Yá'át'ééh (Traditional Navajo Greeting for Hello)!

We hope this newsletter finds you well as you conclude one chapter in your life and begin to look forward to starting a new chapter next year at Calvin. As you begin this transition, we want to give you some glimpses into highlights of your upcoming academic adventure in New Mexico.

Imagine your first week of class...you will be emerging yourself into the story of Native American peoples as we wind our way down from Grand Rapids to New Mexico.

Over 500 independent nations of Native Americans and Alaskan villages exist within the boundaries of the United States today. Each nation has its own unique history, and those histories stretch back to the beginning of time. Our first stop will be Dickson Mounds (near Peoria, Ill.)

We will start the semester with a breath-taking historical documentary artfully and sensitively created to help newcomers digest the expansive history of America’s first peoples. At that same site, we will visit a “primitive” village recreation and walk through talking exhibits that discuss the civic ways of life that existed at least for several centuries before Europeans arrived to the land.

After the Europeans arrived, each tribe eventually had to make a heart-breaking choice: Assimilate or Fight. The vivid contrast in outcomes for those decisions plays out before our eyes while we visit tribal businesses (like the gourmet Bedré Chocolate Factory – Choctaw Nation Industries) and cultural centers in Oklahoma. Our first stop will be the Cherokee Heritage Center. This tribe is one of the “Five ‘Civilized’ Tribes” in Oklahoma who acquiesced earlier than others (the other 4 were: Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole & Creek.)

Other tribes, like the Cheyenne, Apache, and Kiowa fought longer to maintain their land, culture, and way of life. Our last stop before we leave Oklahoma to head to New Mexico will be at the Washita Battlefield, a national monument on the site of one of the last of those last stands of the Cheyenne. Ironically, “battlefield” is a bit of a misnomer. This is actually where the Peace delegation from the Cheyenne were massacred. During the semester, we will continue to learn about how historical narratives can be shaped by the privilege of the victor.
As you begin to think about the possibilities of living and learning in New Mexico this fall, we will be sending out some cool resources for you to check out. In this issue of The Bridge, we want you to see some of the places you might get the opportunity to shop during the semester.

**Gallup Flea Market:** A true cultural experience

**Crown Point Navajo Rug Auction:** Happens once a month

**Hubble Trading Post:** History, Tradition, Culture, Artistry since 1876 -- check out the video

**Gallup, New Mexico:**
Gallup is about 20 miles from the Arizona border in northwest New Mexico. It is a classic Old West town, with artifacts and architecture left over from the days when the Southwest truly was wild. It sits directly on historic Route 66, has numerous century-old buildings that formerly housed speakeasies and brothels. In addition, the city is a center for Southwest Native American tribal art, craft and culture, with numerous shops, museums and trading posts offering authentic goods.

**Rehoboth Christian School:** Check out our local partner