Finding Community, Overcoming Obstacles

Native American Educational and Cultural Center (NAECC)

Purdue Conference for Pre-Tenure Women
Presented by Felica Ahasteen-Bryant (Dine’ Nation), Director

Friday, September 24, 2010
Indiana Native American Facts

- Indiana counties with highest AIAN population as of 2000: Marion County (5,759 AIAN persons), Lake County (2,636), and St. Joseph County (2,290).
- Six tribal nations that are historically indigenous to Indiana:
  (1) Miami
  (2) Potawatomi
  (3) Shawnee
  (4) Delaware
  (5) Eel River
  (6) Wea
- No federally recognized tribes in Indiana. Pokagon Band of Potawatomi recognized in Michigan.
- American Indian Center of Indiana only organization in the state focused on meeting the needs of Native Americans in the state of Indiana.
- Native Americans are the only racial group that must prove their ethnicity.

Source: American Indian Center of Indiana
## Purdue Student Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Student Population</td>
<td>33,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Ethnic Minority Population</td>
<td>4,660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Native American Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Students</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Student</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Students</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Student Population</strong></td>
<td><strong>183</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Purdue Data Digest, 2009-2010
American Indian Graduate Students
STEM vs Non-STEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>STEM</th>
<th>Non-STEM</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2002-03</td>
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<td>2003-04</td>
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<td>2004-05</td>
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<td>2005-06</td>
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<td>2006-07</td>
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<td>2007-08</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2008-09</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Purdue Faculty & Staff Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Native American Population</th>
<th>Total EM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Tenured-Track Faculty &amp; Lecturers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Staff</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The NAECC brings together Purdue University students, faculty, staff, alumni with local and tribal communities to celebrate Native American cultures.
NAECC Goals

To develop new generations of educated Native Americans who will make positive contributions in their tribal communities.

To educate non-Natives who will appreciate American Indian cultures, histories and traditions.
NAECC Facilities

- Established in 2007
- Located on south side of campus
- Study area, meeting room, iTaP supported computer lab
- Native American educational resources
- ADA accessible
Campus-Wide Native Programs

Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership
- Native American graduate students
- Masters and PhD in STEM field

Tecumseh Program
- Distinguished Native speakers
- Partnership Programs

GEM Scholars
- Undergraduate research focused on environmental issues impacting tribal communities.
- Collaboration with Bemidji State University and Red Lake Nation College.

Sharing the Land – Indigenous Earth Science Project
- Outreach and education with Native students in their tribal communities.
Indiana Community and Tribal Partnerships

American Indian Center of Indiana, Inc.

Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art, Indianapolis

Indiana Tribal Nations
- Miami Indians of Indiana
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

Indiana Colleges and Universities
- IUPUI
- Indiana University

Tribal Colleges and Universities
- Bemidji State University, Minnesota
- Haskell Indian Nations University, Kansas
Student Organizations

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
2008-2014 New Synergies: Purdue University’s Strategic Plan

Launching tomorrow's leaders by enhancing student success with careers in a dynamic global society, as well as fostering intellectual, professional and personal development for lifelong learning.

Promoting discovery with delivery by conducting field-defining research with breakthrough outcomes and catalyzing research-based economic development and entrepreneurship.

Meeting global challenges by enhancing Purdue's presence and impact in addressing grand challenges of humanity.
NAECC Programs and Events Linked to Purdue University’s Strategic Plan

Launching Tomorrow’s Leaders

Campus-wide Programs
Sloan Indigenous Graduate Program
Eiteljorg Museum Partnership

Native Student Organizations

Promoting Discovery with Delivery

Meeting Global Challenges

Cultural Programs
The Politics of Native American Identity: Problematizing the Real Sites of Struggle
Examining Native American Identity through Films
Recommendations

“The Path of Many Journeys: The Benefits of Higher Education for Native People and Communities”
Report by the Institute for Higher Education Policy and American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and American Indian College Fund (AICF)
Recommendations
To Mainstream Colleges and Universities

- Improve outreach efforts to tribal college students and their parents.
- Conduct local seminars on issues such as the admission process, transferring credits, and financial aid resources.
- Coordinate with TCUs and other colleges to facilitate transfers and coordinate programs for American Indian students, and foster faculty development and exchange.
- Increase participation in diversity training and faculty and staff.
- Facilitate the establishment and integration of American Indian support organizations on campus.
- Encourage American Indian students to pursue formal advanced education and lifelong learning.
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