

Dr. Robin W. Kimmerer

Dr. Kimmerer is a mother, a grandmother, a scientist, writer and Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York. She is the founding Director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment whose mission is to create educational and research programs which draw on the wisdom of both indigenous and scientific knowledge for our shared goals of sustainability. Robin is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and is a student of traditional Anishinaabe culture. Her research interests include the role of traditional ecological knowledge in ecological restoration and building resilience for climate change. In collaboration with tribal partners, she and her students have an active research program in the ecology and restoration of plants of cultural significance to Native people. She is active in efforts to broaden access to environmental science training for Native American students, and to introduce the benefits of traditional ecological knowledge to the scientific community, in a way that respects and protects indigenous knowledge. Dr. Kimmerer teaches courses in Ethnobotany, Indigenous Issues and the Environment, Bryophyte Ecology and others.

She holds a PhD in Botany from the University of Wisconsin and is the author of numerous scientific papers on plant ecology, bryophyte ecology, traditional knowledge and restoration ecology. She is the co-founder and past-president of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge section of the Ecological Society of America. As a writer and a scientist, her interests in restoration include not only restoration of ecological communities, but restoration of our relationships to land.

In addition to scientific technical publications, her writings include "Gathering Moss" which incorporates both traditional indigenous knowledge and scientific perspectives and was awarded the prestigious John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing in 2005. She is most recently (2013) the author of "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants" which was awarded the Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award. She is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Nature and Humans. She has served as writer in residence at Andrews Experimental Forest, Blue Mountain Center, the Sitka Center and others. Her literary essays appear in Whole Terrain, Adirondack Life, Orion and several anthologies.

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