These are perspectives from LU Geoscience pod on how the LU on the Lawrence University has worked with communities of color:

**Perspective 1: Faculty**

Since 2008, faculty in our department have worked closely with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), an organization that defends Native treaty rights in the “Ceded Territories” of northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The collaborations have focused on documenting the potential environmental effects of mining projects in northern Wisconsin and the western Upper Peninsula. Faculty at public universities were reluctant to become involved in speaking out about these controversial mining projects because of potential retaliation by state legislatures. As a private institution, Lawrence University is not beholden to the state for funding, and we saw that we could use our geological training for the public good.

Members of our department carried out pro bono structural, mineralogical, and geochemical analyses of rocks at the proposed mine sites and then worked with tribal members of the Bad River and Keweenaw Bay Ojibwe communities and the GLIFWC legal and environmental teams to draft documents describing in detail how mining activity would affect the health of fish and wild rice stands in water bodies connected to Lake Superior. In the Upper Peninsula case, one faculty member gave legal testimony in a state administrative court trial; in the Wisconsin case, she testified at a major public hearing before the state legislature.

**Perspective 2: Faculty**

Here is what I would add based on my own experiences. I think it tells a story of some improvement in the field. When I was doing my PhD research 1992-96, I was externally funded and worked with the Forest service. To the extent than many of the field assistants were Puerto Rican, I did work and interact with them, but the research agenda was set prior to those interactions. I chatted a bit with local farmers and landowners (a bit difficult considering my poor Spanish skills) about changes they saw in the rivers, but many of them had not been there long enough to really know what it was like before Europeans. There wasn’t the same sort of native knowledge of the land. However there was a lot of pride in the island and its people. So it was less about historical knowledge and more about collaboration with the local scientists. Later (95-98), I worked as a consultant to an archaeological dig in the north west/central part of the island. Here I was engaged directly with Puerto Rican archaeologists. We developed our
research questions collaboratively and I included them on my publication from this work, as well as in talks. Then around 2007-08 I took a group of students to the island with another faculty member and our fellow. We made a lot of effort to work with locals (facilitated by my forest service contacts) to get access to a few lagoons from which we took sediment cores. I remember that one of our contacts a Puerto Rican who was a co-author on the archaeology paper, was dismayed by previous visiting researchers who came, took data and left. Because of my previous work and relationship building we were able to access places that no one else had cored. We shared results with the local nature preserve and also asked our co-author from the archaeology paper to review our work. In our most recent trip to the island we volunteered time to work for a community group that was assessing forest recovery post hurricane Maria. I think this was a nice way of giving back to both the people and the land. It was a great experience for the students in no small part because of the interactions with other volunteers, who were natives, as well as a dedicated group of forest scientists

**Improved resources:**

- Promote knowledge affinity groups such as GeoLatinas etc...
- Have LUGS promote ongoing discussions with CODA and partner with LEDS
- Include not only how to get permits/permissions for a study site but also how to build ethical and sound partnerships during GEOS Junior/Senior Seminar