

**2022 Rhode Island Land and Water Conservation Summit**  
**Keynote Speaker: Lorén M. Spears (she/her/hers), Narragansett**  
**Executive Director, Tomaquag Museum**

Lorén M. Spears is the Executive Director of Tomaquag Museum. Lorén aspires to empower Native youth and to educate the public on Native history, culture, environment and the arts. Lorén shares her cultural knowledge and traditional arts learned through her family with the public through the museum programs such as tours, virtual programming, and educational resources.

Under Lorén’s leadership, Tomaquag Museum received the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ National Medal. An educator for 25 years, she has served as an adjunct faculty at Brown University and University of Rhode Island. Lorén founded the Nuweetooun School affiliated with the Tomaquag Museum and was a teacher in Newport public schools for 12 years.



Outside of her work in the museum, she is also an educator, activist, author, and Indigenous artist. Her work as an author includes *Dawnland Voices, An Anthology of Indigenous Writing of New England; Through Our Eyes: An Indigenous View of Mashapaug Pond; The Pursuit of Happiness: An Indigenous View, From Slaves to Soldiers: The 1st Rhode Island Regiment in the American Revolution* and she co-edited *The Key into the Language of America by Roger Williams*.

Lorén received her undergraduate degree from the University of Rhode Island and her Master’s degree from the University of New England with a focus on elementary education. Lorén has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors most notably 2016 Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities, a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, from the University of Rhode Island in 2017.