

New Mexico State University

**American Indian Program
&
American Indian Student Center**

Fourth Meeting of the Indian Affairs Committee
Friday, October 07, 2011
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
2:00 p.m.



**New Mexico State University –
Las Cruces**

- **NMSU Quick Facts (2010-2011)**
 - American Indians make up 3.0% of the student population at NMSU – Las Cruces
 - The total student population is 18,552 and the American Indian student population is 560
 - This includes both undergraduate and graduate students



American Indian Program

Mission Statement:

To provide programs and services designed to enable American Indian Students to successfully achieve their post-secondary goals.

Vision:

All American Indian graduates are self-actualized, successful, role models who are viable contributing members to the health, welfare, and peace of tribal communities and humanity.

Purpose:

The purpose of the American Indian Program at NMSU is to recruit, retain, and graduate American Indian students in higher education.



American Indian Program staff

- Justin McHorse, M.S., Director
- Mike Ray, Student Program Coordinator
- Juanita M. Herrera, Administrative Assistant



American Indian Program resources

- Peer Mentor Program
- Academic advising and referrals
- Professionalism
- Scholarships
- Academic, social, cultural and professional programming
- Advocacy
- Three affiliated student organizations
 - American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), Native American Business Student Association (NABSA) and the United Native American Organization (UNAO)



American Indian Student Center (AISC)

- A Community away from Home
- 7,451 square feet facility
- Commons, study area, kitchen, programmatic spaces, meditation room and outdoor function space
- Houses the American Indian Program
- A/V equipped programmatic spaces
- Art in Public Places – two Cavan Gonzales pots
- LEED Building



Impact of AISC

- Supports the transition from home life to student/campus life
- Provides a separate social environment and a separate study area both with computers
- Promotes social and academic engagement with non-American Indian students
- Provides a sense of belonging
- The opportunity for new programming such as “Food from Home” and elder and professional presentations
- Provides an environment for Tribal Voices Working Group meetings



Challenges Facing American Indian Students

- Social, cultural, academic and socio-economic transitions
 - Financial need
 - Incoming academic preparation
 - Social and cultural transition
- Retention
- Leadership



Addressing the Challenges

- Indian Resource Development Program
 - Collaborative partnership with the AIP
 - RPSP funding
- Tribal Voices Working Group
 - A resource for American Indian faculty, staff and professional students
- Lottery Scholarship



Conclusion

- Invitation to hold an Indian Affairs Committee meeting at NMSU's American Indian Student Center
- Questions



Contact Information

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TIMELINE FOR NMSU'S AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT CENTER

- 7/2001 The American Indian Program completed its "Vision to Action Plan, 2001-2006" that identified the need for more office space for the American Indian program.
- 8/2001 The NMSU Administration identified the need for a facility that would institutionalize NMSU's commitment to our American Indian students and that would provide a place where American Indian students and communities from across New Mexico could identify with as a welcoming and supportive environment away for home.
- 7/2002 President Jay Gogue and AIP Director Don Pepion began working with Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations to develop the vision for a center for our American Indian Students.
- 8/2002 Sam Meraz of the Facilities, Planning and Construction Office developed an 18,600 square foot building concept at an estimated cost of \$6 million dollars.
- 3/2003 Rep. James Roger Madalena introduced House Bill No. 1274 for planning and development funds for a proposed Native American Cultural Center at NMSU.
- 1/2004 Interim President Bill Flores met with NMSU Administrators to develop strategies to fund the proposed Native American Cultural Center at NMSU's Las Cruces campus.
- 1/2004 Don Pepion presented the proposed Native American Cultural Center to the Board of Regents.
- 1/2004 Rep. James Roger Madalena submitted a request for \$345,650 for the design, testing, and administration of a new center at NMSU.
- 9/2004 President Michael Martin made the Native American Cultural Center one of his top priorities.
- 10/2004 Numerous meetings are held with President Michael Martin and Don Pepion throughout New Mexico seeking support from our Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes for the Native American Cultural Center.
- 12/2004 Rep. Ray Begaye met with Governor Bill Richardson regarding the need for funding for the Native American Cultural Center.
- 12/2004 Don Pepion reported on the Native American Cultural Center to the Board of Regents.
- 1/2005 Senator Mary Jane Garcia and Senator Leonard Tsosie introduced legislation in support of the Native American Cultural Center.
- 2/2005 Rep. Ray Begaye introduced House Capital Outlay Request 0182 and Senator Mary Jane Garcia introduced Senate Capital Outlay Request 0070.
- 4/2005 President Mike Martin and Provost Bill Flores host Tribal Leaders Conference to discuss the Native American Cultural Center.
- 5/2005 Board of Regents approved Capital Outlay Plan for 2006, which recommended \$6 million for the Native American Cultural Center.

- 1/2006 Governor Bill Richardson proposed \$5 million to build a Native American Cultural Center at NMSU.
- 1/2006 Senator Mary Jane Garcia introduced Senate Bill 71 to appropriate monies for the Native American Cultural Center at NMSU.
- 4/2006 First groundbreaking ceremony held for the new Native American Cultural Center.
- 5/2006 Board of Regents approved Capital Outlay Plan for 2007, which recommended \$6,530,000 for the Native American Cultural Center.
- 9/2006 Rep. Ray Begaye requests \$3 million from Governor Richardson to begin construction of the Native American Cultural Center at NMSU.
- 10/2006 Don Pepion reported on the Native American Cultural Center to the New Mexico Indian Affairs Committee and to the New Mexico Tribal Education Commission.
- 5/2007 Board of Regents approved a Capital Outlay Plan for 2008, which recommended \$3,530,00 for the Native American Cultural Center.
- 10/2007 Second groundbreaking ceremony held for the new Native American Cultural Center.
- 3/2008 NMSU's Board of Regents approved funding of \$3,530,000 for the Native American Cultural Center.
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| 2005 Several Tax Bonds | \$250,000 |
| 2005 General Funds | \$130,000 |
| 2006 General Obligation Bonds | \$3,000,000 |
| 2006 General Funds | \$150,000 |
| Total Funding | \$3,530,000 |
- 7/2008 Justin McHorse began as Director of the American Indian Program and immediately started working on the Native American Cultural Center.
- 12/2008 NMSU's American Indian students, faculty, and staff recommended that the name of the Native American Cultural Center be changed to the American Indian Student Center to more closely reflect how the building will be utilized by NMSU's American Indian students.
- 12/2008 Provost Bob Moulton approved the request for the name change so that the new facility would be known as the American Indian Student Center.
- 8/2009 Construction began on the American Indian Student Center.
- 1/2010 Justin McHorse worked diligently with NMSU's Administration to complete the American Indian Student Center by fall 2010.
- 5/2010 NMSU's Naming Committee approved renaming the center as the American Indian Student Center.
- 5/2010 Administrative Council approved renaming the center as the American Indian Student Center.
- 7/2010 Board of Regents approved naming the new center the American Indian Student Center.
- 10/2010 Grand Opening of the new American Indian Student Center held at NMSU.

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Purpose:

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American Indian Student Center

The American Indian Student Center (AISC) is overseen by NMSU's American Indian Program and serves the educational needs of American Indian students to successfully achieve their post-secondary goals at NMSU. The purpose of the AISC is to serve as a "home away from home" and foster a community environment that in turn will promote a sense of belonging and persistence through degree completion.

Gallery

The Gallery is an environment for artistic reflection. Housed in the display cases throughout the gallery will be authentic American Indian artwork representing the Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes located in New Mexico as well as those located out-side the state. An effort will be made to acquire such artwork through in-kind donations.

Training Room #1 – Adjacent to the Commons

Different from classrooms, Training Room #1 & #2 are true multipurpose rooms and their usage will be dependent upon the varying programmatic offerings each semester. Both Training Rooms will be equipped with computers, projectors, and projector screens. The Training Rooms are intended to facilitated talks, presentations, demonstrations, programming, and activities offered by American Indian elders, professionals, faculty, and students with the intention of supporting the transition and persistence of our American Indian students through degree completion.

What differentiates Training Room #1 from Training Room #2 is that it is equipped with a sink and filtration system to accommodation art demonstration by American Indian artists using clay for pottery or other art materials. Moreover, Training Room #1 will serve as a quasi computer lab and quiet study area while not in use for programmatic offerings.

Training Room #2 – Adjacent to the Restrooms

Different from classrooms, Training Room #1 & #2 are true multipurpose rooms and their usage will be dependent upon the varying programmatic offerings each semester. Both Training Rooms will be equipped with computers, projectors, and projector screens. The Training Rooms are intended to facilitated talks, presentations, demonstrations, programming, and activities offered

10/05/10

by American Indian elders, professionals, faculty, and students with the intention of supporting the transition and persistence of our American Indian students through degree completion.

When Training Room #1 is in use for programmatic offering and Training Room #2 is available, Training Room #2 will serve as the quasi computer lab and quiet study area. When both Training Rooms are in use for programmatic efforts the students who have laptops can utilize other spaces in the Center as it is a Wi-Fi building.

Commons

The Commons is a dedicated student space. It serves as a student lounge for social interaction action and engagement. As one of the main center pieces for the Commons, there are leather sofas where students can sit and take a breath from walking across campus. The Commons will be equipped with computers for checking one's E-mail, Face Book page, Blackboard, or MyNMSU account for example. The Commons will also be housed with a refrigerator, microwave, sink, and cabinets where students can store and reheat meals in between classes and meetings. There will be table and chairs where students can eat or study.

Kitchen

When students are asked, "what do they most miss from home when they are on campus?" They respond, "I miss my family and traditional foods." The presence of the kitchen provides the opportunity for programming focused on preparing traditional foods that the students miss most. The American Indian Program has plans for a new program entitled "Dinner from Home" where tribal elders or family members can conduct a traditional food making demonstrations with the intent to teach students how to prepare such foods on their own. Following the demonstration all the participants can partake in the pleasure of eating the tasty creations.

Meditation Room

The Meditation Room is a quiet space for students to take a break from a busy day to reflect on their lives, academic goals, and future plans. Moreover, it will serve as an environment for mentoring, leadership development, and discussion.

Conference Room

The Conference Room provides an environment for the American Indian Program to conduct staff meetings, presentations, conference calls, etc. Moreover, it provides a space for collaboration with other campus departments and groups as well as tribal leaders, education coordinators, and prospective students interested in NMSU.

Offices and Reception Area

This section of the AISC will house the American Indian Program staff. One office will be designated for the director, one will be designated for the program coordinator, one will be designated for the library, and one will be designated for student staff. The administrative secretary will occupy the reception area.

Rotunda

The Rotunda is an environment for cultural expression such as traditional dances for American Indian Week to name one of the many programmatic offerings intended to promote the AISC as a "home away from home."