



For Immediate Release

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Organization: Everhart Museum

Contact: Brent Guzik

Email: communications@everhart-museum.org

Phone: 570-346-7186

Photos attached to email

***Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories*
Opens June 19, 2021 at the Everhart Museum**

Scranton – The Everhart Museum is pleased to present *Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories*, an exhibition exploring off-reservation boarding schools through a kaleidoscope of voices. From the 1860s to the 1930s, the US government attempted to educate and assimilate American Indians across the country into what it considered “civilized” society by placing children of all ages and tribes in distant, residential boarding schools, separating them from their families and culture.

Visitors to the exhibition will explore compelling photographs, artwork, interviews, interactive timelines, and immersive environments, including classroom and dormitory settings. The objects in the exhibition such as a young Seminole girl’s skirt as well as reproduction elements poignantly illuminate first-person accounts. Stories of tragedy and familial love and friendships intersect. Experiences of gaining things useful and beautiful out of education, despite a formidable fifty-year agenda that mostly maligned Native American capabilities, call us closer; each trial, each turning of power seeded in human survival strengthens Indigenous identity.

Everhart Museum Curator Francesca Saldan says:

Native American history is an important part of American history. And yet there are many historical moments and events that most Americans today know very little about — the history of Indian Boarding Schools being one. The first boarding school to ever open was located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, so this is a story that hits very close to home. The exhibition explores the impact that these schools had on Native communities, from loss of cultural identity to loss of life. Today, some of the original boarding school buildings still exist, but now function as tribal universities where Native American

students are able to proudly express their Indigenous culture. At its core, *Away from Home* tells an incredible story about survival and resilience.

This exhibition is made possible by NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It was adapted from the permanent exhibition *Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories*, organized by the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ in partnership with the Mid-America Arts Alliance in Kansas City, MO.

About the Everhart Museum:

The Everhart Museum is located at 1901 Mulberry Street, Scranton, PA. It has temporary hours of 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 12:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, and free for children 12 and under. Admission is free for Everhart Museum members. For more information and updates on expanded hours, please visit <https://everhart-museum.org/>, contact the Museum at 570-346-7186, or email general.information@everhartmuseum.org.

Founded in 1908, the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art is the largest general museum in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Everhart Museum, located in Nay Aug Park in Scranton, is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to the collection, care, and display of a diverse array of artifacts, including natural history, science, and fine arts. Through our exhibitions and programs, the Everhart Museum has become an invaluable regional resource for educational and cultural opportunities. General support for the Museum is received from the Lackawanna County Office of Education & Culture, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the City of Scranton.



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