Biography: Marcus Briggs-Cloud (Maskoke) is a language revitalization practitioner, musician and scholar. A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, he is currently a doctoral candidate in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Florida, and is the director of Ekvn-Yefolecv Indigenous Maskoke Ecovillage centered in Weogufka, Alabama. Marcus is founder and director of the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School’s Creek language immersion program at the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Brighton Reservation. His album Pum Vculvke Vrekkuecetv (To Honor Our Elders) was nominated for two Native American Music Awards, and in 2012 he served as the composer and choir director for the Vatican canonization liturgy with Pope Benedict XVI for Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Marcus is partnered to Tawna Little, a Kvlice Maskoke person from the Skunk Clan and they have two children Nokos-Afvnoke and Hemokke, with whom Marcus enjoys speaking exclusively in the Maskoke language.

Reflect.

- Do you know the indigenous history of the land your hometown was built on?

- How can you advocate for the rights of Native American communities here at UF?

Indigenous Peoples, Culture & Sustainability

Student Conversations with Marcus Briggs-Cloud - Nov. 17, 2020

Discussing the Ekvn-Yefolecv Indigenous Maskoke Ecovillage and perspective on the connection of sustainability, spirituality, and culture

Contact.

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Intersectional environmentalism can be described as an inclusive version of environmentalism that "...advocates for both the protection of people and the planet." Nikki Cooley (above), Diné educator and co-manager of the Tribes and Climate Change Program, is a Navajo woman paving the way for other indigenous community members in the town of Flagstaff, Arizona. To learn more about her work for the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, visit: http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Home/

To Build an Ecovillage.

As Marcus Briggs-Cloud describes his journey in developing the Ekvn-Yefolecv Indigenous Maskoke Ecovillage, we encourage you to outline the foundational principles of the development process (working from the bottom upward) using the tree below. Annotations can be made as words or sketches illustrating the elements unique to that environment.

Inclusivity.

Becoming an ally to the Native American community can begin with supporting organizations and initiatives here on campus. To get involved, connect with the following organizations and programs:

- Indigenous American Student Association: @iasauf
- African and Native American UF History Task Force
- UF Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Office: @ufmcda
- American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (CLAS): https://aiis.clas.ufl.edu/

Allyship.

In supporting and advocating for indigenous populations here at UF, it is important to retrace past legacies of our university. This is the goal of Decolonizing Representations UF, an organization that aims to use technology to create more accurate narratives of the histories here at the University of Florida.