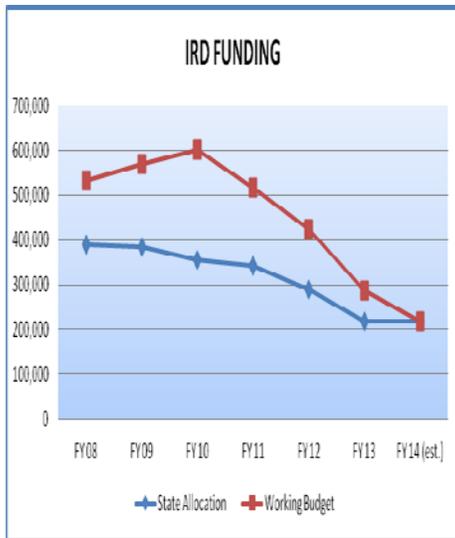


Indian Resource Development (IRD) Program

ENACTING LEGISLATION:

NMSA CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE 10 [21-10-1 to 21-10-3 NMSA 1978]: Development of Indian Resources

21-10-1 Purpose: To provide funds to New Mexico state university in order that agricultural and engineering education and work experience opportunities may be provided to Indian students to help prepare them for agricultural sciences, engineering sciences, and management positions in irrigation projects and energy resources development to the end that the economic growth and public welfare of New Mexico will be promoted.



PROGRAM INTENT:

To create an institutional environment for American Indian student success and secure access to career development experiences and opportunities that are critical to the successful completion of academic programs. With degree in hand, these students gain ability to assume appropriate leadership roles as determined by their tribal communities.

The Indian Resource Development (IRD) program began in 1977 when NMSU was awarded a W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant to encourage Navajo students to pursue degrees in agriculture and business. Before the grant expired, the New Mexico state legislature approved an enacting statute that: 1.) continued the objectives of the grant by maintaining best practices; 2.) expanded the scope of participants (to include all tribes) and disciplines (to include engineering, sciences, natural resources, economic development); and 3.) provided an annual budget. Flexible and innovative, the IRD is a unique program that utilizes both internal and external objectives to achieve its goals. Now in its 35th year at NMSU, the IRD program continues to reach out to tribal people and tribal-serving entities.

IRD MISSION STATEMENT:

The Indian Resource Development (IRD) program pursues, develops, coordinates, and initiates opportunities and experiences that assist tribal students in becoming professional agriculturalists, business people, engineers, resource managers, and scientists prepared to contribute to the effective development and management of tribal resources in their own culturally appropriate manner.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a measure of financial support to pre-determined science and academic programs.
- Provide developmental activities for tribal youth.
- Collaborate with academic institutions, programs and agencies to create beneficial opportunities for tribal students.
- Assist tribal entities in their engagement of academic institutions.

INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- Aid in the development of a vehicle for systemic advocacy for tribal persons within the NMSU system.
- Provide professional development opportunities for tribal students nearing the completion of their degrees.
- Expose tribal students to traditional, wise, novel, and innovative concepts through the presentation of the work of tribal leaders, philosophers and academics.
- Engage the university environment to promote the program as a professional, knowledgeable, and integral unit within the state land-grant institution.





Navajo Agriculture Product Industry cohort

