The Aurora University Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures serves as a setting for research and teaching related to the study of cultural artifacts and related texts. With a primary focus to enrich the teaching and learning experience of AU students and faculty, the center also serves as an important resource for area schools and colleges, researchers, Native American groups, and the general public. The center is committed to maintaining the highest standards of professional, scholarly, and ethical excellence in its museum and educational work.
The Schingoethe Center houses more than 5,000 ethnographic and archaeological objects from more than 400 cultures in North, Central and South America. The collection spans prehistory through the work of contemporary Native American artists, and was started by Herb and Martha Schingoethe, reflecting a lifetime of collecting. It continues to grow through generous gifts from collectors, as well as exchanges and acquisitions. The museum is committed to the preservation and display of these remarkable artifacts for all to learn about the contributions of America’s first inhabitants.