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Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, CMU Archaeologists earn state recognition *2016 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation Announced*

LANSING, MICH. – The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and Central Michigan University archaeologists partnered to conduct field schools at the site of the abandoned Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School. This collaboration between the two groups and the City of Mount Pleasant to honor and research the history of the site has garnered statewide recognition.

Gov. Rick Snyder and Michigan State Housing Development Authority Executive Director Kevin Elsenheimer today announced six recipients of the 2016 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation.

"Each year we recognize the contributions of people who devote time, energy and money into preserving Michigan's historic structures and archaeological sites," Snyder said. "These sites are irreplaceable and are important to maintaining a sense of place and our authentic Michigan identity."

The Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School operated from 1893 to 1933 and was part of the federal government's efforts to assimilate Native Americans following the Civil War. During that time, 300 native children per year were taken from their homes and reeducated to conform to non-native culture.

In 2011, the State of Michigan conveyed separate portions of the boarding school to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and the City of Mount Pleasant.

The field school established in partnership with the Saginaw Chippewa and CMU archaeologists resulted in new information about the school and its resident students. In addition, the Saginaw Chippewa undertook outreach initiatives to foster knowledge about the federal Indian boarding school program.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at MSHDA initiated the Governor's Awards in 2003 to recognize outstanding historic preservation achievements that reflect a commitment to the preservation of Michigan's unique character and the many archaeological sites and historic structures that document Michigan's past. Previous recipient projects include rehabilitations of the Old Rugged Cross Church in Pokagon Township, the Richter Brewery in Escanaba, the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, and the archaeological investigations at Fort St. Joseph in Niles.

“We recognize partnerships, innovation, creativity and excellence with these awards,” said Elsenheimer. “Good historic preservation projects reflect a desire to connect the past with the future, they involve collaboration, and we are pleased to recognize 26 different organizations this year.”

The 2016 recipients are:

- Mackinac Island State Park Commission for the ongoing archaeological investigation of Fort Michilimackinac
- City of St. Joseph, Smay Trombley Architecture, Mihm Enterprises, the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, the Lighthouse Forever Fund and the Citizens of St. Joseph for the rehabilitation of the St. Joseph North Pier Inner and Outer Lights
- Home Renewal Systems LLC, Quinn Evans Architects, and Wolverine Building Group for the rehabilitation of Fremont High School, Fremont
- The Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan; Central Michigan University Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work; and the City of Mount Pleasant for the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School archaeological investigation
- City of Dearborn; Artspace Projects, Inc.; Neumann/Smith Architecture; the Monahan Company; and the East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority for the rehabilitation of Dearborn City Hall Complex
- Indian Village Historical Collections, City of Detroit, Public Lighting Authority, DTE Energy, Offshore Spars, SS Stripping/CDS Performance Coatings, Corby Energy Services, and Consulting Engineering Associates, Inc. for the Indian Village Historic Streetlight Rehabilitation Project, Detroit

The awards will be presented at a public ceremony in the Michigan State Capitol Rotunda in May, which is National Historic Preservation Month.

To learn about previous Governor’s Award recipients go to Michigan.gov/shpo, click on Special Projects and Governor’s Awards.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is financed in part by a grant from the National Park Service, Department of Interior. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Interior. The Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on its federally funded assistance programs. If you believe you've been discriminated against please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C. St. NW, Washington DC 20240.

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