

sharing video and article on our Boarding School history and reconciliation

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To: FLC-OFFICIAL-L <flc-official-l@listserv.fortlewis.edu>

Dear colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying this gorgeous weekend. I am writing to call attention to materials from this past week at FLC before we enter the flow of next week. These meaningful materials continue our campus conversations relating to our difficult Boarding School history.

First, allow me to share a recording of Dr. Majel Boxer's lecture on our history, "Any Step Back into the Old Ways is Naturally a Hindrance: Fort Lewis Indian School, 1892-1911," which she gave at the Center of Southwest Studies this past Wednesday. I encourage you to watch the video to learn more about our history and its Federal Indian Policy of Assimilation context, to understand the regimented structures that defined student life at Fort Lewis Indian School, and to hear Dr. Boxer uncover the voices of the Indigenous students attending the School. The talk also allows you to see many CSWS archival photos that document our history. The lecture is available at [this YouTube link](#):



Any Step Back Into the Old Ways Is Naturally A Hindrance: Fort Lewis Indian School, 1892-1911

This virtual presentation, by Dr. Majel Boxer (Associate Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies, Fort Lewis College), focused on locating and "hearing" the voices of Indigenous students attending Fort Lewis Indian School during the two decades of operation, and how the federal Indian policy of assimilation was manifested in the

www.youtube.com

Second, I'd like to highlight a special article on our clocktower panel removal Ceremony published this past Thursday--this article is particularly notable because it was written by Tiara Yazzie, a current journalism student at FLC. Appearing in [High Country News](#), [this article](#) features an interview with Dr. Joslynn Lee, detailing how Dr. Lee raised concerns about the panels' depiction of our history, which led to their recent removal. The article also explores the process of reconciliation that we must still undertake, emphasizing healing and education and continued conversation.



Indigenous college faculty and students lead the removal of racist panels in Colorado — High Country News – Know the West

Indigenous college faculty and students lead the removal of racist panels in Colorado A former Native boarding

school turned liberal arts college in Durango reckons with its ugly history.

www.hcn.org

The Fort Report circulated earlier (below) contains a full set of articles relating to the panel removal Ceremony, including reporting in [The Denver Post](#), [Colorado Public Radio](#), [The Southern Ute Drum](#), [Rocky Mountain PBS](#), and [KSUT/Four Corners Public Radio](#).

As these materials emphasize, we still have much work ahead of us as we continue to reconcile our history. This video and article show us ways forward because of the powerful voices--including the voices of our students, past and present--and the powerful ideas that they contain.

Best,
Cheryl

From: FLC official announcements list <FLC-OFFICIAL-L@LISTSERV.FORTLEWIS.EDU> on behalf of Savage, Lauren <lasavage@FORTLEWIS.EDU>

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:52 PM

To: FLC-OFFICIAL-L <flc-official-l@listserv.fortlewis.edu>

Subject: TFR Special Edition: Panel removal ceremony

TFR THE FORT REPORT
CONNECTING FORT LEWIS COLLEGE



Ernest House, Jr., Ute Mountain Ute tribal member and FLC trustee, removes a panel from the Clocktower.

A change of heart: unjust pictures, narrative removed from FLC's iconic Clocktower

Shielded from the September sun by her son's umbrella, 90-year-old Irene Bitsóí described her boarding school experience, using Diné words to underscore painful memories from her days at Carson Indian School. Like other federally run Indian boarding schools throughout the country, Carson's administration worked hard to eliminate the "native" from enrolled Native American children.

Bitsóí's story is one of thousands understood by Native Americans and Alaska Natives in North America, including many ancestors of students at Fort Lewis College, which operated as an Indian boarding school until 1910.

"For Fort Lewis College, it is important to acknowledge the reality that we started as a Federal Indian Boarding School," says FLC President Tom Stritikus. "It's important to look at the symbols that exist across campus, [including] our most iconic one, the Clocktower, and the three pictures that whitewash the experience of really what was nothing less than cultural genocide."

Orchestrated by Lee Bitsóí, associate vice president of Diversity Affairs at FLC and son of Irene Bitsóí, a ceremony to remove the inaccurate panels was held on Monday, September 6. A diverse crowd of nearly 1,000 people congregated under a blue sky to hear from tribal elders, campus leaders, and Native American students.

"We gather here under guiding principles around truth, reconciliation, and healing taught to me by my mother," says Lee. "We must learn from the past, and since the future is unknown, we need to appreciate the present."

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Scars of history, hope of healing: FLC removes inaccurate depictions of



its Indian boarding school past

The Denver Post
Elizabeth Hernandez

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After years of calls to correct whitewashed history, FLC is owning up to its past as an Indian boarding school

Colorado Public Radio
Paolo Zialcita

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M O R E C O V E R A G E



- [A reckoning with Fort Lewis College's dark past](#)
Rocky Mountain PBS
 - [Fort Lewis to remove offensive clocktower panels as it reckons with its past](#)
Colorado Public Radio
 - [Fort Lewis College removes Indian boarding school panels from iconic clocktower, to correct inaccurate depiction and promote healing](#)
KSUT
 - [Fort Lewis takes further steps towards reconciliation](#)
The Southern Ute Drum
-

Dear Fort Lewis Community,

I want to thank everyone who was involved with the Clocktower ceremony. The ceremony was the culmination of several years of effort toward reconciliation with our past and I believe a doorway to our future. From the original committee chaired by Dean Jesse Peters to the commitment and energy brought to this important and central issue by President Stritikus, Trustee Ernest House, Jr., and Associate Vice President Lee Bitsóí culminated in a moving recognition of our past. Tom, Ernest and the tribal leaders gave poignant statements and Lee's mother, a survivor of the boarding school system, was especially moving because she placed the truth about that system before us. The work of recognition and the reversal of the impacts and effects of the misguided boarding school policy goes on and Fort Lewis College is at the forefront. We are one of the institutions helping preserve and teach Indigenous languages, working to reverse the boarding school policy aimed at making them lost languages. Last Monday was a memorable day for the college we all love.

Dick Kaufman
Chair
Fort Lewis College Board of Trustees



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