Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union 105 Main Street, Suite 200 Windsor, VT 05089

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February 9, 2024

Dear Gedakina,

I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for including Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU) as a recipient of your One Shelf Book Project. Library Media Specialists across our WSESU have been seeking to diversify our collection of books and often struggle to find verified recommendations and the funding to secure a broader archive.

"The Gedakina Bookshelf donation arrived at a time when I was uneasy about Indigenous Peoples representation in our collection. I had removed our outdated, inaccurate and/or inappropriate books, but had nothing to replace them with and really wasn't sure where to start. This donation provided our school with modern, interesting, and relatable titles to borrow and enjoy. I've read a number of them aloud to classes and the remainder have been circulating through the school. Our students have been interested in the lives and cultures of the characters in these books - in some cases surprised by the contrast to their own lives, and in others finding commonality. In a largely homogeneous population like that of our small school, providing windows and doorways to other cultures is essential. The Gedakina Bookshelf has given us a great start." Kate Freeland, Library Media Specialist, WSESU

Additionally from Kate, "This morning I'm going through Horn Book starred reviews to prep for next year's orders. Just about every one of the books from Gedakina has a starred review. That's very high praise!"

On behalf of WSESU, our Library Media Specialists and all of our students who now have access to a highly curated collection of resources featuring historically accurate and positive perspectives on Indigenous cultures and experiences...thank you!! I would not hesitate to recommend this program to any school or staff looking to upgrade their archives.

Sincerely.

Traci Price

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator

WSESU

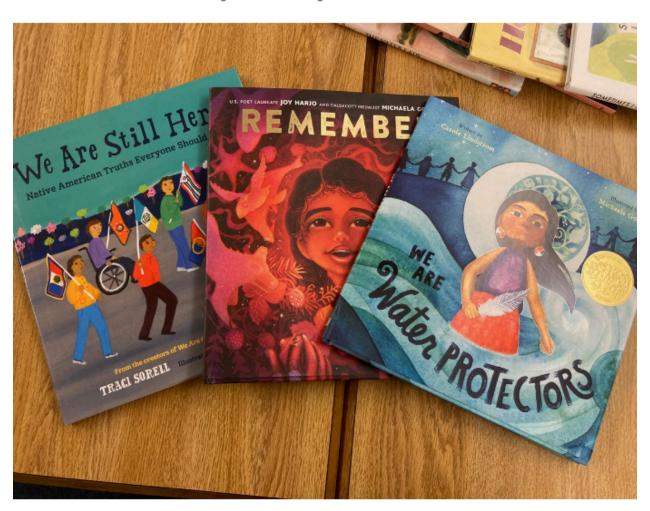
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*Featured communications acknowledging this gift from Gedakina in WSESU Board meetings and in newsletters from our Superintendent to staff and community members:

WSESU Diversity, Equity & Inclusion SPOTLIGHT



<u>Gedakina</u> gifts WSESU a collection of 50+ books and resources honoring and celebrating Native American wisdom!



We want to thank <u>Gedakina</u> for their generous contribution of books to our WSESU library! What a gift to support and acknowledge Native American Heritage Month.

The One Shelf Book Project is a giveaway hosted by <u>Gedakina</u>, an honoring and celebration of Native American wisdom by giving away culturally relevant, historically accurate, and high-quality traditional Native American literature and educational material free to school districts and libraries serving American Indian children. The shelf includes 50+ books for K-12 as well as Teacher Resources, poetry, coloring book, and more.

