

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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### **LARRY ZIMMERMAN WINS INAUGURAL PETER UCKO MEMORIAL AWARD**

The World Archaeological Congress is pleased to announce that Larry J. Zimmerman has been awarded the inaugural Peter Ucko Memorial Award in recognition of his significant contributions to world archaeology. Zimmerman was nominated by four colleagues, Joe Watkins, Sonya Atalay, Mike Wilcox and Dorothy Lippert, all of whom are Native American archaeologists. Lippert serves as the Indigenous Representative to the WAC Executive and read the announcement of the Award at the 6th World Archaeological Congress held June 29-July 4 in Dublin, Ireland.

"Larry Zimmerman's work in archaeology paved the way for a generation of Native Americans to believe that we could join this profession without having to sacrifice our deeply held moral beliefs about our rights and responsibilities as Indigenous peoples" said Lippert.

The nomination letter noted that most, if not all, Native American archaeologists have a story to tell about how a publication of Zimmerman's changed their thinking about American archaeology.

The nomination quoted an unnamed scholar, "As a Native undergrad who did not see archaeologists reaching out to the Native population, the actions and writings of Larry inspired me to think that I could participate in the discipline and have my voice heard."

The World Archaeological Congress congratulates Dr. Zimmerman for this achievement and hopes that his work continues to inspire new generations of scholars.

"While we will always miss the inspiration of Peter Ucko, we are pleased that his name will be associated with the best of world archaeology," said Claire Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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#### **SUBJECT BACKGROUND:**

Peter Ucko, who passed away in 2007, was the driving force behind the establishment of the World Archaeological Congress. The Peter Ucko Memorial Award was

established to recognize scholars at any stage in their career who have made significant contributions to world archaeology.

**WAC BACKGROUND:**

The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization and is the only elected international body of practising archaeologists. WAC holds an international congress every four years to promote the exchange of the results of archaeological research; professional training and public education for disadvantaged nations, groups and communities; the empowerment and betterment of Indigenous groups and First Nations peoples; and the conservation of archaeological sites.

The Sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) was held from 29<sup>th</sup> June—4<sup>th</sup> July at the University College Dublin. This was the first World Archaeological Congress to be held in Ireland. It was attended by over 1,800 archaeologists, native peoples and international scholars from 74 nations. Motions from the Plenary session of the Congress were considered by subsequent meetings of the World Archaeological Congress Council and Executive.

The Congress Patron for WAC-6 was President Mary McAleese. Previous Congress Patrons include Harriet Mayor Fulbright, Prince Charles and Nelson Mandela.