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## Team Spirits: Confronting Indian Sports Mascots

Kate Weber  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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**Contact:** Kate Weber, 309/556-3181

## **Team Spirits: Confronting Indian Sports Mascots**

EDITOR'S NOTE: A press conference will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 12 in the reception room of Presser Hall, 303 University Ave.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. --Suzan Shown Harjo, president and executive director of the Morning Star Institute in Washington D.C., will speak on the topic of Native American team mascots at Illinois Wesleyan University on Monday, Nov. 12.

Harjo's presentation, "Team Spirits: Confronting Indian Sports Mascots," will begin at 7 p.m. in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington. The program is free and open to the public.

Harjo's presentation will be followed with a response from Charles Springwood, IWU assistant professor of anthropology. Springwood recently co-wrote a book, "Beyond the Cheers: Race as Spectacle in College Sport," with C. Richard King, and co-edited, also with King, "Team Spirits: The Native American Mascots Controversy."

Prior to serving as president and executive director of The Morning Star Institute, a national, non-profit Indian rights organization for native peoples' cultural and traditional advocacy and arts promotion, Harjo served as executive director of the National Congress of American Indians from 1984 to 1989 and communications director, legislative assistant and coordinator of the National Indian Litigation Committee from 1975-1976. She is also a poet, writer, lecturer, curator and policy analyst whose works have been widely anthologized and published.

Harjo was the lead plaintiff in a federal legal action, in which she and six other prominent Native Americans sought cancellation of the licenses for the name and logos of the Washington Redskins professional football team. The case was filed before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in September 1992 and 1998. This office ruled against the Washington Redskins and the ruling has been appealed.

Representing the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Harjo was pivotal to the enactment of a 1990 law to honor the Indian heroes of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, to drop the name of Custer from the Monument's official designation and to rename it as the Little Bighorn National Battlefield Monument. Also in 1990, Harjo represented the Wounded Knee Survivors Association in the successful effort to achieve an official apology from the U.S. Congress to the descendants of the victims of the 1890 Massacre at Wounded Knee.

Harjo has made two appearances on the Oprah Winfrey Show and has been a guest on Larry King Live, Freedom Speaks, CNN's Talkback Live, CNN and Company, NPR's Talk of the Nation and Native American Calling.