



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY  
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, INC.



WWW.SCAAS.ORG

December 21, 2018

*Land and Sky in the Cultural Sciences of the Greater Southwest*

Dear Native Traditional Expert,

My name is Bryan Bates, an Anglo science teacher who has taught middle and high school for 10 years on the Navajo Reservation, at Coconino Community College 24 years with numerous native students particularly in my cultural astronomy class, and three years with the NAU Southwest Native Lands Institute – Applied Indigenous Studies program (AIS). My interest in traditional knowledge began at Rough Rock Demonstration School on the Navajo Nation. I assigned students to learn about their cultural sky knowledge through talking with their elders instead of learning about dead European astronomers. When their reports were due, the students all said “No,” responding that this was their knowledge and not for “bilaganaas.” So instead, they turned their papers into the Navajo Principal.

I ask that you consider applying to participate in an April 24-27, 2019 conference on native science co-hosted by numerous different Native American educators at Northern Arizona University (NAU) and elsewhere. I agreed to facilitate the conference because I am retired, and supposedly have more free time. The conference will be held at the Native American Cultural Center at NAU. The conference details and application form are attached and available online at <http://www.scaas.org/2019-Conference>. I respectfully ask you to read these documents so that you understand the purpose and extent of this program. You have been acknowledged as a native “expert” who has the experience we are looking for in this conference. The application form is due on January 28, 2019.

I greatly appreciate your time and energy, and look forward to working with you.

Bryan Bates  
SCAAS Board President

[President@scaas.org](mailto:President@scaas.org) (email for applications, due by Jan 28, 2019)