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Fort Omaha Powwow to celebrate Native American history in Nebraska

OMAHA, Neb. — The 24th annual Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow will be hosted by Metropolitan Community College Saturday, Sept. 12, from 1 to 7:30 p.m. at MCC's historic Fort Omaha campus on the parade ground, 30th and Fort streets. Celebrating regional Native American cultures, the powwow will feature traditional dances, music, artistry, oral history and foods of various tribes across Nebraska and the region, including, but not limited to, Northern Ponca, Omaha, Santee Sioux and Winnebago.

Attendees can witness history come to life by experiencing Native American traditions at this event. Dancers in colorful regalia will perform throughout the day, beginning at 11:30 a.m. with the Gourd Dance, a tradition that honors military veterans that originated with the Kiowa and features men dancers with gourd rattles.

Grand entry into the powwow will begin at 1 p.m. Additionally, study circles will be featured outside the powwow arena as an opportunity to learn from Native experts. This year's theme, Caretakers of the Earth, recognizes that Native peoples are the original caretakers of Mother Earth. HawkQuest, an organization that seeks to raise awareness about birds of prey by bringing you face to face with the raptors, will be on hand providing information and the opportunity to have photos taken with the majestic birds.

"The powwow offers diverse opportunities to experience and learn about Native American cultures, contemporary issues and the rich history of the Fort Omaha Campus and surrounding regions," said Barbara Velazquez, coordinator of international/intercultural education. "Visitors of all ages are encouraged to join this family-friendly environment on the beautiful Fort Omaha grounds."

The event is free and open to the public. Bring lawn chairs for seating. Food and craft vendors will be available. Coolers are welcome. No alcohol will be permitted. For more information, call 402-457-2253.

The powwow is made possible with the support of the Nebraska Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts. The event is funded in part by the Douglas County Visitors Improvement Fund.

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 unique credit and noncredit students.