"Within the Ojibwe language, nanda-gikendan means 'seek to know something'. As an Indian Country researcher, I constantly seek ways to bring Indigenous knowledges and perspectives into my academic work, despite the ongoing challenges to remain within the framework of Eurocentric, western science. In this talk, I will discuss the importance of community-centered learning, and why Indigenous epistemological work is the future we need in colleges and universities."

Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

"In 1990, President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution which designated November 1990 as 'National American Indiana Heritage Month'. Similar proclamations with varying language have occurred since 1994. While heritage months often feel performative to members of those groups, heritage months are an important educational tool. Native American Heritage Month offers us an opportunity to recognize the ingenuity and creativity of Native American tribes, both historically and contemporarily. Native American Heritage Month provides us with the chance to reflect on how today’s colleges and universities benefited greatly from stolen land, and how we might right those particular wrongs. Native American Heritage Month also allows us to think about the current sociocultural and political place Native folks inhabit and how a heritage month does not make up for the fact that the government continues to deny the tribal sovereignty and rights of the over 530 federally recognized tribes. Lastly, Native American Heritage Month is a time of appreciation for Native knowledges, perspectives, and ways of being."

-Dr. Stephanie Masta