Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professorship in Liberal Arts

Kimberly Christen

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KIMBERLY CHRISTEN
Director and Professor
Digital Technology and Culture Program

An interdisciplinary scholar focused on ethical uses of technology and cultural heritage, Kim Christen has led projects bringing federal repositories, such as the Library of Congress and Smithsonian Institution, together with Indigenous, First Nations, and Native American nations to produce dynamic solutions for stewarding, displaying, and sharing cultural heritage.

She created the Mukurtu CMS software, now used globally, and funded by both private and federal organizations, including the Andrew R. Mellon Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, and National Science Foundation. Supported by awards totaling more than $5 million, the Mukurtu project spans several countries, university partners, and Indigenous communities. Collaborating across colleges and with Native American educators, Christen also led a multidisciplinary team who created an educational platform and mobile app to integrate traditional knowledge, language, and land-based learning with Western STEM curriculum. These projects promote preservation of invaluable cultural heritage and revival of endangered languages through digital repatriation, shared stewardship, and collaborative curation.

Under Christen's leadership, the Digital Technology and Culture program has forged new partnerships across campus, created new degree options, and expanded the faculty preparing students to use computational methods and design principles to solve community and industry problems. She emphasizes community engagement in her teaching: in 2020, for example, her students worked with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to create videos, design logos, and produce digital content for five tribal businesses. Christen also directs WSU's Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation which advances WSU's land-grant mission by promoting social justice in and through digital scholarship, research, and outreach.

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