The Olga J. and G. Roland Denison Visiting Professorship of Native American Studies at Central Michigan University welcomes Ty Defoe, writer, multidisciplinary artist + educator.

Defoe is known for percussion, flute playing, and hoop and eagle dancing. Defoe aspires to use artistic practice to challenge the formulas of privilege and improve racial and cultural diversity. Defoe won a Grammy Award in 2011 for the album *Come to Me Great Mystery: Native American Healing Songs.*

From 2013-2015, Defoe completed a two-year fellowship with the Theatre Communications Group’s Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Institute, focusing on efforts to establish a baseline and develop action-oriented programming in racial and cultural diversity. From 2008-2013, Defoe was a founding member and artistic director of Native Punx, creating landmark projects and collaborations with prestigious artists and educators to enhance the diversity within Native American people and non Native American people in the arts.

Ty Defoe received a Master of Fine Arts in graduate musical theatre writing from New York University in 2013, a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Goddard College in 2012, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the California Institute of the Arts in 2010.

Sponsored by the Olga J. and G. Roland Denison Visiting Professorship of Native American Studies at Central Michigan University and the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways.

For more information, visit chsbs.cmich.edu/denison