



One Sky Two Views: Bridging Culture and Astronomy

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Through a Baldwin Foundation grant, we have conducted an innovative program to engage students from Native American Communities in Wisconsin in current science by juxtaposing selected Native American sky stories through presentations with themes or concepts that can be presented in terms of current space science knowledge. The presentations have been received very well by the students. Post presentation evaluation has been undertaken with detailed surveys at each school. The survey results show some common findings from different schools and groups. A conference that will bring together Native American elders and some space scientists is planned with an audience of teachers and school students.

While the effort has been rewarding in itself as an outreach effort to the Native American community, the underlying goal has been to engage students in learning science and trigger their curiosity through the cultural sky lore. These may apply to other cultures as well.