reclaiming Stories Project. Another great friend of this effort, Dr. Robert Morrissey, also participated in reading and commenting on Madison's work. I was also lucky enough to read and comment on each draft chapter of her dissertation as well as the completed manuscript. It was an honor to work closely with Madison and felt all along that I and other Myaamiaki were learning as much from Madison as she was from us. Her work is a great example of how to work in a community-engaged manner from the very beginning of a project.

Madison's dissertation is a wonderfully deep analysis of a very difficult period in Myaamia history. Her research examined how Myaamia people made, maintained, and remade connections to Myaamionki 'Myaamia lands' during a time that warfare pushed many Myaamiaki to lands that were distant from the core heartlands of the Wabash River Valley. This period of time, often called the Beaver Wars or Fur Trade Wars, was also an era of first encounters with Europeans like the French and the British (read more about that era in this post). Excitingly, Madison's work finds evidence that Myaamiaki maintained connections with our heartlands through limited resi-

dency, hunting, gathering, and the use of controlled burns. In time, I am certain that Madison's writings will result in a wonderful book that we will be able to wholeheartedly recommend for our community to read.

In July of 2025, I joined together with the rest of Madison's dissertation committee to participate in two hours of intense discussion of her work, which is called a "defense" in academia. Despite the name, these sessions are usually quite friendly, though mentally engaging and exhausting. It was great to be a part of the process, and quite heartwarming to watch (via Zoom) as Liz Ellis recognized Madison as "Dr. Bastress" for the first time. The next time you see Madison, you too can greet her with "aya aya Dr. Bastress!"

After completing her dissertation, Madison moved to Šikaakonki 'Chicago' to take up the position of Director of the D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies at the Newberry Library. The Newberry is an excellent institution with a solid track record of engaging with Native nations (see the Indigenous Chicago Project as one example).

We will miss Madison at the Center but are so proud of all that she has accomplished, and we know she will go on to do great things at the Newberry... mayaawi teipi Madison!

Outcomes of the Myaamia Heritage Award Program

Haley Shea

Originally published at:
aacimotaatiyankwi.org/2025/10/14/outcomes-of-heritage-award-program/

The Myaamia Heritage Award Program (HAP) undoubtedly affords Myaamia college students an incredible opportunity that, for some, would not otherwise be possible. The tuition waiver for some students makes college possible or, at the very least, more accessible and affordable. Additionally, the series of courses about language and culture currently offers the highest level of structured or formal education for Tribal citizens. However, what does this translate to practically in terms of outcomes?

The Office of Assessment and Evaluation is tasked with researching the impact that educational programming offered by the Tribe and Myaamia Center has on community members, and the HAP students are one group we seek to understand. With direction from Tribal Leadership, we are typically interested in four outcomes: (1) academic attainment, (2) nahi meehtohseeniwink 'living well', (3) connectedness, and (4) National/Tribal growth and continuance. It is important to note here that while these are pieced apart for the sake of research and this article, they are all highly interrelated. But, for the sake of this blog post, let's dig into each one!



Academic Attainment

The first outcome, academic attainment, is always my favorite to talk about at conferences because I get to share our flashy statistics that never fail to impress. Myaamia students have been attending Miami University as part of the HAP since 1991. However, the actual courses tied to the HAP as we know it today didn't start until 2001. This offers us the opportunity to compare graduation rates between 1991-2001 (where students received a tuition waiver, but no Myaamia educational curriculum) with those since 2001 (where students receive both a tuition waiver and Myaamia educational curriculum). Theoretically, the primary (though admittedly not only) difference between these two groups is the inclusion of the curricular and extracurricular components offered by staff at the Myaamia Center.

For students in that initial group, the 6-year graduation rate was 56%. **Myaamia Heritage senior students after receiving special t-shirts and lacrosse sticks.** Photo by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

This is higher than the average 6-year graduation rate amongst all Native American/Alaska Native students at 4-year colleges/universities in the United States, which hovers in the low-mid 40th percentile range pretty consistently. However, today in 2025, we are at a graduation rate of 89.5% (which is actually down from 91% pre-COVID, likely due to the effects of COVID on students universally). While not the only factor, it is fair to conclude that the educational offerings put forth by the HAP are making a difference in the lives of our students. If I had to guess, the other outcomes of interest are interacting with their academic lives (well-being, sense of connection, etc.) and supporting the success of our

students.

While a fun statistic, graduation rates are not the only way to approximate academic attainment. From a Myaamia perspective, academic attainment means acquiring knowledge and using that knowledge to contribute in a meaningful way to the community. Someone on the OAE team has interviewed all Myaamia students since 2012 at two time points: first when they enter the HAP and again when they are leaving. These interviews undoubtedly reveal that students experience an evolution of their knowledge. Regardless of their experiences when they enter the



Myaamia graduates from Miami University, spring 2025. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.



program, students expand their knowledge base by participating in the HAP courses. Some are starting fresh, and everything they learn is new. Others come in with an existing knowledge base but hone that knowledge over time. Not only that, but through interacting with other (non-Myaamia) professors and peers at the University, they learn how to speak about their Myaamia culture in a way they feel confident about.

Further, many students are able to identify ways they can merge their personal/professional interests with their Myaamia identity. They engage in a Senior Project that requires this, and some students go above and beyond to engage in projects and contribute their academic knowledge toward the Myaamia community. This is all academic attainment.

Nahi meehtohseeniwink 'living well'

We are also interested in how educational programming, like the HAP, impacts individuals' ability to live well, which we refer to as nahi meehtohseeniwink in Myaamiataaweenki. The OAE recently un-

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dertook a project to create a theoretical framework to help us understand what nahi meehtohseeniawink looks like from a Myaamia perspective. When we administered the living-well survey to the Myaamia community, we were able to identify which Tribal citizens were college students and, of those, which are members of the Heritage Award Program at Miami University. Again, this gave us the ability to compare HAP students with other Myaamia college students who do not receive the immersive cultural education.

When comparing the differences between these two groups, we found that students in the HAP reported significantly higher levels of all Myaamia knowledge competencies – in terms of having more knowledge, continuing to learn more, and engaging/participating in that knowledge. Additionally, HAP students reported higher levels of social wellness. Sometimes it can be just as helpful to look at where there is no difference between groups; in this case, HAP students and other

Myaamia college students showed no differences in Myaamia community values nor in physical, emotional, spiritual, or ecological wellness.

This tells us that the HAP offers unique contributions to students' overall well-being. Receiving this educational opportunity connects individuals to a Myaamia knowledge system and to one another, supporting their ability to live well in a Myaamia way.

In addition to the data collected from this measurement tool, there are other indicators of well-being that we have observed for some time. One's identity plays an important role in their ability to live their best life. Students in the HAP have long

indicated that the experiences they have as part of the program help them understand who they are as a Myaamia citizen, how that interacts with their other identities, and also give them the means to express that identity to the world. This comes out through artistic expression, community engagement, giving back to the community, and through their family and careers. One of the most common sentiments I have heard in the interviews is that students always knew they were Myaamia before coming to the HAP, but participating in the program taught them what that meant and gave this identity some knowledge and legitimacy to ground it.



“Nutrition as Medicine” poster designed by Myaamia Heritage students, Courtney Drake and Madison Angelo, to describe vegetables found in a community garden in Miami, Oklahoma. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

A First Nations scholar, Dr. Angela Snowshoe (non-status Ojibwe/Metis), and her colleagues created the cultural connectedness scale that gives a sense of how connected people are/feel to their Tribal community. We modified this scale to fit a Myaamia perspective and have given it to all HAP students since 2018. Every single cohort, as well as the overall group of HAP students as a whole, demonstrates a significant increase in their connectedness when we compare their scores as they enter the program to their scores as they leave the program. The interviews again corroborate these data – HAP students consistently talk about feeling connected to one another and the community as a whole.

For example, in an interview at the end of their



tenure in the program, one student said, “to me [being] Myaamia means to have connections with everyone. Like I’ve said, I’ve met people from all over the country who — they have had nothing in common but we’re both Myaamia. That can bring us together through dance, and through music, through the language, and through games, just all these different aspects of our culture.”

National/Tribal Growth and Continuance

Another theme that emerges from the interviews with students is a desire to give back to the Myaamia community. During their time in the HAP, students often internalize the value of giving back to the community. Not only is it an expression of a community value, but it also seems to be tied to a desire to contribute to a community that has afforded them many opportunities.

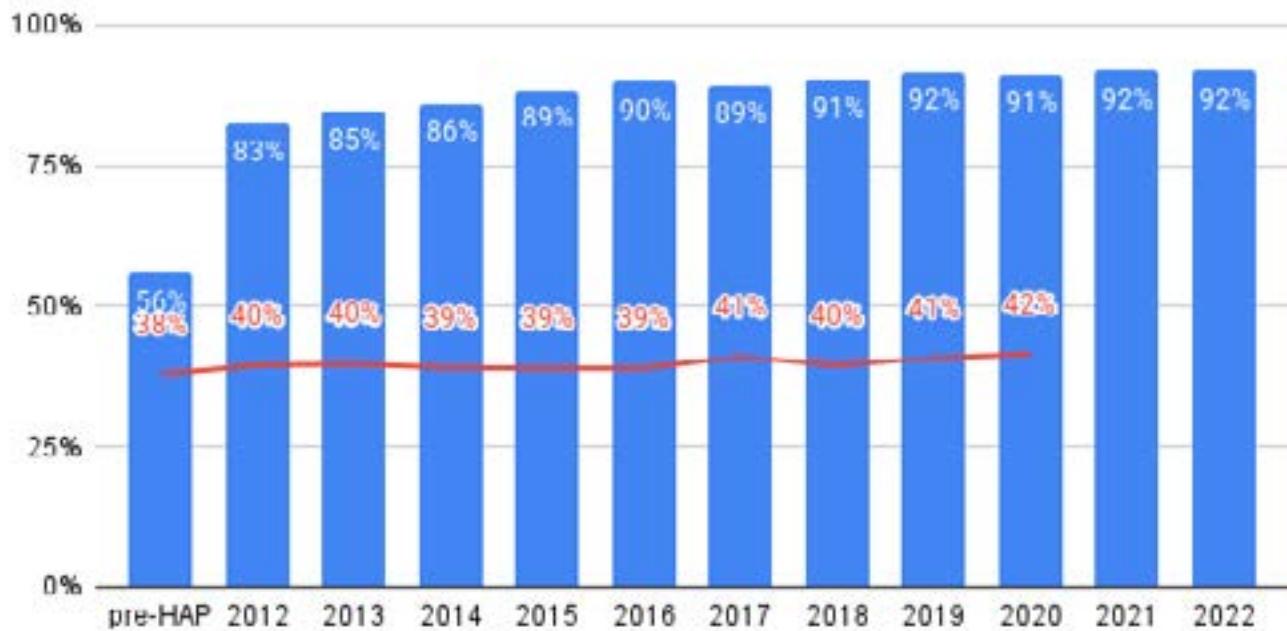
While an exhaustive list of ways that alumni of the HAP give back to the community is not feasible within this blog post, we do know that we have folks who: work for the Tribe, work for the Myaamia Center, engage in graduate and academic research on topics pertaining to the Tribe, hold leadership

positions within the Tribe, sit on the Miami Nation Enterprises board, are formal storytellers, and more. Not all students can give back in these “formal” roles, and many give back within their families and local communities through education, community building, and more. All of these roles and all of these contributions benefit our community and are necessary for the future of the Nation.

I want to be clear that the HAP is not the only way that folks can experience these positive outcomes; there are so many paths toward these ends. However, the HAP does make this a more streamlined and easier process by which Myaamiaki ‘Myaamia people’ can achieve these outcomes.

This work is longitudinal and ongoing and ultimately informs ways we are able to promote positive outcomes in students and even the broader Tribal community. In the future, I would love to better understand the process that gets students to these outcomes. This would allow us to facilitate the development of those same steps in other contexts (Summer Programs, educational programming, outreach, etc.) to promote the well-being of all Tribal citizens.

6 Year Graduation Rates
Myaamia (blue) v. National Native American Average (red)





Myaamia Center Employee Positions

Digital Archivist

The Myaamia Center at Miami University is looking for a Digital Archivist to join our team!

Are you passionate about preserving Indigenous languages and cultures? Want to work in a tribally directed environment where your skills and creativity support community-led efforts?

This position works primarily with digital materials generated and obtained by the Myaamia Center and in support of the National Breath of Life Archival Institute for Indigenous Languages. Help us digitally repatriate, preserve, and share Indigenous language, culture, and history.

If this sounds like you—or someone you know—check out the full job posting and apply here:

https://miamioh.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/miamioh-staff/job/Bonham-House/Digital-Archivist_JRI02249

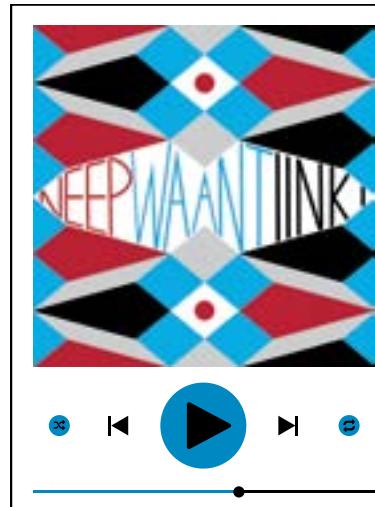
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myaamiaataweenki 101

Learn basic greetings, introductions, and parting phrases in Myaamiaataweenki 'the Miami language' on Šaapohkayoni, the Myaamia education portal.



Visit myaamiaportal.com to create an account and access the course.



Neepwaantiinki: Stories
from Myaamia
Revitalization Podcast

Scan with your phone camera
to learn more.





Introducing the next Eemamwiciki educational theme

Staff Article

What is Eemamwiciki?

Eemamwiciki means ‘they awaken’ and is used as a metaphoric expression for Myaamia community rebirth, renewal, and empowerment. Elder Sammie Darling coined the term ‘awakening’ to describe the community revitalization effort, which began in the mid 1990s. This broad effort was necessary because many aspects of Myaamia identity, including language and tribe specific culture, were not being passed down intergenerationally due to the Miami Tribe’s history of assimilation-focused schooling, land loss, and population fragmentation. The Eemamwiciki effort is the organizational support structure for all of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s Cultural Resources Office programs that are focused on community revitalization.

The central long-term goals of the Eemamwiciki effort are for a significant portion of Myaamia people to share a similar educational experience, a similar knowledge base, and acquire a similar ability to communicate with each other in Myaamiaataweenki (the Myaamia language). In order to successfully advance Myaamia revitalization efforts, the next generation of Myaamia people is going to need a common foundation of Myaamia knowledge along with their own unique perspectives and experiences. This balance between the individual and the collective has always been the means by which Myaamia people experienced the world. Currently there are six core themes that are a key organizational tool for building and reinforcing this shared Myaamia knowledge base. They are:



This year's theme is eeweentiiyankwi 'Family.' Photo by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Eeweentiiyankwi (Family)

Ašiihkiwi neehi Kiiškwi (Earth and Sky)

Weekihkaanki Meehkintiinki (Games)

Kiikinaana (Our Homes)

Weecinaakiyankwi Weecikaayankwi (Song and

Dance)

Meehtohseeniwinksi Ašiihkionki (Living on the Land)

The next theme we will focus on is Eeweentiiyankwi ‘Family’ which explores what it means when we say eeweentiiyankwi ‘we are related to each other.’ This begins by looking at the people in our lives and not only recognizing the kinship ties we have them, but also the closeness of those relationships. Many of us have specific cousins that we may relate to more as a sibling, while others fit into the standard category of cousin. Typically, we discuss three levels of relationships.

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For those near relatives we use the term, Ceelawee-makiki which includes your parents and siblings but may also include grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. This is based on personal experience and relationships and is a great example of the need of a common foundation of Myaamia knowledge along with one's own unique perspectives and experiences.

Next, we have Eeweemakiki, our extended kin or relatives. These include grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, but as stated above some of these relatives may fit into Ceelaweeemakiki based on personal experience and relationships. Lastly, we have Iilaapiikasiaani, our ancestors and includes our kin that came before us.

Another interesting use of kinship terms is the phrase 'aya eeweemilaani', which many of you hear and use at tribal functions. This is a metaphorical expression we use to greet other tribal members, regardless of blood ties or kinship, and translates as "hello, my relative."

Kinship Terms

Niila 'Me/I'
Linka 'Mother' (& mother's sisters)
Noohsa 'Father' (& father's brothers)
Ninkwihs 'Son'
Nintaane 'Daughter'
Iihši 'Younger Sibling' (includes children of mother's sisters & father's brothers)
Iihseensa 'Older Brother' (includes children of mother's sisters & father's brothers)
Nimihse 'Older Sister' (includes children of mother's sisters & father's brothers)
Nisekohse 'Aunt' (father's sisters)
Nišihse 'Uncle' (mother's brothers)
Nišihse 'Female Cousin' (children of mother's brothers & father's sisters)
Nisekohse 'male cousin' (children of mother's brothers & father's sisters)
Noohkwa 'Grandmother'
Mehša 'Grandfather'
Ceeleweemakiki 'near relatives'
Eeweemakiki 'relatives'
Iilaapiikasiaani 'ancestor'

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a myaamia portal

Easily search Myaamia resources in one convenient location

Create an account to access educational and cultural courses anywhere with internet access

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HAPPY Myaamia NEW YEAR

FEBRUARY 2026



SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE THE MYAAMIA NEW YEAR
FEB 14TH IN NOOŠONKE SHIPIONKI OR FEB 21ST IN KUHHAVONKI



myaamia kiilhswaakani 'myaamia lunar calendar'



mahkwa kiilhswa – December 23rd, 2025 - January 20th, 2026

This is a month named for mahkwa 'American black bear.'

Mature females give birth during this month.

Mahkwa is an important character in Myaamia aalhsoohkaana 'winter stories.'



waawiita kiilhswa – January 21st - February 19th, 2026

Waawiita kiilhswa 'Lost Moon' is a 13th moon or month, added once roughly every three years between the bear moons.

This moon acts like a "leap" month allowing the calendar to "reset."

Waawiita kiilhswa keeps the lunar months aligned with their ecological changes.



maahkoonsa kiilhswa – February 20th - March 20th, 2026

This month is also named after the American black bear.

Mahkoonsaki 'young black bears' leave the den during this month.

Myaamia weehki-kihkatwe 'Myaamia new year' is always the first day of this month.



aanteekwa kiilhswa – March 21th - April 18th, 2026

This month is named after the American crow.

Aanteekwaki 'crows' make their nests during this month. They are one of the first birds to nest each year.

Maple syrup is typically made during this month.

EEMAMWICIKI 2026 EVENTS

Jan

30-31: Myaamia Winter Gathering - noošonke siipionki

Feb

21: Myaamia New Year - noošonke siipionki

28: Myaamia Storytelling - kiihkayonki

Mar

Apr

4: Sprout About - kiihkayonki

11: Picnic and Play! - noošonke siipionki

18: Myaamiaki Conference

May

2: Lacrosse into Spring - kiihkayonki

Jun

15-19: *Eemamwiciki Summer Programs* - noošonke siipionki

25-27: National Gathering & Annual Meeting - noošonke siipionki

Jul

13-17: *Eemamwiciki Summer Programs* - kiihkayonki

17: kiišiinkwia kiilhswa - kiihkayonki

Aug

8: SummerFest - noošonke siipionki

15: Washington Workshop - Kennewick, WA

Sep

12: Fall Gathering - kiihkayonki

Oct

17: Sasquash Seed Swap - kiihkayonki

Nov

14: Beaver Week - kiihkayonki

Dec



For noošonke siipionki 'Oklahoma' events, RSVP to Joshua Sutterfield at (918) 325-0107 or jsutterfield@miamination.com.

For kiihkayonki 'Indiana' events, RSVP to Claudia Hedeen at (918) 325-8810 or chedeen@miamination.com.

