



ERICSA 63RD ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

MAY 3-7, 2026

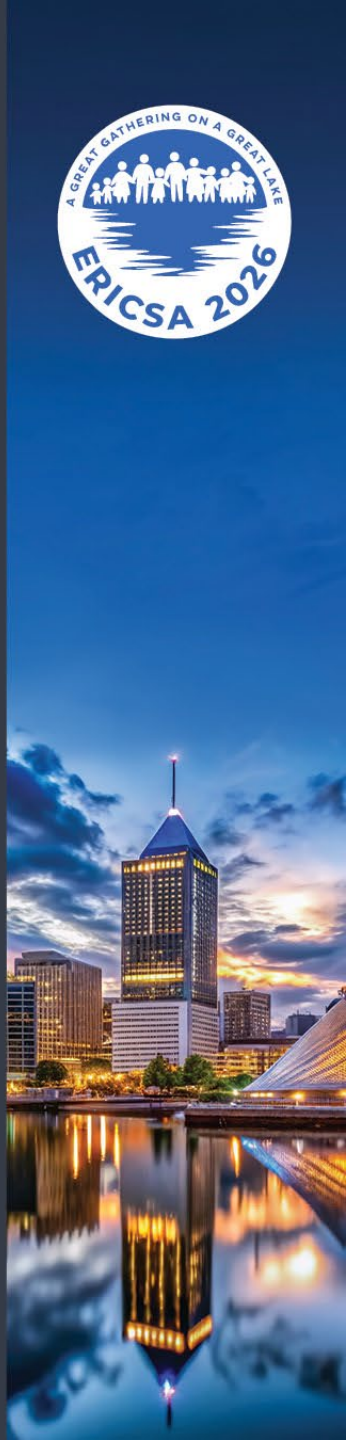
Milwaukee

WISCONSIN



From “I” to “We”: Practical Pathways for Reconnecting People to Land, Story, and Community

Mark Denning
George Skenandore





This follow-up breakout builds on the session *Reconnecting to Land and Story: Finding Peace & Healing from Trauma, Addiction and Mental Health*. While the first presentation explores the cultural foundations of healing through connection to land, story, and community, this interactive session focuses on how those ideas can be applied in practice.

Participants will explore how disconnection—from land, identity, culture, and community—can contribute to trauma, addiction, and mental health challenges. Through guided discussion and shared learning, attendees will examine how Native perspectives centered on the collective “We” can inform more meaningful approaches to service and healing.

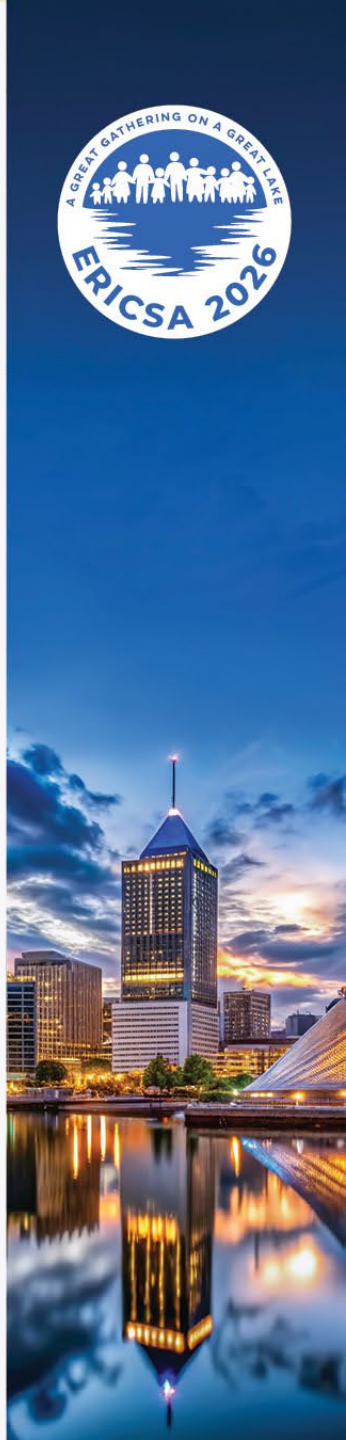
The breakout will highlight examples of programs and practices where reconnection to land, story, and relationship is already supporting recovery and resilience. Participants will also discuss how these ideas might be adapted within their own communities and service systems.

By the end of the session, participants will leave with practical insights and new ways of thinking about how reconnection—to place, story, and collective responsibility—can help create pathways toward peace, healing, and stronger communities.



Additional Speakers

- **Deborah Black, MS, LPC**
- Director (former) Behavioral Health
Licensed Professional Counselor
- Linked IN <https://www.linkedin.com/in/deborah-black-ignace-lpc-ncc-112a6b1a7>
- <https://gliihc.net/anwc/cultural-program/>
- **Alaina Hanks, LPC**
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- [Tribal Health Center Project ft. Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center](#)



Q&A

Thank you for attending.

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