

# THE SIMON ORTIZ AND LABRIOLA CENTER LECTURE ON INDIGENOUS LAND, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY

## Native Science and Western Science: Possibilities for a Powerful Collaboration

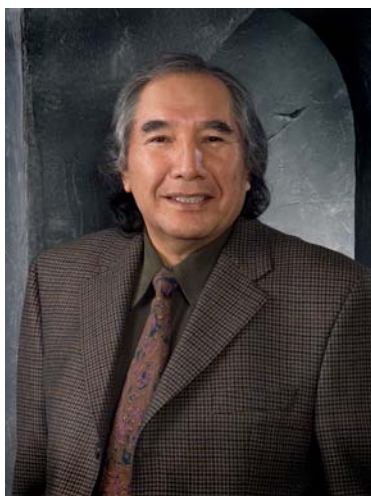
LEROY LITTLE BEAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011 7:00 P.M.

Heard Museum, Steele Auditorium (2301 N Central Ave) | [www.heard.org](http://www.heard.org) | Phoenix, Arizona

Photo/courtesy ASU School of Earth and Space Exploration. This Hubble telescope image captures the chaotic activity atop a three-light-year-tall pillar of gas and dust that is being eaten away by the brilliant light from nearby bright stars. The pillar is also being assaulted from within, as infant stars buried inside it fire off jets of gas that can be seen streaming from towering peaks. Credit: NASA, ESA, and M. Livio and the Hubble 20th Anniversary Team (STScI).

*Free of charge and open to the public.*



Photo/courtesy Leroy Little Bear

**Leroy Little Bear** is a member of the Blood Tribe of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Canada). Head of the SEED Graduate Institute, which seeks to integrate existing fields of learning, including science and cosmology as well as other disciplines, with Indigenous worldviews, he is former Director of the American Indian Program at Harvard University and Professor Emeritus of Native Studies at the University of Lethbridge where he was department chair for 25 years. Little Bear has served as a legal and constitutional advisor to the Assembly of First Nations and has served on many committees, commissions, and boards dealing

with First Nations issues. In 2003, Little Bear was awarded the prestigious National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Education, the highest honor bestowed by Canada's First Nations community. In 2006, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Lethbridge. He has written several articles and co-edited three books including *Pathways to Self-Determination: Canadian Indians and the Canadian State* (1984), *Quest for Justice: Aboriginal Peoples and Aboriginal Rights* (1985), and *Governments in Conflict and Indian Nations in Canada* (1988). He is also contributor to *Reclaiming Indigenous Voice and Vision* (UBC Press, 2000).

“FOR ALBERT EINSTEIN, the business of science is ‘reality’. The reality brought about by modern science is largely based on Western paradigms. Western paradigmatic views of science are largely about measurement using Western mathematics. But nature is not mathematical. Mathematics is superimposed on nature like a grid, then examined from that framework. It is like the land survey system: a grid framework of townships, sections, and acres superimposed on the land. These units are not part of the nature of the land. If science is a search for reality; if science is a search for knowledge at the leading edges of the humanly knowable, then there are ‘sciences’ other than the Western science of measurement. One of these other ‘sciences’ is Native American science. —LEROY LITTLE BEAR

*The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community at Arizona State University brings notable scholars and speakers to Arizona for public lectures twice per year. These speakers address topics and issues across disciplines in the arts, humanities, sciences, and politics. Underscoring Indigenous American experiences and perspectives, this series seeks to create and celebrate knowledge that evolves from an Indigenous worldview that is inclusive and that is applicable to all walks of life.*

**ASU** COLLEGE of  
LIBERAL ARTS  
& SCIENCES  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Sponsored by Arizona State University's American Indian Policy Institute; American Indian Studies Program; Department of English; Indian Legal Program in the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law; Labriola National American Indian Data Center; Faculty of History in the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies; and Women and Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation; with tremendous support from the Heard Museum.