

Space Science Seminar

Tuesday, 2014 July 1 10:30am

NSSTC/2096

Native Skywatchers - Revitalization of Ojibwe & D(L)akota Star Knowledge

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Abstract

The crisis my work in astronomy addresses is preventing the loss of Native American (Ojibwe and D(L)akota tribes) astronomy knowledge by these communities of which I am a member. Elders are passing. Otherwise knowledgeable native elders tell me that they "...just weren't listening when the star stories were being told." Others talk of new generations of 'star readers' and how the star medicine will be brought back by the younger generation. Interwoven in the star knowledge is the language, which holds keen insight and observation far beyond what people practice today. My goal is to help preserve indigenous astronomy and pass it on to present and future generations. *Native Skywatchers* research and programming is about creating sustainable change in our knowledge of astronomy by building community around the native star knowledge.

Visit coordinator: Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamdan (USRA/NASA/MSFC)

Short Bio

Having graduate degrees in Astrophysics (Washington Univ. 2009) and Painting (Yale 2000) and a UC-Berkeley alumna in Applied Mathematics (1992), Dr. Lee through the *Native Skywatchers* project bridges many worlds — learning from elders; relating native star knowledge to western knowledge; inspiring youth in science; engaging audiences through culture, art, and science. Dr. Lee is mixed-race Dakota-Sioux, originally from St. Louis, Missouri.

<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/SpaceScienceSeminars.html>