

**Native American
Social Work Studies
Institute (NASWSI)**


Indian Affairs Department
July 25, 2017
Faculty Working Group Education and Training, Moore Hall
New Mexico Highlands University

NASWSI

Established in 2017

The Native American Social Work Studies Institute is established "to respond to the growing complexity of issues and challenges facing Tribal communities and the State of New Mexico" (AFSG, Resolution No. 2017-06)

In addition, the NA-BIIMYAT Committee of the Navajo Nation council states that, "The Diné, Apache, and Pueblo people strived over the centuries to exercise their sovereign right to assure appropriate responses to the needs of the people. The struggle to end destructive and long-term damaging effects of the nation's assimilationist policies and to provide an appropriate education for Native people is legendary and a testament to the significance of education in Tribal thought. It is that struggle that propels efforts to establish a Native American Social Work Program at the New Mexico Highlands University, Fa'cu'ndo'Ve'k'oz School of Social Work" (Resolution No. NABIO-09-17).




NASWSI

Mission: To educate and train Social Workers with the cultural understanding, skills, and values, needed to support the well-being of Native American Families and Tribal communities.

Vision: To establish a Native American-centered framework that strengthens healing and resiliency in Native families and communities.

Goals: To increase Native American student enrollment in social work and to serve as a resource for Tribal social workers, Tribal communities, and Native students at New Mexico Highlands University.

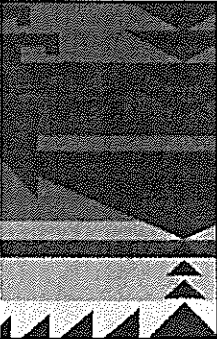


NASWSI Activities

Interim Director, August – December 2025
 Director, January – Present

Past Activities:


- Meet and Greet event with NMHU Native American Club, November 3, 2025
- Native American Social Work Student Club
 - Recruited student and identified officers
 - Developed bylaws
 - Chartered club through NMHU
 - Conducted workshops/events
- Develop new curriculum for the Native American Concentration for the Masters in Social Work
- Research proposal serving organization for field practicum



NASWSI Activities

Past Activities (continued):

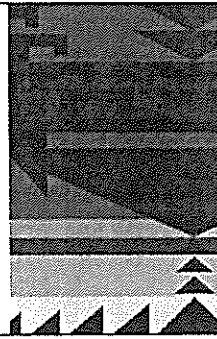
- Attended SANA Day American Indian day at the State Capital in Santa Fe on February 6, 2026
- Conferences attended:
 - Restorative Justice Training, Las Vegas, NM, March 9-10, 2026
 - Connections to Excellence conference, Albuquerque, NM, March 11-15, 2026
 - NICWA Protecting our Children conference, Oklahoma City, OK, March 29-April 1, 2026
- Collaboration with the Center for Excellence on their 2nd Annual Social Work Education Summit, pre-event focused on Environmental Justice, April 9-10, 2026, at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Presented as an opening speaker on April 10, 2026.
- Celebrate Native American Social Work Student Graduates at the "Caps, Gowns, and Good Medicine" event on April 10, 2026



NASWSI Activities

Past Activities (continued):

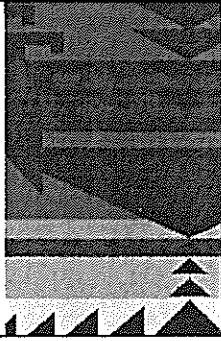
- Attended graduation events in Albuquerque in May
- Move to Rio Rancho campus
- Native American focused Licensure Prep workshop and tutoring sessions began on June 8, 2026. Participants were provided licensure prep workbooks. (13 participants)
- Collaboration and Partnership with NMHU Native American Center and Indian Affairs Dept /Keres Consulting for the Financial Literacy Workshop on June 9, 2026.
- National Association of Social Workers, New Mexico Chapter Presentation on "Centering Indigenous Voices: Native American Student Experiences in Social Work Practicum," June 17, 2026. (54 attendees)
- Papers in progress focused on MMP and Social work in Indigenous communities



NASWSI Activities

Upcoming activities:

- Finalize the Native American Concentration for the Masters in Social Work. OIRAIN approvals
- Identify and recruit Tribal serving organizations for field placement
- Implement the Tribal Social Services Needs Assessment, completed NMHU IRB review.
- Continue MSW Licensure prep workshop and tutoring sessions
- Convene Advisory Board (recruitment ongoing)
- Collaboration and partnerships
- And more . . .



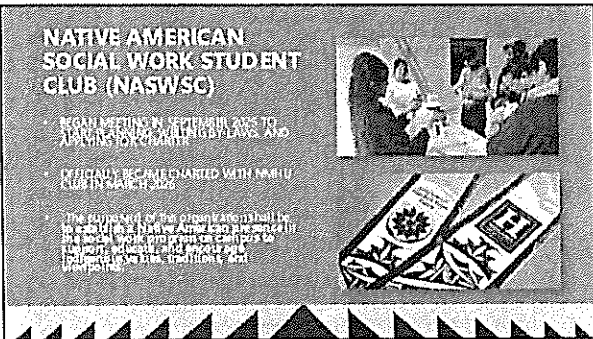
NATIVE AMERICAN SOCIAL WORK STUDENT CLUB (NASWSC)

BRING VOICES OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE CHANGE



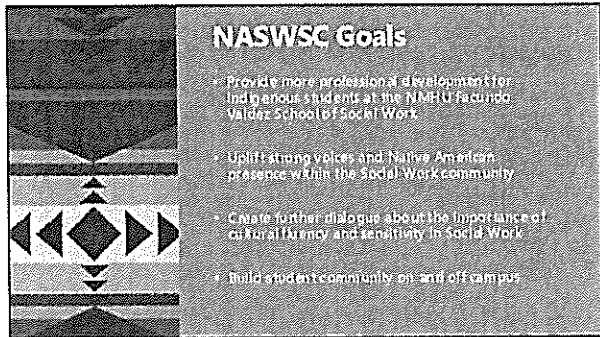
• OFFICIALLY BECAME CHARTERED WITH NMHU CLUB IN MARCH 2025

The purpose of the organization shall be to educate Native American students in a social work and professional context to the more holistic and holistic field of social work and the community and

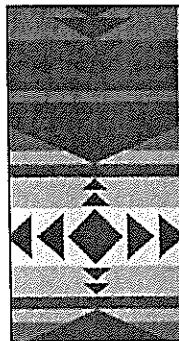


NASWSC Goals

- Provide more professional development for Indigenous students at the NMHU Fecundo Valdez School of Social Work
- Uplift strong voices and Native American presence within the Social Work community
- Create further dialogue about the importance of cultural identity and sensitivity in Social Work
- Build student community on and off campus

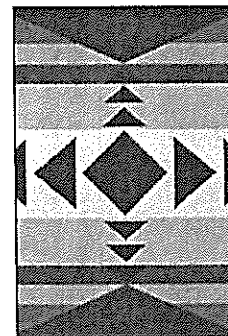






Upcoming Activities

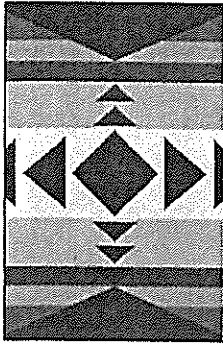
- Developing student newspaper
- Professional development workshops
- Guest speakers
- Traditional wellness teachings



Indigenous Knowledge Pathways

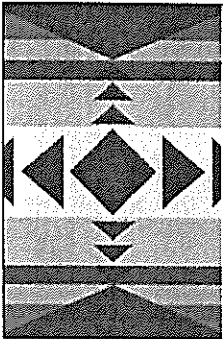
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 My Meetings: Zoom Link

I acknowledge that we are on the ancestral territories of Indigenous Peoples including the 19 Pueblos, the Apache, the Comanche, the Diné, the Kiowa, and the Ute. We pay our respect to them both past and present. And we recognize that the Peoples were displaced to our immediate vicinity in the name of progress. With humility, we recognize and appreciate all Indigenous Peoples' histories and traditions to be here.



Relationship is the cornerstone of Indigenous community, and community is the place where we learn what it is to be related. Through community, Indigenous people come to understand the nature of our personhood and our connection to the communal soul of our people. The community is where the individual "forms the face and heart" (sense of identity and affective nature) as one of "the People". (Greg Cajete, 2015)



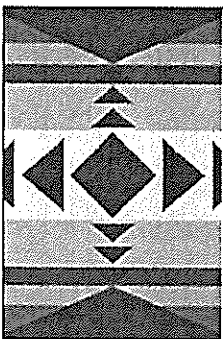


Indigenous Knowledge Pathways

- Origin is the Indigenous Knowledge Reading (2021-2025)
- Purpose is to the 2018 *Yaari Matlin* Zca consulting
- Collaborative, community-based participatory research and practices

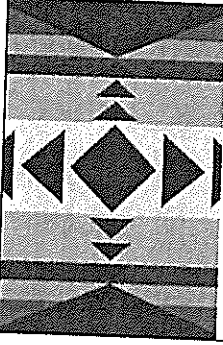
Mission

The Indigenous Knowledge Pathways initiative collectively supported by New Mexico 2018 *Yaari Matlin* Zca consulting, the New Mexico Department of Education, and the School of Social Work. The IKP serves as the institutional bridge connecting and collaborating with Indigenous nations and land grant and regional communities through institutional systems and cultural practices.



Core Values of the IKP (*Tewa*)

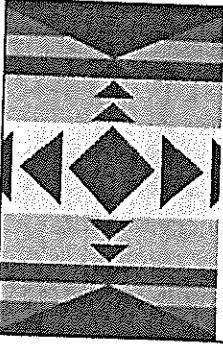
1. *Muath tewa*. Kinship between and within communities that supports and builds cultural ties.
2. *P'Gin*. Respect for each other's unique culture, original teachings and Indigenous knowledges that creates safe spaces for exploration, dialog, and cohesion.
3. *Nah Imbil Kuu*. Our way. Recognize and honor Indigenous Peoples' stewardship of land, land-based knowledge, culture, values, and language to facilitate the revival and strengthening of each.
4. *Wineh Togh*. Respectivity between all communities to create a new paradigm of shared thought and culturally based education.



Pathways

- I Professional Development
- II Community Engagement
- III Culturally Responsive Curriculum

Transformations
Grant Funding and Proposals
Future Initiatives



I Professional Development

NABE Advancing Learning & Learning 2022
Presentations in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 on the best practices
and lessons

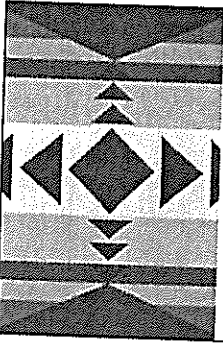
55th Annual NIA '20 - *The Impact of Social Media on Learning
Design and Instruction*

Full program '20 - *The Global Future Outlook*

NASL 2016 - *An Indigenous and Cultural Perspective on the
History of Knowledge Building with the 21st Century
Native American and N. American Learning* (NASL 2016)
2015 and 2016 Indigenous Evaluation Framework Trainings - Dr.
Curtis

Good Futures Coalition Focus Areas: Hiring language, community
direct education and social, cultural, and family sustaining and historical
pedagogy, Indigenous educator and social science training, reflective
human-centered practice.

Website: www.goodfutures.org

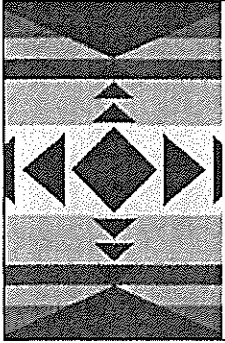


II Community Engagement

Collaboration with school districts and charter schools to create
Native Book of Populations - on special interest projects

Ally of Trust and Education NIE - community forums
invited participants provide their own Native Matter
contribution

SHI Institute for Cultural and Linguistic Reproductive
Teaching and Learning (R. F. F. I.) - Pathways of Practice
summits on summer 2017 and the Indigenous Knowledge
Roundup and the Good Futures Project studies



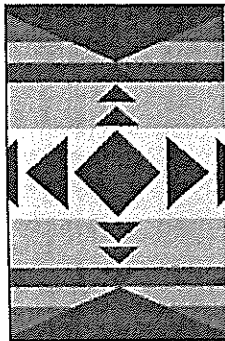
III - Culturally Responsive Curriculum

The Good Futures Project: We Are All Related—Centering Community, Identity, and Purpose— grant writing to support project

Professional Development Focus areas: Heritage language, community driven education and voice, culturally sustaining and historical pedagogy, Indigenous educator and social-service training, reflective, human-centered practice

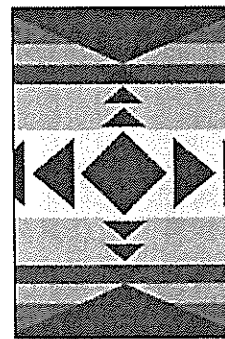
2025 Indigenous Summer Bridge Academy

2026 Summer Bridge Academy as recruitment strategy



Grant Funding and Proposals

- W. K. Kellogg Foundation (2021-2025)
- The LANL Foundation (2025-2026)
- Internal School of Social Work SWEEP (2026)
- Invited Proposals – second round
- Spencer Foundation (September 2026)
- Wake Forest Educating Character Initiative (June 2026)



Future Initiatives

Proposed - Interprofessional/interdisciplinary, Co-developed and shared Electives:

- Indigenous Evaluation Framework as micro-credential/certificate
- Intro to Indigenous Studies
- Contemporary Native American Issues
- Community Leadership and Advocacy with Indigenous Peoples
- American Indian Education: Past, Present, and Future

Book chapter - Mary Eanck, July 2026 - Promises of Practice

NMHU Nina Tesla Balen Scholar application for Spring 2027

Questions & answers

ty-rah (thank you)
