

Gloria O'Neill



Storytelling for the Next Generation Harnessing the Power of Video Games to Share and Celebrate Culture

When: **12:30-2:00** on **Thursday, January 8, 2015**

Where: Smithsonian Castle Commons, 1000 Jefferson Dr. SW, Washington, D.C. 20560

Please RSVP to HolmgrenM@si.edu to ensure event capacity and record staff attendance.

Abstract: Video games can be viewed as a modern iteration of the oral tradition. Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC), based in Anchorage, Alaska, set out to make games that leverage technology to share timeless, living stories with the world. To that end, CITC formed a strategic relationship with E-Line Media, which brought a world-class team of experienced game designers to the project, all drawn to the rich storytelling traditions of Alaska Native peoples. *Never Alone (Kisima Ingitchuna)* is based on traditional stories of Alaska's Iñupiaq people. Narration is in Iñupiaq with subtitles in multiple languages. Ms. O'Neill will give an overview of how and why CITC decided to invest in video games as a means of financial self-sufficiency for the organization. She will describe how this unique game was made with the involvement of members of the Alaska Native community, in meaningful partnerships with the game designers, and the hard work of balancing cultural authenticity with the design parameters of a commercial video game. More information on the game and on the members of the Alaska Native community who participated in the project can be found at www.neveralongame.com.

Bio: Serving as President and CEO of Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) since 1998, Gloria O'Neill has led the organization's growth in becoming one of the major social service providers in Alaska. At the national level, Ms. O'Neill was appointed by former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to serve on the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). She is a former member of the Department of the Interior Tribal/Interior Budget Council and the Race and Ethnicity Advisory Committee of the U.S. Census Bureau. Ms. O'Neill currently serves as a member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents. She is a member of the Alaskan Command Civilian Advisory Board, as well as President and CEO of CITC Enterprises Inc. (CEI). Ms. O'Neill also served as a board member of the National CASA Association, and is a fellow of the Annie E. Casey Foundation Children and Family Fellowship Program.

Ms. O'Neill earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Alaska Pacific University, and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, with a minor in business administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Originally from Soldotna, Alaska, Ms. O'Neill is of Yup'ik and Irish descent.