

SESSION 2: Resource Organizations and Programs

Representatives from federal agencies and national associations gave informal presentations and provided resource materials on their educational research and evaluation activities that involve Native Americans.

Following are brief descriptions of the work performed by these agencies and national associations. The representatives can be contacted directly for further information.

Federal Agencies:**U.S. Department of Education
Office of Indian Education (OIE)**

Contact: Victoria Vasques, Director
(202) 260-3774

OIE's mission is to support the efforts of local educational agencies, American Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions and other entities to meet the educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students. Its programs include formula grants and discretionary grants to Native American organizations and school districts. Over the last few years, OIE, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (now known as the Institute of Education Sciences) have been developing an American Indian and Alaska Native Education Research Agenda that grew out of Executive Order 13096, signed by former President Clinton in August 1998.

**U.S. Department of Education
Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
(formerly Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI))**

Contact: Karen Suagee
(202) 219-2244

IES compiles statistics, develops products and funds research, evaluations and wide dissemination activities in areas of demonstrated national need. Working with its contractors and grantees, IES provides evidence-based guidance to decision makers on matters related to teaching and learning. Information about the American Indian and Alaska Native Education Research Agenda activities and resources on educational research and development can be found on the website, www.Indianeduresearch.net.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
Office of Indian Education Programs (OIEP)**

Contact: Pat Abeyta
Center for School Improvement
(505) 248-7526

OIEP is responsible for the management of all BIA education functions including the formation of policies and procedures, supervision of all program activities and the approval of the expenditure of funds. In 2001, there were 65 elementary and secondary schools operated by the BIA and 120 elementary and secondary schools funded by the BIA that tribes operate under contracts or grants. These 185 schools are located on 63 reservations in 23 states. The Center for School Improvement assists schools in gathering and using data about their school-wide programs and maintains a database for that purpose.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
Minority Opportunities in Research (MORE)**

Contact: Clifton Poodry, Director

MORE

(301) 594-3900

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences is one of 26 institutes and centers at the NIH. The Division of Minority Opportunities in Research administers research and research training programs aimed at increasing the number of minority biomedical scientists. Support is available at the undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral and faculty level, as well as for education and research infrastructure improvements. Tribal colleges are eligible for these programs.

White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities (WHITCU)

Contact: Pamela DeRensis, Deputy Director

(202) 205-2528

As implemented by Executive Order 13270, WHITCU ensures that tribal colleges are fully recognized and have full access to federal programs benefiting other higher education institutions. In July 2002, President Bush appointed 13 members to serve on the President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities. The Board consists of tribal college presidents, educators, business leaders and public servants. They will provide advice regarding the progress made by federal agencies toward fulfilling the purposes and objectives of the Executive Order, and recommendations to the President through the Secretary of Education on the ways the federal government can help tribal colleges.

National Organizations:

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

Contact: Everett Chavez

(505) 765-1052

AISES was established in 1977 with the idea of providing financial opportunities to Native American students to pursue careers in science, engineering and technology. Soliciting partnerships and funding support from corporations and federal agencies remains a core function of the organization. AISES' ultimate goal is to be a catalyst for the advancement of American Indians and Native Alaskans as they seek to become self-reliant members of society. AISES has developed career services, K-12 programs, internships and scholarships for higher education. In addition to a Board of Directors and an advisory board, AISES has a Council of Elders who share their wisdom and guidance with AISES students and with the organization as a whole.

Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)

Contact: Marigold Linton

(785) 864-4904

Founded in 1973, SACNAS' current membership is 28% Native American. The organization's purpose is to improve and expand opportunities for minorities in the scientific workforce and academia; mentor college students within science, mathematics and engineering; and support quality pre-college science education. The annual National Conference and K-12 Teacher

Workshops, summer research opportunities, E-mentoring program and online internship/job placement resources are tools that help a diverse community of undergraduate and graduate students, professors, administrators and K-12 educators achieve expertise within their disciplines. Federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation provide generous grant support.

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)

Contact: Susan Faircloth
Director, Policy Analysis and Research
(703) 838-0400, ext. 121

AIHEC was founded in 1972 by the presidents of the nation's first six tribal colleges, as an informal collaboration among member colleges. AIHEC has grown to represent 34 colleges in 12 states and one Canadian institution serving approximately 30,000 full- and part-time students. AIHEC's mission statement identifies five objectives: maintain high standards of quality in American Indian education; support the development of new tribally controlled colleges and universities (TCUs); promote and assist in the development of legislation to support American Indian higher education; provide technical assistance to member institutions; and promote public and private opportunities for TCUs in the areas of science and information technology, agriculture and natural resources use, Pre-K through 12 linkages, international outreach and leadership development.