

Oklahoma's Centennial Poet Laureate Scheduled in Late September at SWOSU

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Oklahoma's Centennial Poet Laureate N. Scott Momaday is scheduled to appear on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus on Tuesday, September 30.

Momaday will share his poetry with the community at 1 p.m. in the SWOSU Memorial Student Ballroom. Everyone is invited, and admission is free.

The event is sponsored by the SWOSU Department of Language and Literature and the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribal College. Dr. Jill Jones, chair of the Department of Language and Literature, said she is very excited about Momaday coming to SWOSU and wants area residents to attend.

N. Scott Momaday is a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma (USA) and a poet, novelist, playwright, artist and storyteller. He holds an earned doctorate from Stanford University, the American Pulitzer Prize (for his first novel, *House Made of Dawn*), and the Italian Premio Letterario "Mondello", among many other prizes and honors. He was named an Artist for Peace by UNESCO in 2003.

He is the founder and chairman of The Buffalo Trust, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to supporting indigenous communities' efforts to preserve and perpetuate their cultural identity. His position as Oklahoma's Centennial Poet Laureate has enabled him to travel and meet with people throughout the state.

Momaday writes in several genres, but his greatest love is poetry. He once said, ". . . poets are the people who really are the most insightful among us. They stand in the best position to enlighten us, and encourage, and inspire us. What better thing could you be than a poet?"

"Western Oklahoma is fortunate to have this opportunity to hear a native son share his works," Jones said.

For more information, contact Jones at 580.774.3734.