

**National Indigenous Justice Information Inclusion****Cultural Preservation:  
Weaving Heritage into the Future**

DR. WENDELIN HUME  
AND MS. MAI PHAM

We are happy to share that the joint proposal for the YSEALI Professional Fellows Program Reciprocal Exchange project by Mai Pham and Professor Wendelin Hume, the University of North Dakota was selected for funding by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and

Cultural Affairs (ECA), in partnership with American Councils for International Education. Our project, "Cultural Preservation: Weaving Heritage into the Future", was initiated to promote and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Vietnam's ethnic minority communities, particularly Rengao culture in the Highlands. This project is carried out in collaboration with Dr. Wendelin Hume from the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of North Dakota (USA). Professor Hume brings a deep commitment to community engagement and a strong passion for supporting Indigenous communities, including cultural preservation and advocacy.

The project has launched, and we're currently working on finalizing the last steps and logistics. We offer a Huge thank you to the YSEALI and American Councils for making this possible. An online cultural sharing workshop was successfully conducted on May 18, 2025. The event aimed to foster cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect  
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DR. WENDELIN HUME

Boozhoo, hello and welcome to National Indigenous Justice Information Inclusion (NIJII)! We are happy to announce our forth edition of the newsletter and to share our website (NIJII.org). I am Dr. Wendelin Hume the Director of NIJII and the PI of many of the projects you will see on our website. NIJII is based off the Anishinabe word *nijii*, meaning friend. We wish to be a friend and use our backgrounds and knowledge, our education and training, as well as our positions in the field and/or in academia to assist Indigenous people of the United States in identifying and improving the responses to their self-identified needs. On our website you will find non-partisan information, research, services, and trainings for Indigenous individuals themselves, as well as their family members, friends, and neighbors. The resources provided will also help improve the culturally appropriate responses of professionals, care-givers, and other providers. The information is provided free of charge. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION

[HTTPS://WWW.NIJII.ORG/](https://www.nijii.org/)

## National Indigenous Justice Information Inclusion

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through an interactive exchange between the Rengao community in Vietnam and Native American culture in the United States. The workshop brought together the project team and approximately 30 local participants, including students, children, and elderly community members. While the local participants gathered at a church in Kon Tum province, Dr. Wendelin Hume, a representative from the United States, joined the workshop virtually. The first part of the workshop featured presentations by local community members (young and old), who shared vibrant aspects of Rengao culture, including traditional clothing, customs, music, and oral traditions. This was followed by a session led by Ms. Hume, who introduced Native American cultural practices and shared valuable insights and lessons learned in preserving indigenous culture. The workshop created a meaningful platform for intercultural dialogue, encouraging both appreciation and reflection on the importance of cultural identity, preservation, and intergenerational learning. It also highlighted the potential for global solidarity among Indigenous communities facing similar challenges in maintaining their cultural heritage.

### Native American culture in the United States

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#### EVENT POSTER



#### THE PRESENTATION



#### EVENT PHOTOS



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