My whole life I have secretly wanted a Native American name. I have always wondered what name I would have earned in my youth and how it would have shaped me as I aged. I believe there is sacred power in the practice of naming things.

It seems, if we had the opportunity to earn a name based on actions, behaviors, strengths or weaknesses; we would all work our hardest to earn something outstanding.

Consider knowing that you will earn your name and imagine how that name would direct your life. Seriously, who wants to be endowed with “Sits on Couch” or “He with no Skills.”

But it isn’t just the name you earn that is important, it is also from whom you earn that name that is so critical. Native American names are bestowed by elders. This provides a sense of identity among the family with whom you belong. You are connected, you are recognized, and your personality is rooted in the reflection of a collective wisdom.

According to some Native American naming traditions, names should change throughout life. What the child earns should change during adolescence and then again in later stages of life. I can’t help but think that maybe we would try a little harder knowing the eagle eye of our tribe is paying attention to our actions so that at every milestone our name would reflect our best self.

So I ask, what name have you earned? If it is not a name you would be proud of at this very moment, consider the changes you need to make in your life to earn the name you most wish to have.

As for myself, my mother recently bestowed a name upon me that I will gladly claim. On my birthday she gave me a bookmark and written upon it was, “She Who Never Gives Up.” Believe me, that is truly a name I’ve earned.
MATIKA WILBUR TED TALKS: CHANGING THE WAY WE SEE NATIVE AMERICANS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlzYzz3rEZU
http://www.matikawilbur.com/blog

Surviving disappearance, re-imagining, and humanizing Native Peoples, carrying the message of the silenced, and how the photographic image inspires; these are just a few of the topics Wilbur addresses in her Ted Talks.

She discusses how images, especially from pop culture and media, can manifest in one’s psyche and how harmful that can be.

With the power of new images Wilbur is working towards counteracting the old stereotypes. By portraying modern successful people she is allowing for a new collective consciousness of what Native American peoples really look like and who they really are.

Wilbur will be on campus the second week of September.

FUNDING SPONSORS FOR PROJECT 562….THANK YOU!

The Circle of Tribal Nations is a Ferris State University student organization dedicated to expanding public awareness and preservation of tribal cultures (past and present). The RSO serves tribal alumni, present students, faculty and staff.

The Circle is open to everyone. As stated on their website: “All humans are tribal at some level, so even if you have no current connections to a specific tribal community, you are welcome to join The Circle and feel the strength of the intact hoop of life.”

The Circle of Tribal Nations hosts annual events such as cultural workshops, native craftmaking, participation in regional pow wows, and the annual FSU Festival of Cultures.

“Project 562” is part of a month long festival beginning November 1st in honor of Native American Heritage Month. The celebration features events designed to develop an understanding of Native American culture in Michigan.

Tribal peoples are changing the global dialog on how people engage with the earth and its natural resources, come be a part of this dynamic shift in world views and social change.

You can find more information by visiting their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Circle-of-Tribal-Nations/201247643274939.
“A Distant Thunder I”, and “A Distant Thunder II” are portfolios containing numerous prints by seven Native American artists. The portfolios were donated in 2000 as part of a sizeable art gift titled “The Canadian Collection”.

The artists within the ADT portfolios include: Kenny & Rebecca Baird, Carl Beam, Michael Cywink, Richard Bedwash, Brian Marion and Ron Noganosh.

Pictured left is a work titled “Measured Along the Ground #4”, a collaborative work of the siblings Kenny and Rebecca Baird.

The work reflects concerns about identity, specifically relating to mixed blood and addressing inaccuracies of First Peoples’ history. Both Bairds, of Cree and Canadian decent, have become interested in addressing the idea of land ownership and claims on natural territory. The work references their own personal and immediate history regarding former places of residence over three generations and the sweeping brutality of colonial land division.

To see more of their work and the entire ADT I & II portfolios, visit www.ferris.edu/galleries.

All works are for sale; a selection will be in the gallery during the “Project 562” exhibit.

The Ziibiwing Center in Mt. Pleasant Michigan provides an enriched, diversified and culturally relevant educational experience about the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and other Great Lakes Anishinabek.

At the Ziibiwing Center you can experience permanent and interactive exhibits about the history of the Anishinabe.

The center also offers changing exhibits showcasing artifacts and art while a photographic retrospective offers a history of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

During the summer, the Ziibiwing Center grounds have many plants that are traditional to the Anishinabe people which are still used today.

Along with the exhibits, the Ziibiwing Center promotes the culture and history of the Anishinabe Language. Special events, workshops and language learning opportunities are regularly offered.

You can find a full calendar of upcoming events on their website at http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing/
Sept 1—26  Project 562  FSU Fine Art Gallery
Sept 4  Music in Pocket Park  Pocket Park Downtown Big Rapids  12-2PM
Sept 7  Labor Day Arts & Crafts Show  Hemlock Park Big Rapids  10-4PM
Sept 9  Matika Wilbur Artist Talk  University Center Room 202A  5:30-7PM
Sept 10  Matika Wilbur Artist Talk  University Center Room 202C  11-12PM
Sept 11  Music in Pocket Park  Pocket Park Downtown Big Rapids  12-2PM
Sept 12  Wheatland Music Jamboree  Wheatland  2-5PM
Sept 22  Hispanic V. Latino? Heritage Talk  University Center Room 203  11-12PM
Sept 29  MINDS Aflame  Williams Auditorium  5:30-8:30PM

Web links
www.ferris.edu/gallery
www.ferris.edu/card
www.ferris.edu/jimcrow
www.ferris.edu/arts
www.calendar.ferris.edu
www.artworksinbr.com
www.wheatland.org
www.brfota.org