



2026 NORTH DAKOTA INDIAN EDUCATION SUMMIT

Tuesday, July 28, 2026 - Keynote Address Overview

Session Topic: ***Fireside Chat with Martin Sensmeier***

Presenter: **Martin Sensmeier, Actor/Producer/Advocate**

Room: Brynhild Haugland

Time: Thursday, 9:00am

Session Description: In this conversation, Assistant Director Sashay Schettler will guide Sensmeier through a reflection on his formative years as a JOM and Title VI student. Together, they will explore how his identity, community, and early educational experiences shaped the values he carries into his work today.

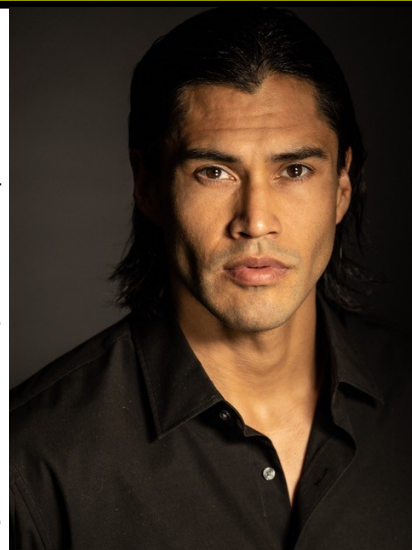
This session will uplift stories of the mentors, elders, educators, and loved ones who nurtured his confidence, affirmed his cultural grounding, and opened doors of possibility. Participants will gain insight into how these relationships influenced Sensmeier's journey from a small Alaska Native community to a successful career in film, advocacy, and Indigenous representation.

Attendees will leave with a renewed sense of purpose and practical inspiration for strengthening the supports, programs, and human connections that help our students thrive!

Presenter Bio: Martin Sensmeier is an Actor and Producer from Yakutat, Alaska and from the Alaskan Native Tribes, Tlingit and Koyukon-Athabascan.

He is known for his portrayal of the character "Red Harvest" in the "Magnificent Seven" with Denzel Washington and Chris Pratt, HBO's Westworld, and Yellowstone. His lead roles include Netflix's "The Liberator" and "The Last Manhunt" produced by Jason Momoa. Look for Martin soon alongside Pratt in Terminal List streaming on Prime. Next season he will be a regular cast member on the very popular Dark Winds (AMC). He also plays the lead role in the upcoming sequel to the hit movie Wind River called "Wind River Rising" alongside Jason Clark and Scott Eastwood.

Martin is a National spokesperson and Ambassador for the Native Services of the Boys & Girls clubs of America makes time to regularly speak to young people about a variety of issues including mental and physical health and wellness.



Wednesday, July 29, 2026 - Keynote Address Overview



Session Topic: ***Educating American Indian Students: Communicating, Caring, Connecting***

Presenter: **Nadine Groenig, Sun Clan Consulting, LLC**

Room: Brynhild Haugland

Time: Wednesday, 9:00am

Session Description: Ms. Groenig will share her professional experiences working to increase Native student retention which include creating a positive school environment; implementing culturally responsive curriculum, instruction, and assessment; providing social-emotional supports; and parent involvement. She will also share personal stories from her own education during which she experienced communication, caring, and connecting from teachers who were very impactful in her young life.

Presenter Bio: Nadine Groenig is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna in New Mexico and former Director of Indian Education at the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University in 2001 with a degree in English. She began working in the Operations Unit at ADE in February 2002 and became a Title I Specialist in 2006 working with forty school districts on or bordering Indian reservations. In 2015, she became Director of Indian Education. After more than 23 years in K-12 education and 11 years in the non-profit business sector, Nadine started SunClan Consulting in 2020. An expert in federal funding benefitting Indigenous students, their parents, and their educators, she has developed an outstanding team of professionals to lead new concepts and develop programs in Indigenous Education.