



# Change the Mascot!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Leader of National Campaign Against the Washington NFL Mascot to Address the Vital Issue at Penn State on October 22**

*Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Change the Mascot campaign leader Ray Halbritter will participate in roundtable discussing the grassroots movement, the damaging impact of the R-word on Native Americans, and the long overdue need for a name change.*

Oneida Nation Homelands (Oct. 13, 2014) A prominent figure in the growing national opposition against the Washington NFL team's mascot, Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter will appear at Penn State's HUB Robeson Center Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on October 22 to discuss the damaging impacts of the continued use and promotion of the R-word racial slur. Halbritter will speak alongside reporter Mike Wise of The Washington Post, who has been outspoken about the need for the team to change its name. Halbritter and Wise will be participating in "A Conversation about Nicknames or Not," which is part of Penn State's John Curley Center for Sports Journalism Conversation Series.

The conversation will be moderated by John Affleck, the Knight Chair in Sports Journalism and Society and Director of the Curley Center.

Halbritter has been a central figure in the grassroots Change the Mascot campaign, led by the Oneida Indian Nation and National Congress of American Indians. The campaign, which works to educate the public about the damaging use of R-word on Native Americans, has reshaped the debate surrounding the Washington team's name and brought the issue to the forefront of social consciousness over the past year. Since its launch, the civil and human rights movement has garnered support from a diverse coalition of prominent advocates including Native American tribes, sports icons, top journalists and news publications, civil rights organizations, religious leaders, Members of Congress from both parties and even the President of the United States.

The Curley Center regularly conducts events such as this in its Conversation Series as part of its mission to explore issues and trends in sports journalism through instruction, outreach, programming and research, including moderated question-and-answer sessions with sports media members or newsmakers.

**WHAT:** A Conversation about Nicknames or Not, part of Penn State's John Curley Center for Sports Journalism Conversation Series

**WHO:** Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter of Change the Mascot; Washington Post Reporter Mike Wise; Moderated by John Affleck, the Knight Chair in Sports Journalism and Society, Director of the Curley Center

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014, 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** HUB-Robeson Center Auditorium

For more information on the series please visit:

<http://news.psu.edu/story/325647/2014/09/10/athletics/sports-conversations-examine-nicknames-impact-feature-weinreb-jay>

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