“Red Hope: Weaving Waponahki Policy Toward Decolonization”

presented by Rebecca Sockbeson, University of Alberta Ph.D. Candidate

Thursday, October 1, noon
St. Francis Room, Ketchum Library, Biddeford Campus, UNE
Free and open to the public. Light lunch provided.

The Maine Women Writers Collection proudly announces the inaugural Donna M. Loring Lecture at the University of New England. Donna Loring is a tribal member of the Penobscot Indian Nation and held the position of the Nation’s Representative to the Maine State Legislature for twelve years, ending on October 1st, 2008.

In 2009 Loring deposited her personal, professional, and literary papers to UNE’s Maine Women Writers Collection. This is the first collection given by a Native American woman to the University. The gift signals a new direction in the acquisition of papers of women authors from significant yet underrepresented groups. A primary purpose of the gift is to make the papers available for research and promote scholarship on Native issues.

Sockbeson is a member of the Penobscot Indian Nation and the eighth child of the Elizabeth Sockbeson clan. She earned her Ed.M from Harvard University. Loring and Sockbeson are the aunts of 27 Waponahki youth. The talk will address the weaving of ash baskets, work which is intrinsic to Waponahki cultural survival and requires a sophistication of the mind similar to Waponahki policy development in Maine. Both engage with an ancient intellectual tradition that warrants preservation, revitalization and space within the academy.

In addition, Sockbeson and Loring will participate in a colloquium on Maine Native American Curriculum & the Maine Learning Initiative, co-sponsored by the UNE Education Department & Office of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Programs.

Thursday, October 1, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
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