

Michelle D. Schenandoah

Oneida Nation

JD, LL.M., & MS

An inspirational speaker, writer and thought leader, Michelle Schenandoah is a traditional member of the Oneida Nation Wolf Clan of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. She is the founder of Rematriation Magazine, a new Indigenous women's online media platform. She is focused on leadership development and the reclaiming of Indigenous women's traditional roles among their nations. She and her husband, Neal Powless, also operate Indigenous Concepts Consulting with the goal of incorporating Indigenous perspectives into the mainstream, and in existing business and media paradigms.

She served as a senior strategist for Blue Stone Strategy Group, providing economic and governance consulting for Indigenous nations across the country. She has an extensive background in law, business development, and consulting. Her clients included multiple Fortune 500 Companies and boutique consulting firms. Michelle also worked in capacity building, strategic development and fundraising in the non-profit sector. She has worked for the American Indian College Fund and the United Nations NGO, Children of the Earth.

Michelle served as President of the Board of Directors for the non-profit, Seven Dancers Coalition. Sanctioned by the Department of Justice and the Office on Violence Against Women, the coalition focuses on ending domestic violence and sexual assault against Indigenous women. She is a former Board member for the Native American Music Awards, the NAMMYS, which established the Native Music category in the GRAMMYS during her term. She was also advisor to the Native American Technology Journey that was established by IBM and Clear Communications Group to award technology grants to Indigenous communities.

Michelle holds a JD and LL.M. in Taxation from New York Law School, a MS from the S.I. Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University, and a BA from Cornell University. She lives in her people's homelands with her husband and their four beautiful children.

Neal J. Powles

Hawhenawdies, Neal J. Powless, MS, NCC, and PhD Fellow at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, is a traditional member of the Onondaga Nation and Eel Clan. He currently serves all Faculty, Staff and Graduate students at Syracuse University as the University Ombuds, providing confidential, informal, independent and neutral crisis management and crisis resolution.

As a Co-Producer for the Major Motion Picture "*Crooked Arrows*", Mr. Powless was responsible for Native story line development, cultural sensitivity and procuring financial investments. He co-produced the NY Emmy Nominated "*Game of Life; Heart and Soul of the Onondaga*" a short documentary about the cultural origins of the game of lacrosse, as well as collaborated with ESPN on multiple film projects.

Mr. Powless has taught courses and presented across the country for nearly 20 years about Indigenous culture and value systems. He is the Co-Founder/Co-Owner of Indigenous Concepts Consulting, a firm that he currently runs with his wife, Michelle, to bridge Native American ideals and culture with organizations and individuals all over the world. They are currently working on projects for a multi-dimensional media platform, curriculum development, an Indigenous health & wellness initiative and script development of another Major Motion picture with a major Studio label.

He is a producer and participant on the film: *An Indigenous Response to #MeToo* which is free on Vimeo. He has been screening the film and conducting community dialogues around sexual assault at college campuses and communities who have restorative justice programs. Also, in 2018, one of his PhD papers was published in the book *Nasty Women and Bad Hombres: Gender and Race in the 2016 Presidential Election*.

Since 2014, Mr. Powless has been the Head Coach for the Netherlands National Lacrosse team that competed in Denver in 2014-2016, and now the Netherlands National Indoor lacrosse team since 2017 and are currently ranked 8th in the world. He was a 3-time All-American lacrosse player which led to his 7-year professional lacrosse career. He played for the Iroquois Nationals in 6 World Lacrosse Championships and made the tournament's All-World Team in 2002. Mr. Powless has won a total of 5 Professional and National Championships in his career and was inducted into the Nazareth College Sports Hall of Fame in 2009 and the US Lacrosse, CNY Chapter Hall of Fame in 2017.

He formerly served Syracuse University's Office of Multicultural Affairs and Career Services. Mr. Powless has a Masters in Counseling from Syracuse University and a BS in Psychology from Nazareth College. His current PhD research is about Indigenous imagery in contemporary Major Motion Pictures. He resides in Upstate New York with his wife, Michelle Schenandoah-Powless and their 4 children.