

PRESS RELEASE

Native American Scientists Endorse the March for Science

Washington, DC. April 18, 2017 – More than 1,200 Native American and Indigenous scientists, scholars and allies world-wide signed a declaration to endorse the March for Science occurring on April 22, 2017. Co-authored by four leading Native American scientists and scholars, the declaration “Let Our Indigenous Voices Be Heard” states, “Let us remember that long before western science came to these shores, there were scientists here.... Western science is a powerful approach, but it is not the only one.”

On Earth Day, April 22, 2017 tens of thousands of supporters of science will gather in Washington DC and at hundreds of satellite marches world-wide for the March for Science. The March for Science advocates for the critical role of science in protecting and improving human societies and urgently calls attention to the threat to science by new public policies in the U.S.

The declaration celebrates Indigenous science as a respected partner for answering scientific questions and supports pluralism in scientific creation. Co-authors Robin Kimmerer, Rosalyn LaPier, Melissa Nelson and Kyle Whyte state, “We imagine the declaration as a powerful statement to illuminate and elevate Indigenous Science in the minds of the public and scientific communities, for the benefit of people and planet.”

Answering why they support Indigenous science and will attend the March for Science in Washington, DC, Dr. Kimmerer commented, “Indigenous science holds a wealth of knowledge and a powerful paradigm by which we understand our place in the living world. It is essential to the problems we face today and yet has been historically marginalized by the scientific community.” Dr. LaPier added, “As scientists and scholars we support western science, but we also seek to empower our Indigenous people and communities and uplift Indigenous science. We want to give them voice and their place at the table – science impacts all peoples.”

Prominent signers of the letter include Indigenous scientist Dr. Karletta Chief (Navajo), Assistant Professor of Soil, Water and Environmental Science at the University of Arizona, and emerging STEM student Danielle Antelope (Eastern Shoshone/Blackfeet), from Blackfeet Community College in Montana and allies Dr. Christof Mauch, Director of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, and Bill McKibben, Founder of 350.org.

Dr. Whyte who will attend the March for Science in Albuquerque, New Mexico, commented, “I cannot emphasize enough how the diverse Indigenous science traditions lead by example in showing everyone the close connections between curiosity and research and the achievement of justice, healthy communities and environmental sustainability.” Dr. Nelson who will be in San Francisco, California, stated, “To successfully address our world’s pressing ecological issues, it is critical that we look to the multiple place-based and time-tested sciences of Indigenous peoples.”

The declaration joins with other Indigenous science organizations who have already endorsed and officially partnered with the March for Science, including, the American Indian Science and

Engineering Society, the National Coalition of Native American Language Schools and Programs and the Society Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science.

The Indigenous science declaration “Let Our Indigenous Voices Be Heard” was written by four leading Native American scientists and scholars, Robin Kimmerer (Potawatomi), Ph.D., Rosalyn LaPier (Blackfeet/Métis), Ph.D., Melissa Nelson (Anishinaabe), Ph.D. and Kyle Whyte (Potawatomi), Ph.D.

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Please find the declaration and list of signers at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Center for Native People and the Environment website:

<http://www.esf.edu/indigenous-science-letter/>

And also at: <https://sites.google.com/view/indigenous-science-letter>

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