



Native American Boarding School Symposium

March 26-27, 2026

This symposium provides a space for generative conversations on what we know about Native American boarding schools and what that knowledge means. Join us in exploring the 20th-century history of North American Indian Boarding Schools in this two-day symposium, featuring speakers, workshops, and film.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DR. BRENDA CHILD (OJIBWE)
*Northrop Professor of American Studies at
University of Minnesota*

“Boarding Schools and American
Indian Dispossession”



DR. PRESTON MCBRIDE
*Assistant professor of history at
Pomona College*

“Life and Death in Federal Custody:
The Educational Apparatus for
Native American Peoples and the
Geographies of Removal
and Return”



**DR. JESSICA FREMLAND
(SISSETON WAHPETON
DAKOTA)**
*Research Associate in American studies
at Brown University*

“Epistolary Kinship: Love, Sabotage,
and Refusal in the Wahpeton
Indian School”



REGISTER NOW



**MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY**

Schedule (Native American Boarding School Symposium)

Tuesday, March
24, Library 101
(4:30–6:30 p.m.)

“Sugarcane” (1 hr, 47 minutes)

In 2021, evidence of unmarked graves was discovered on the grounds of an Indian residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada, sparking a national outcry and setting off searches across North America. After years of silence, the forced separation, assimilation and abuse many children experienced at these segregated boarding schools is coming to light.

“Sugarcane” Website
(<https://sugarcanefilm.com/>)

Thursday, March 26,
Great Hall Auditorium

Time	Presentation
10:05–11:25 a.m.	Keynote: Brenda Child, “Boarding Schools and American Indian Dispossession”
11:40 a.m.–1 p.m.	Speaker/Lunch: Nathan Sowry, “Turning the Power: Indian Boarding Schools, Native American Anthropologists, and the Race to Preserve Indigenous Cultures”
1:15–2:35 p.m.	Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Oral History: Lacey Kinnart and Charlee Brissette, “Carrying Their Stories: The National Oral History Project Honoring Indian Boarding School Survivors”
2:50–4 p.m.	Workshop: Farina King, “Learning and Teaching Indigenous Truth-telling of Boarding Schools”
	Keynote: Preston McBride, “Life and Death in Federal Custody: The Educational Apparatus for

4:30–5:50 p.m. Native American Peoples and the Geographies of Removal and Return”

Friday, March 27, Pozycki Auditorium

Time	Presentation
10:05–11:25 a.m.	Keynote: Jessica Fremland, “Epistolary Kinship: Love, Sabotage, and Refusal in the Wahpeton Indian School”
11:40 a.m.–1 p.m.	Speaker/Lunch: David MacDonald, “Canada Confronts its History Wars”
1:15–2:35 p.m.	Elisabeth Davis, “After Carlisle: Voices of Alumni from the Carlisle Indian Industrial School” and Closing Discussion