

# PROFESSIONALS OF COLOR LECTURE SERIES

## Billy Mills

*Global Unity*

**Monday, November 12, 2012**

**4:00 - 5:30 pm**

**Cook-DeWitt Center**

**Allendale Campus**



Billy Mills is the only American to ever win the Olympic gold medal in the 10,000-meter run. A Lakota Sioux raised in one of the poorest communities in America, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Mills was orphaned as a young boy, facing prejudice and cultural discrimination most of his childhood life. It was through a running scholarship to the University of Kansas that he was able to leave the reservation.

Billy will share what remains constant in our changing world. How we address this consistency is our key to global unity through the dignity character and beauty of global diversity. He takes his audience on a compassionate and powerful journey, weaving stories of his young life as an orphaned Native American child living in poverty while encountering the ignorance of racism.

How Billy draws strength from the virtues and values of diversity and his Native American culture will help all individually and collectively to meet change by reaching within the depths of our capabilities and performing to the greatest of our potential. We leave knowing it was the daily choices he made in life, not just the talent he possessed, that choreographed his quest for Olympic glory.

**Sponsoring Units:** Anthropology Department, College of Liberal Arts and Science, Inclusion and Equity Division, Native American Student Association, Native American Advisory Board, Office of Multicultural Affairs, School of Computing and Information Systems, WGVSU TV/Radio, Women's Center.



Events are free and open to the public. For information on parking or for individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616)331-2177 or email us at [oma@gvsu.edu](mailto:oma@gvsu.edu).