

GREAT PLAINS ACTION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Fall 2025

Vol.1



PROTECT THE SACRED

TWO-SPIRIT SOLIDARITY IOWA CITY PRIDE



In June Great Plains Action Society participated in the Iowa City Pride Parade and Vendor Festival. We built a parade float that consisted of a platform that sat on the back of a pickup truck. On the platform we put a small tipi. A solar powered PA speaker

rode inside the tipi. Our Siouxland Director, Brandon Arreaga, walked behind the truck with drum and sang, joined by GPAS staff and volunteers. To view the video, click [here](#). After the parade, people drew positive images and messages on the tipi.

PROTECT THE SACRED

TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY

In April, GPAS attended the Trans Day of Visibility event at College Green Park.

Winnebago

Two-Spirit folks joined us and spoke at this great gathering.



GPAS INITIATIVES

REPRESENTATION

[Truthsgiving](#) - [Indigenous People's Day](#) - [Indigenous People's Summit](#) - [Native Student Panel](#) - [Convening of the Four Winds](#) - [Celebrating Educators of Color](#) - [Indigenous Fashion Show](#)

LAND DEFENSE

[Keven Abourezk](#) - [Siouxland Sacrifice Zone](#) - [NW Iowa Climate Summit](#) - [Iowa's Dirty Secret](#) - [Urban Growers Collective](#) - [Prairie Preview](#) - [Environmental Justice Data Symposium](#) - [Water Quality Tribal Community Forum](#) - [Ripples Of Change](#) - [ReMatiation Symposium](#)

PROTECT THE SACRED

[Migrant Solidarity](#) - [Orange Shirt Day](#) - [Iowa City Pride](#) - [Iowa For Trans Folks Coalition](#) - [Siouxland Mutual Aid](#) - [BIPOC Women's Walking Group](#) - [Siouxland Men's Group](#) - [Trans Day of Visibility](#) - [MMIR Powwow](#) - [Zachary Bear Heels March](#)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

[Gun Reform](#) - [New Pioneer Co-op](#) - [PeaceFest](#) - [Teach Truth/No Kings Rally](#) - [Moving As One Podcast](#) - [Power To The People Civic Engagement Fair](#) - [Failed To Comply](#)

GREAT PLAINS ACTION SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

Orange Shirt Day
Tuesday September 30 - 6pm
Chauncey Swan Park, Iowa City

Indigenous Peoples Day
Sunday October 12 - 2:30pm-5:30pm
Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, Iowa City

Power To The People Summit
Saturday October 18 - all day
Omaha

NW Iowa Climate Summit
Saturday-Sunday October 24-26
Sioux City

Iowa's Dirty Secret Documentary Screening
Thursday November 6 - 6pm
FilmScene, Iowa City

Truthsgiving
Saturday November 15
Englert Theater, Iowa City

www.greatplainsaction.org



PROTECT THE SACRED

MIGRANT SOLIDARITY

Escucha Mi Voz has been organizing rallies outside of the Homeland Security office in Cedar Rapids during immigrant check-ins. ICE has been detaining a number of people during these check-ins, typically after the rallies end and most of the people have left. We will continue to advocate for all of these

families to remain together without fear of abduction and deportation. Most of these folks are Indigenous to Mexico and South America and have ancestral rights to Turtle Island (North America). There are ancient trading, networking and familiar routes spanned both continents that were traversed by Indigenous Peoples.



Civic Engagement

THERE IS NO DEFENSIBLE STANCE AGAINST GUN REFORM

Great Plains Action Society's Civic Engagement Organizer, Tobias Soudaly-Espinosa, has written an article pulling from their personal experience with the recent school shooting in Minnesota. Tobias's sister is a student at Annunciation Catholic School who was witness to this atrocious act. Tobias recounts the horrible event and conveys the "anger and grief, horrified sympathy, concern, but primarily 'what can we do?' and vengeful expressions of how cowardly the shooter was." In the article Tobias provides under-reported facts such as "98% of all mass shooters are male. Less than 1% are trans." They ask the question "How do we control the use of guns better than the strongest gun safety state in the country? ". They propose ideas such as "Instead of regulating guns like their cars, regulate them like they're drugs." The full article can be found [here](#).

Land Defense

GREAT PLAINS ACTION SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW LAND DEFENSE DIRECTOR KEVIN ABOUREZK

Great Plains Action Society is thrilled to announce award-winning, Sicangu Lakota journalist Kevin Abourezk as our new Land Defense Director. Kevin is the Deputy Managing Editor at ICT News (formerly Indian Country Today). Kevin is a citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and resides in Lincoln, Nebraska. Kevin will be helping with our Land Defense initiatives, particularly in the Western Iowa and Eastern Nebraska area. We are grateful for Kevin and excited to work with him. Kevin can be reached at kevin@greatplainsaction.org.



Representation

CONVENING OF THE FOUR WINDS AT THE PONCA STOMPING GROUNDS

The Ponca Stomping Grounds is a great place for anyone to visit. They have a walking path complete with historical informational displays. Scan the QR code on the artistic placard, and you will see an educational video pertaining to that subject. There is also an Earth Lodge, impressive new powwow grounds, and neatly designed gathering area for speakers and "convenings". The Convening of the Four Winds event, in May, included water and corn planting ceremonies and a sacred fire. Excellent speakers addressed a variety of historical and current issues facing indigenous communities including rights of nature. GPAS's Sikowis Nobiss spoke about ReMatriation.





Representation

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUMMIT '25

United in solidarity for Sacred Connections: Indigenous Wisdom, Food Sovereignty, and Cultivating Collective Liberation, people gathered at Fontenelle Forest in Omaha. This annual event commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Hosted by Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim, this year's summit highlighted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the inherent and inalienable rights to self-determination and self-government. Signors included Indigenous and non-Indigenous academics, activists, spiritual leaders, healers, students and other community members. We were honored to attend.

Civic Engagement

TEACH TRUTH DAY OF ACTION/ NO KINGS DAY

Teach Truth Day of Action event occurred in Iowa City on June 14. By coincidence, the No Kings Day protest happened the same day. A huge crowd showed up for the No Kings Day protest which included speeches by GPAS's Sikowis Nobiss and Marie Krebs. After speakers, chants, and songs, the crowd marched through Iowa City and ended at the Teach Truth Day of Action for more speakers, live music, a banned book exchange and more.

Across the country corporatists policy makers are pushing laws to criminalize teaching honestly about U.S. history and to restrict students' ability to ask questions and engage in critical thinking. Teach Truth aims to expose this dystopian agenda and defend the teaching of people's history.



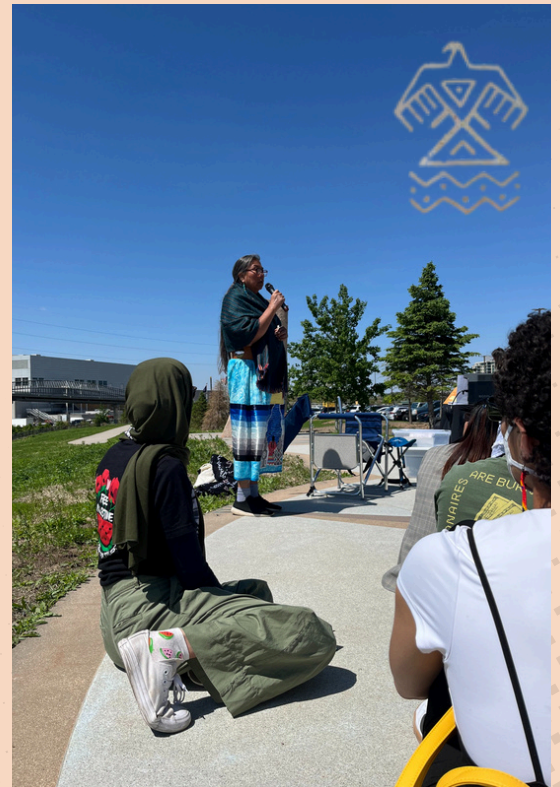
Land Defense

RIPPLES OF CHANGE – CLEAN UP MIDAM COALITION CONFRONTS BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

MidAmerican Energy continues to operate five coal burning plants in Iowa (Ottumwa, Louisa, Council Bluffs, and two in Sioux City.) The two coal plants in Sioux City (Siouxland Industrial Sacrifice Zone) border Winnebago and Omaha Tribal land just north and upstream on the Missouri River. Burning coal makes people sick. It pollutes chemicals such as arsenic and mercury into the environment. Coal ash wastewater entering the Missouri river puts peoples' health at risk.

On May 3rd the Clean Up MidAm Coalition (CUMA), including the Iowa Environmental Coalition, The Sierra Club, The Environmental Law and Policy Center, and Great Plains Action Society converged on the annual Berkshire Hathaway Shareholders' Meeting in Omaha.

At the shareholder meeting, a high school student from Omaha directed a question about the coal plants to Abel. The following is the transcript, and you can watch the exchange [here](#).



BIPOC Working Mothers Walking Group!

6PM EVERY TUESDAY
AS WEATHER ALLOWS

TERRY TRUEBLOOD
579 MCCOLLISTER BLVD
IOWA CITY IA 52240

Benefits of exercise include:

- *Immune Support*
- *Improved Mood*
- *Stress Relief*

So, bring your kids and let's get moving!

Location is paved on a 2 mile loop.

We will have sack dinner for participants.

Rsvp at bit.ly/bipocwalking

More info at marie@greatplainsaction.org



Representation

STUDENT PANEL FOR THE QUEST FOR CONNECTION CONFERENCE TO RESTORE HUMANITY

On July 22, young people from Great Plains Action Society spoke to their experiences and perspectives as Indigenous youth. Pictured above is Aldén Nobiss, Youth Coordinator for Great Plains Action Society

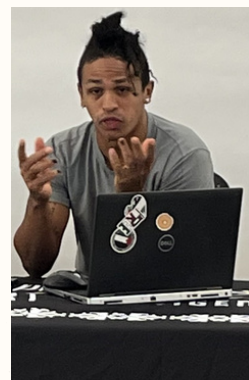
Conference to Restore Humanity! is an annual, designed-for-virtual conference centering progressive education, social justice, and preserving the humanity of classrooms.

Land Defense

REMATRIATION FUTURES SYMPOSIUM

Land Back begins with ReMatriation. Why ReMatriation? Rematriation because mothers are the givers of life, and Grandmother Earth is the giver of life to us all. Rematriation begins with changing the way we perceive land. Colonizers view the land as something to own, to buy, to sell, to transform to ruin for profit. A non or de-colonized mind sees the land and everything on it as our living relatives. Legal rights of nature are coming and are long overdue, and the sovereignty of Indigenous land stewardship is inherent.

On April 11-13 environmental leaders and activists met at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa for 3 days of ReMatriation presentations and panels. Subjects included Defending the Land from False Climate Solutions: Fighting CO2 Pipelines and Examining Carbon Offsets; Strategies for Indigenous-Led Stewardship, Cultural Revitalization & Healing Justice; Reclaiming the Power of the Feminine: Exploring the Matriarchy in ReMatriation; Stewarding Land and Food for Community Building, Culture, and Change; Introduction to ReMatriation and Food Futures in Palestine and Puerto Rico; Planetary Round Table: ReMatriation Efforts in Palestine, Puerto Rico & Turtle Island; and an Indigenous Inspired Food Meal by Anthony Warrior.



Civic Engagement

PEACEFEST

On August 13, Great Plains Action Society provided the Solar Sound Stage for PeaceFest in Iowa City's City Park. The PA for the Solar Sound Stage was charged and powered with solar panels. Fest goers were able to charge their phones and laptops at the GPAS table using solar power. We also met our new GIS Mapping Intern, Jocealynn Brock.



Protect The Sacred

ORANGE SHIRT SOLIDARITY VIGIL

SOLIDARITY BEYOND BORDERS

❖ *Every Child Matters* ❖

Orange Shirt Day honors Indigenous children who were genocided in Canada's residential school system and acknowledges the trauma of survivors and their families.

This year, Great Plains Action Society is expanding the scope of our yearly vigil to include the Palestinian, Indigenous Migrant, and Sudanese communities who are grieving the loss of countless children from heinous acts of colonial violence.

Through our sorrow, we will create common threads of resilience, resistance, and build solidarity.

**JOIN US FOR A VIGIL AND COMMUNITY BUILDING
PLACE: CHAUNCY SWAN PARK, IOWA CITY
DATE/TIME: SEPTEMBER 30 FROM 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

Please wear orange, however, we will have 100 #everychildmatters shirts for a "pay what you can" price. Organizations are welcome to table and the park is wheelchair accessible. Emotional support will be available. Speakers TBA. For more information, email marie@greatplainsaction.org.

Great Plains Action Society



Our orange shirts were designed by our ED, Sikowis Nobiss who, created a traditional Cree floral motif to honor all the children who have been lost. She also wanted to uplift her own ancestors and living relatives who were forced into residential schools.



Land Defense

PRAIRIE PREVIEW

On May 14 at the Iowa Memorial Union, Bur Oak Land Trust's Prairie Preview hosted more than 35 environmental organizations from across the state. GPAS attended and connected with local and regional groups dedicated to conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. For four decades, Prairie Preview has been a special time for environmentalists, conservationists, and nature lovers around Johnson County to come together for a greener Iowa.

Land Defense

NW IOWA CLIMATE SUMMIT



Join us in Sioux City for the First NW Iowa Climate Summit on Saturday, October 25th and Sunday, October 26th!

The Northwest Iowa Climate Summit is hosted by Great Plains Action Society, the Iowa Environmental Council, and Sierra Club Beyond Coal with the intention to educate, community organize and take climate action.

During the summit, we'll be building community and digging into what needs to be done to make clean air, clean water, and a habitable environment a reality for all. You can expect to develop your organizing skills, learn about key issues we face here in Northwest Iowa, and discuss our next steps of action! For more information click [here](#).

WINNEBAGO TWO-SPIRIT & GREAT PLAINS ACTION SOCIETY PRESENT

TOXIC GRAVE EARTH RAVE

A DRAGOWEEN MONSTER MASH FOR OUR MAMA DIVA, EARTH!

FEATURING

KANDI PIXIE DARNELL LAZARUS ISABELLA

WILLEM SEMAJ CITRUS OLIVIA

OCTOBER 25 @ 7-10 PM

18+ SHOW
WARRIOR HOTEL BALLROOM
FREE ENTRY, FREE FOOD, FREE SWAG

Costume contest after the show!
Categories: "earth-centric," "toxic pollution," "climate change," "earth defenders."
Enter to win!

A NW IOWA CLIMATE SUMMIT EVENT

Protect The Sacred

ZACHARY BEAR HEELS MARCH

Justice for Zachary Bear Heels! The 8th annual Zachary Bear Heels March occurred on June 7 in Omaha. Mental health and DEI training should be mandatory for police, AT MINIMUM. Our relatives are valuable. Zachary's life was sacred. Prayers for Zachary's family. To view video, click [here](#).



Protect The Sacred

IOWA FOR TRANS FOLKS COALITION

The mission of the Iowa for Transgender Folks Coalition is to advance the rights, dignity, and well-being of Transgender and Two-Spirit individuals in Iowa. We are a diverse coalition of organizations and businesses rooted in Eastern Iowa, united by our shared conviction that every individual, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or background, inherently deserves equal rights, respect, and dignity. To join the coalition, please email connect@iowafortransfolks.org with a web address and a logo.


WWW.IOWAFORTRANSFOLKS.ORG

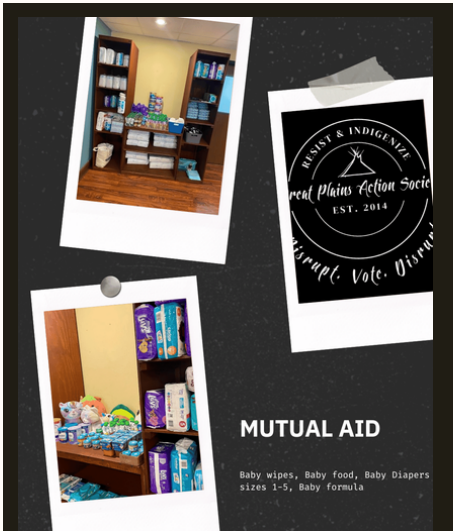

Protect The Sacred

NATIVE MEN'S GROUP

Great Plains Action Society Siouxland Director Brandon Arreaga has set up mutual aid for Native mothers. He also has been organizing Native Men's Group meetings.

We are forever grateful and appreciative of Nate Scates and Cynthia Goslin for sharing space and their personal stories of recovery. Nate shared how drumming, singing, and praying helped him in his journey to sobriety. He gifted our Native Men in Solidarity group with a hand drum that he made. This will be utilized to help our Native men learn songs.

If you're a Native man living in the Siouxland area and would like to attend our Men in Solidarity group, contact barreaga@greatplainsaction.org.



Great Plains Action Society's Siouxland Director Brandon Arreaga has set up mutual aid for Native mothers. To donate contact:
[Brandon Arreaga](#)

Civic Engagement

NEW PIONEER CO-OP TEAMS UP WITH GPAS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MONTH

New Pioneer is a member of National Co-op Grocers (NCG), which is a cooperative that helps co-ops across the country pool buying power. Last November, NCG launched a huge promotional campaign which featured Field Day brand items and partnered with NATIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems) to bring awareness to Indigenous-led food efforts.



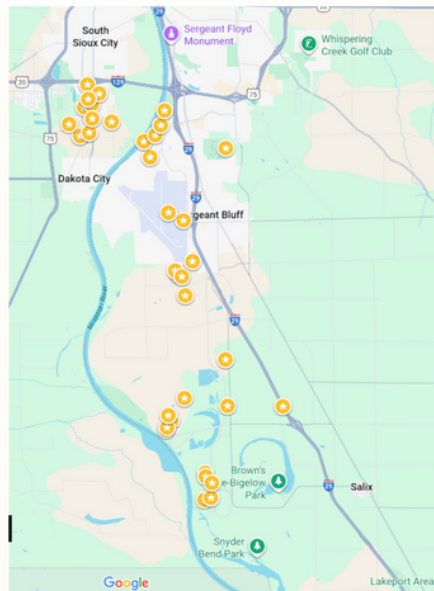
In addition to the NATIFS promotion, this year in November, New Pi and GPAS are planning a number of activities. Great Plains Action Society will be New Pi's Change for Change recipient for the month. New Pi will cater and help promote our November 6 documentary screening event at FilmScene for Iowa's Dirty Secret, The True Cost of Burning Coal. New Pi will cater and help promote the November 15 Truthsgiving event at the Englert Theatre. A potential dinner catered by Chef Anthony Warrior is in the works. GPAS will be tabling at the various Co-op locations. New Pi will be tabling at the City of Iowa City/GPAS Indigenous Peoples Day event at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area. Look for other events and promotions!



Protect The Sacred

MMIR POWWOW

We were a proud partner and partner and fiscal sponsor of this amazing event for 2 years and a sponsor for the last year. We'd like to uplift the organizers for putting in all the work, time, and effort to create this space. We want to send love and support to the families who have and are affected by the MMIR crisis. It is through love and community that we endure and flourish. Congrats to all the winners!



Protect The Sacred

SIouxLAND-WINNEBAGO SACRIFICE ZONE CORRIDOR

There is a large sacrifice zone located in the corridor between the Siouxland area and the northeastern tip of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska that is heavily impacted by industrial and agricultural pollution. Heavy industry and fields of corn and soy have been grouped along the Missouri River and are emitting toxins into the land, water and air. This sacrifice zone is affecting large communities of Indigenous Peoples to the south on the Winnebago and Omaha reservations and to the north in the Siouxland area—particularly South Sioux city, which is closest to the sacrifice zone and where significant populations of Indigenous Peoples live (Mayans, Latino/Latinas, and Native Americans).

It's essential to recognize that the Siouxland municipalities (Sioux City, IA, Sargent Bluff, IA, South Sioux City, NE, and Dakota City, IA) and Woodbury county specifically have zoned these areas for these toxic operations and

that they are generally grouped in the southern part of the Siouxland area and in the area between Siouxland and the NE tip of Winnebago tribal land. This is a stark example playing out in real time of the systemic injustices perpetuated by colonial powers that disproportionately affect Indigenous communities with environmental pollution.

To create positive change, it's crucial to unite the communities along the Missouri River, including the Winnebago Tribe, to demand better environmental protections and health resources. Great Plains Action Society has partnered with Fractracker to create an interactive and informative map of the Siouxland-Winnebago Sacrifice Zone Corridor with the internet of uniting the communities in the area and demand better environmental and climate protections.

MOVING AS ONE

Building Paths to Collective Liberation

Great Plains Action Society brings together people of diverse backgrounds to focus on collective action that can deliver the resources, knowledge and skills we need to sustain collective liberation.

A three-part webinar series starting in September 2025

Details	Takeaways
Part 1 September 10 @ 6:00 PM CST Learn and apply the lessons of BIPOC movement history	• Learn BIPOC movement history and how it influences our ability to address current social and political challenges • Deepen your understanding of the roots of solidarity
Part 2 September 26 @ 6:00 PM CST What is contemplative social action and how does it help us build unity?	• Connect to others who are working toward collective liberation • Apply the benefits of contemplative social action in your lives
Part 3 October 8 @ 6:00 PM CST Charting our most proactive activism and organizing strategies for collective liberation	• Develop confidence and ability to work with people from different backgrounds

Community based educator and activist, Dr. Damita Brown is the founder of Heart Light Action which teaches contemplative social action for educators and activists. Brown will lead us through this three-part webinar which she developed specifically for GPAS. The series will focus on ways to help us revisit our strategies for doing solidarity work in these fascist times.

Register at bit.ly/movinginunity

Representation

POWER TO THE PEOPLE SUMMIT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FAIR

On October 18th, 2025 at the Hispanic Art Center of Omaha, Join us for education and community building at Power to the People Summit! This event brings together grassroots organizations, NGOs, and community members to learn about and discuss legislation affecting Iowa, Nebraska and tribal nations in the area.

The Civic Engagement Fair will feature organization tables: representatives from organizations fighting for LGBTQIA rights, reproductive liberation, women's rights, DEI, and Environmental justice. Free Lunch – Kid's Activities – Swag.

To register click [here](#).



Representation

BEYOND FASHION FEST INDIGENOUS FASHION SHOW

We are honored to have worked with some wonderful folks, on May 3rd at the Graduate Hotel, to create an amazing experience for the JS Wear fashion show by Jamie Saunsoci at the Beyond Fashion Festival in Iowa City. Along with the fashion show, we brought in the talented MorningStar Dance Troupe for a dance presentation and renowned Chef Anthony Warrior to cater a wonderful reception afterwards with Indigenous inspired foods. We even went on a field trip the next day to The House of Dot'lizhi to check out Iowa City's Indigenous owned fashion house. The vibe was friendly and chill and everything from the clothes to the food was absolutely beautiful! Thank you to everybody who showed up and who helped. We are very grateful for everyone and everything that went into making this a success.

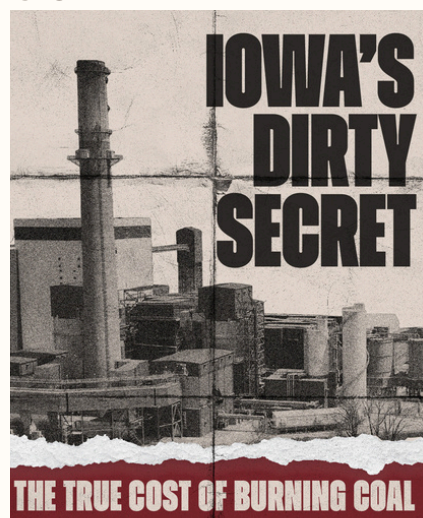
Land Defense

IOWA'S DIRTY SECRET: THE TRUE COST OF BURNING COAL – SCREENING WITH PANEL DISCUSSION & RECEPTION

Iowans have been led to believe that their energy is clean. But in reality, MidAmerican Energy operates five coal plants across the state, part of the dirtiest coal fleet in the country.

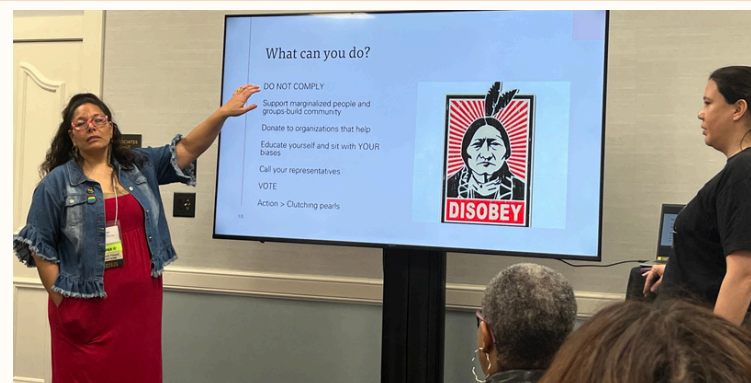
Iowa's Dirty Secret: The True Cost of Burning Coal is a short film that examines the cost of coal through first-hand accounts shared by families who live near the coal plants, doctors who have seen the health impacts of coal pollution, and the advocates fighting for something better.

Following other successful screenings across Iowa, Great Plains Action Society, Iowa Environmental Council, Sierra Club, New Pioneer Co-op, and FilmScene present Iowa's Dirty Secret on November 6 at FilmScene Chauncey. A panel discussion and reception will follow the film. Tickets are available at New Pioneer Co-op and FilmScene, or click [here](#).



Land Defense

URBAN GROWERS COLLECTIVE – CHICAGO Healing Justice Director Marie Krebs toured Urban Growers Collective farms in Chicago. They are doing amazing work! The abundance spoke for itself. It was an honor to be in community with so many phenomenal folks. The farms, people, hospitality, food, and energy were top tier. Very inspiring for our upcoming community space in Iowa City!



Representation

CELEBRATING EDUCATORS OF COLOR CONFERENCE

The 4th annual Celebrating Educators of Color (CEC) conference took place on April 18 at the Graduate Hotel in Iowa City. Over 150 educators of color attended. Presentation by Marie Krebs and Jessica Engelking.



Representation

WATER QUALITY TRIBAL COMMUNITY FORUM

Land Defense Director Kevin Abourezk attended the Water Quality Tribal Community Forum on September 16. The forum gathered input from its community to create a Watershed Base Plan. Kevin provided information on the Siouxland/Winnebago Sacrifice Zone.



City of Iowa City PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the City recognizes the fact that Iowa City is built upon the homelands of Native American Nations to whom we owe our existence, commitment, and dedication without whom the building of the City would not have been possible; and

Whereas, the area of Iowa City was within the homelands of the Iowa, Meskwaki, and Sauk and because history is complex and time goes far back beyond memory, we also acknowledge the ancient connections of many other Indigenous Peoples here; and

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

Whereas, the City of Iowa City recognizes its shared responsibility to honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, traditions, and cultural contributions.

Whereas, the City strongly supports that Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be an opportunity to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of the region; and

Whereas, the City is dedicated to opposing systemic racism towards Indigenous People, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, and exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises; and

Whereas, the City implores our residents to commit to understanding and addressing injustices impacting Indigenous People; and

Whereas, the City strongly encourages educational institutions, businesses, and other organizations to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and join the City in committing to opposing and overcoming system racism and injustices.

Now, Therefore, I, Bruce Teague, Mayor of Iowa City, do hereby proclaim the second Monday of October every year as

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Representation

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration will be held at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area on Sunday October 12 from 2pm-5:30pm. The City of Iowa City is organizing the event with Great Plains Action Society co-sponsoring. Come out to this great event honoring and celebrating the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of Indigenous People in our communities. Enjoy Native singers, dancers, story tellers, and food & wisdom from renowned chef Anthony Warrior. Learn Indigenous history and connect with local Native leaders from the community and university.

IOWA CITY'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY CELEBRATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2:00PM - WELCOME!
2:30PM - GREAT PLAINS ACTION SOCIETY
2:45PM - CHEF ANTHONY WARRIOR
3:00PM - EAGLE FEATHER SINGERS AND DANCERS
3:30PM - GEORGE PENNA, STORY TELLER
4:00PM - EAGLE FEATHER SINGERS AND DANCERS
4:30PM - U OF I STUDENT GROUP
4:45PM - U OF I OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST
5:00PM - EAGLE FEATHER SINGERS AND DANCERS
5:30PM - CLOSING



Civic Engagement

FAILED TO COMPLY

GPAS Healing Justice Director Marie Krebs, a former graduate student in the University of Iowa's School of Social Work, left the university after facing disciplinary action for a presentation she gave on DEI, at a national social work conference in October. The presentation, which focused on the experiences of students of color in the program and Iowa's new anti-DEI legislation, drew criticism from UI leadership, ultimately leading Krebs to decide she could no longer continue her education at the university. To read more click [here](#).



Land Defense

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DATA SYMPOSIUM

Great Plains Action Society Operations Director Dave Whiting attended the inaugural Environmental Justice Data and Mapping Symposium in Houston. Among the many outstanding speakers included Michael Lane (Menominee), the Indigenous Sovereignty Advocate at the Indigenous Environmental Network, and Hazel James-Tohe (Diné), Centered Research & Evaluation – San Juan Collaborative for Health Equity. Michael discussed inherent sovereignty of Indigenous land stewardship. Hazel talked about their work to fight uranium and coal mining. A recurring theme was that environmental justice and social justice go hand in hand. A major takeaway is that the current governmental regime is disbanding EJ Data organizations and deleting data. It is imperative that communities must increase the gathering of EJ data. The symposium was hosted by FracTracker Alliance.



Representation

TRUTHSGIVING

Truthsgiving is an ideology that must be enacted through truth telling and mutual aid to discourage colonized ideas about the thanksgiving mythology—not a name switch so we can keep doing the same thing. It's about telling and doing the truth on this day so we can stop dangerous stereotypes and whitewashed history from continuing to harm Indigenous lands and Peoples, as well as Black, Latinx, Asian-American and all oppressed folks on Turtle Island. Truthsgiving 2025 is on November 15 at The Englert Theatre. Featuring a performance by Audiopharmacy and a variety of speakers. For tickets click [here](#).

