

Moderator: Dr. Jerry Roberson is currently Professor of Food Animal Medicine and Surgery at Lincoln Memorial University, College of Veterinary Medicine. During his service as Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee, he coordinated the “Let’s talk about it” session on what’s offensive to a Native American, started the first Native American organization on the UT campus, and established the first National American Indian Science and Engineering Society college chapter at UT. In 2018, Roberson received the Sequoyah Fellow award. He presently serves on the LMU and CVM Diversity Committees.

Heather Hall (she/her/hers) is a biracial Indigenous woman from Corydon, Indiana. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management with collateral in Economics, and a minor in Leadership Studies from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 2018. She is currently in her second year pursuing a Master of Science degree in College Student Personnel. She is a Graduate Research Assistant in the Office of Multicultural Student Life where she works with the Native American Student Association, the Asian American Association, and the Latin American Student Organization, and creates educational graphic posts. Heather is a raging feminist, dedicated to helping individuals fight oppression, challenging the status quo that has become routine and acceptable, with the radical ideology that every individual deserves an equitable and opportune chance.

Joseph Owle, a lifelong Cherokee resident, has served as the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for over three years. He graduated from Cherokee Central Schools in 2006, received a BS in Environmental and Soil Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 2011, and received an MCS with a focus in Sustainable Agriculture and Agroecology from North Carolina State University in 2013. Beginning in 2013 he also volunteered for two years as a Mentor/Chaperone for the Cherokee Youth Council, a youth leadership initiative. Additionally, Owle participated in the annual Remember the Removal Bike Ride, a joint event between the EBCI and Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, in which cyclists retraced the northern route of the Trail of Tears from Georgia to Oklahoma over roughly 950 miles. Upon returning home, he was a Project Coordinator for two grants focusing on traditional foods and Farm-to-School. In the fall of 2016, he was hired as the EBCI Cooperative Extension Agent for a short period of time before being asked to serve as the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources for Chief Richard Sneed.

In professional capacities, he has presented at local and national conferences, assisted with grant writing, created leadership development opportunities for his staff, represented his tribe on the state and federal level, and continues to participate in his community’s events. He recently vacated a seat after two years with the NC DEQ Environmental Justice and Equity Board under Secretary Michael Regan.

Robin Reed is from Cherokee, North Carolina, and is a first-descendant member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. She is a junior at Lincoln Memorial University and is working toward a BS in Chemistry with a minor in Psychology. Reed is involved in many clubs, one being the Student Diversity Leadership Council (SDLC). With LMU not having a large Native American population, SDLC has really helped her advocate for diversity and engagement. She is excited about this virtual Lunch and Learn and hopes she can encourage more people to advocate for diversity.

Dr. Natalie Welch is a Sports Management professor and the Faculty Athletics Representative at Linfield University. She grew up on Qualla Boundary in Cherokee, North Carolina, and is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. She received her undergraduate and doctoral degrees at the University of Tennessee in Sport Management. Her research focuses on the positives of sport in Native communities and how Native communities can use sports as a path to success. Professor Welch has

worked with the TIDES Institute on Racial and Gender Report Cards, Disney/ESPN Wide World of Sports, Nike's N7, and Wieden+Kennedy. She also works as a producer, consultant, and host of the "Creative Native" podcast.