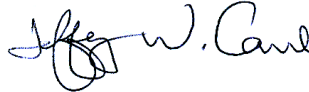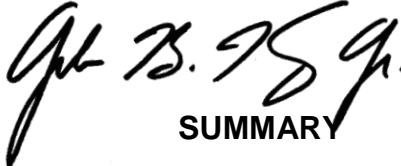**TO:**   Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Jeffrey Cannell

SUBJECT: New York Paleoindian Database Project

DATE: November 10, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Overview and background of the Museum's The New York Paleoindian Database Project.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information. Education Law section 234 establishes an "Indian Collection" within the Museum. Dr. Jonathan Lothrop will discuss ongoing efforts to more fully document the earliest Native Americans to inhabit what is now New York State between approximately 13,000 and 10,000 years ago.

Background Information

Dr. Jonathan Lothrop is the Museum's curator of archaeology. Dr. Lothrop is an expert on the earliest inhabitants of North America, generally referred to as Paleoindians. He is currently canvassing the state to record collections of artifacts held by museums, universities, and private individuals to more fully document Paleoindian occupations in the state. These efforts will result in an update of information for New York on the Paleoindian Database of the Americas (PIDBA) website and a database of New York Paleoindian information on the Museum's website. These data will be used by archaeologists to better understand the initial colonization of New York State and will be accessible by others interested in Native American history in the state.