I could write a dissertation on this! Here are some suggestions:

How can academic institutions create meaningful relationships and support the teaching of history to educators at every level to teach history as it occurred and not contribute to the framing of revisionist history. I also encourage institutions to document the devastating history of colonization and Columbus in particular. I ask that we do not celebrate "Columbus Day"?

How does one respond to friends or family who still support the celebration of "Columbus Day"? It is important to respectfully express one’s viewpoint. I always encourage these conversations to be framed as a learning opportunity. It is important to recognize that Columbus, or Christopher Columbus, is not the hero of the American story. He was a colonial conqueror and exploiter.

In the context of contemporary Indigenous history, it is worth noting the movement to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day. In 1992, the United States government officially declared that October 12th be observed as "Columbus Day," a day to celebrate the arrival of Columbus to the Western Hemisphere. This decision was met with widespread opposition.

In 2000, the co-chairs of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) issued a statement calling for the federal holiday to be renamed to "Indigenous Peoples' Day." The following year, nearly 60 Native American nations and tribal organizations endorsed the idea of a new federal holiday to honor the memory of Indigenous people.

The idea gained momentum in the late 2000s, with a growing number of cities and states making Indigenous Peoples' Day a paid holiday. In 2021, President Biden signed a presidential proclamation designating April 17, 2022, as "Indigenous Peoples' Day." He called for the celebration of Indigenous cultures and histories, and encouraged the federal government to recognize the day.

Describe the significance of Native American representation in your profession.

Indigenous representation is unique, and it’s been exciting over the multiple decades that I’ve been doing this work to see more and more Indigenous people serving in elected positions. Whether one is elected to a school board, county commission or state legislator, or appointed by the President to a cabinet or prominent appointed position, Indigenous representation is critical. Whether you work in the EPA, the Interior Department or any other executive branch department, it’s important to have that cultural knowledge and understanding in the decision-making process.

How can Indigenous organizations create meaningful relationships with educational institutions?

I encourage Indigenous organizations to work closely with educational institutions to create meaningful relationships. This can be done through partnerships, internships, or other formal agreements. It is important to recognize the cultural and historical significance of Indigenous peoples and their perspectives. By engaging in these relationships, educational institutions can better understand the experiences and perspectives of Indigenous peoples.

In what ways have you commemorated Indigenous Peoples' Day throughout your life?

I was thrilled to work with BU Arts Initiative to observe a positive and productive day of Indigenous Peoples' Day. While I have mixed feelings about a particular day or month being designated for a special celebration, I value opportunities to educate others about Indigenous cultures and histories.

In the context of contemporary Indigenous history, it is worth noting that the movement to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day has gained significant momentum. The day is observed as a way to honor the memory of Indigenous people and their contributions.

The day is observed as a way to honor the memory of Indigenous people and their contributions. While the idea of a federal holiday has not gained widespread support, the movement to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day has gained significant momentum in recent years.