Indigenous cultures celebrated at Clark

Indigenous peoples flourished throughout this continent with their own vibrant cultures long before the arrival of European settlers.

They handed down their cultural knowledge and rich traditions through the generations, some of which continue to thrive in Native American communities across the nation.

November is National Native American Heritage Month, and to mark the occasion Clark College invites the community to a celebration of indigenous cultures Fri., Dec. 3, with "Educating for the Seventh Generation."

The day-long event begins with an invocation at 11 a.m. and will be followed by a number of additional events, including an appearance by comedian Gilbert Brown at noon, a performance by Native American flutist and flute maker Isaac Trimble at 1 p.m., a reading by Clark College English professor Gerard Smith at 2 p.m., a presentation by storyteller Ed Edmo at 2:30 p.m., and a showing of the film We Are All Connected through the Water at 3 p.m.

A traditional powwow will begin at 6 p.m. followed by closing ceremonies, which take place at 9:30 p.m.

According to event committee members Becky Archibald and Anna Schmasow, the title references "a responsibility to pass on and teach the future seven generations to use all our resources, culture and heritage. It is a way of caring and preserving for those yet unborn, to leave the world a better place when you pass on a true sustainable practice."

This is the second year that Clark College has coordinated and hosted an event in honor of Native American Month. It is one of four signature events hosted by the college annually to celebrate diverse cultures.

The free, public event will be held in the Gaiser Student Center on Clark College's main campus, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are at www.clark.edu/maps.