

INDIGENOUS SPEAKER SERIES

Dialogues about Indigenous people's cultural and traditional lived experiences

SESSION 23: Featured speakers

Merisa Jones, *Achieving Educational Sovereignty: Continuing the Vision of Our Old People*

Joannie Romero, *Rematriation through Land-Based Connection during the Time of COVID-19*



Merisa Jones is a member of the Lummi Nation located in Bellingham, WA. She currently holds the position as the Department Chair of the Native Studies Leadership program at the Northwest Indian College. Merisa Jones is an alumni of the Northwest Indian College and has since obtained her Masters of Public Administration in Tribal Governance from The Evergreen State College and is currently working towards her Indigenous based Education Leadership Doctoral Degree at the University of Washington- Tacoma. Throughout her education journey she has been passionate about researching ways to achieve education sovereignty and work towards decolonization within in the education system.



Joannie Romero (Pueblo of Cochiti, NM) is the founder of Corn Pollen Consulting, LLC, a Native American, Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) dedicated to providing culturally-responsive strategies to solve the educational, political, and social justice issues facing Indian Country in the 21st century. She currently serves as the Executive Director for the Laguna Community Foundation based within the Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico. In 2017, Romero earned a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law Degree from the University of Tulsa, College of Law. Currently, Romero is a doctoral student at the University of Washington where she is pursuing an Ed.D in Educational Leadership (Muckleshoot Cohort).

[Watch the recorded talks here.](#)



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