The “Building Native Nations: Environment, Natural Resources, and Governance” conference will be held on December 11-13, 2001, in Tucson, Arizona. The international conference—expected to attract leaders and resource managers from Native nations in the United States, Canada, and abroad—is being organized and hosted by the Udall Center’s Native Nations Institute and the Morris K. Udall Foundation, with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The organizers expect some 300 participants, who will explore natural-resources and environmental co-management issues, Western science, traditional knowledge, and building institutional capacities through presentations, panels, and discussion sessions.

The University of Arizona’s (UA) President, Peter Likins; Jay Stauss, director of the UA’s American Indian Studies Program; and Jonathan Overpeck, director of the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, will speak. Invited speakers include U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs; Edward Manuel, chairman of the Tohono O’odham Nation; U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ), member and former chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs; Robert Valencia, chairman of the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe; and Charles Wilkinson, of the University of Colorado School of Law.

Conference panels and sessions include Natural Resources, Environment, and Tribal Governance: “The Big Picture”; Science, Technology, Data, & Traditional Knowledge; Environmental Protection in Indian Country; and Economic Opportunities in Resource Management and the Environment.

As the conference agenda is finalized, updates will be posted under the “Building Native Nations Conference” link on the Center’s Web site at <udallcenter.arizona.edu>.

For more information or to register, contact Stephanie Carroll Rainie at scrainie@u.arizona.edu or at (520) 884-4393.
Since 1990, the Udall Center Fellows Program has allowed faculty members and researchers at The University of Arizona (UA), and occasionally scholars from outside the university, to spend a semester at the Center engaging in research on a topic related to public policy. Some 85 UA faculty members from 29 departments as well as five non-UA scholars have been Udall Center Fellows.

To mark the success of the program, the Center has prepared a report, *Udall Center Fellows Program: A Decade of Policy Scholarship, 1990-2001*, for distribution this fall. The publication includes background material on the Fellows program; a biographic listing of the 90 Fellows and their projects; and a selected bibliography of more than 150 books, chapters, journal articles, and other scholarly works produced by those participating in this scholars-in-residence program.

The Fellows include social and physical scientists, engineers, agricultural scientists, humanists, conflict-resolution specialists, education scholars, lawyers, and a physician. A quarter have been untenured junior faculty members, along with four UA Regents Professors, six department heads, 13 former or future department heads, and two associate deans.

A call for applications for the 2002-2003 Fellowships will be issued in February 2002. To request a copy of this report or further information about the Fellows program, please contact Kathleen Veslany at veslany@u.arizona.edu or at (520) 884-4393.

Udall Center researchers are using the Hydrology for the Environment, Life, and Policy (HELP) network to facilitate cooperation between watershed groups in both the San Pedro River Basin and the Arkansas-Red River area. The HELP initiative is a global network of catchments that links scientists and policymakers, making watershed management easier for stakeholders, government officials, and water users.

Specifically, HELP promotes the exchange of information—new data and analysis methods, shared expertise, and findings from other water catchments. HELP also moderates dialogue between watershed groups through workshops, conferences, surveys, and maintenance of various Web sites. The program is a joint initiative of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and is managed by an international steering committee.

As part of the Center’s HELP-related efforts, funded by a grant from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), researchers examine water issues, interview stakeholders and water users, mediate conflicts between water and environmental organizations, offer hydrologic modeling to stakeholders, and support the formation of watershed organizations.

For more information on the HELP project, contact Anne Browning-Aiken at browning@u.arizona.edu or at (520) 884-4393.
Tribal Executive Education Workshop to Take Place in November

The Udall Center's Native Nations Institute will offer an executive education workshop for tribal leaders November 14-16, 2001, that addresses leadership, governance, and economic policy in tribal lands.

The workshop begins on Wednesday, November 14, with a reception and dinner, followed by two, nine-hour days of intensive workshops at The University of Arizona. Participants will attend sessions on "The Challenge of a Tribal Leader," "Building a Nation: How Far Along Are You?" and "Rebuilding Economies for Emerging Nations," among others. The workshop will be limited to 30 participants.

The registration fee covers instruction, seminar materials, one dinner, two continental breakfasts, two lunches, and all breaks. Registration by October 31st is $695; after that the fee is $795. Checks should be made out to "The University of Arizona/Udall Center." A special hotel room rate of $79 per night is available at the Four Points Sheraton; reservations can be made by calling (800) 843-8052.

To register or get more information on this workshop, contact Emily Chiles at ebcchiles@email.arizona.edu or at (520) 884-4393.

Center Researchers Examine TANF Program

At the request of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Udall Center staff and researchers from the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies at Washington University in St. Louis are studying the impact of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program on American Indian nations.

In 1996 Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) establishing the TANF program, which replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. The TANF program consists of block grants to states and to Indian tribes to provide temporary financial assistance, child support, and job training to those in need as part of a larger effort to move welfare recipients into the work force.

NCAI contracted with the Udall Center and the Buder Center to evaluate the program as part of NCAI’s efforts to prepare for the reauthorization of TANF, which comes before Congress in 2002. From the Udall Center, Miriam Jorgensen, Michelle Hale, and Stephen Cornell, along with consultant Ami Nagle, are focusing in particular on TANF’s job training component, including the Welfare to Work and Native Employment Works initiatives, as well as reservation economic development issues related to welfare reform.

The completed report to NCAI will review current research, data, and other information on the impact of TANF on Indian reservations, will identify key issues for the reauthorization process, and will identify areas where additional research is needed before a complete evaluation of TANF will be possible.

For more information about this project, contact Michelle Hale at mhale@email.arizona.edu or at (520) 884-4393.

Future Tribal Entrepreneurs

Native American youth aspiring to succeed in the business world honed their skills at an entrepreneur camp organized by Udall Center staff July 31-August 6, 2001. High-school juniors and seniors participating in the Native American Youth Entrepreneur Camp (NAYEC) learned how to create business plans and expanded their awareness of economic developments on tribal lands while getting a taste of college life at The University of Arizona.

The brainchild of Joan Timeche, assistant director of the Udall Center’s Native Nations Institute, the 2001 camp hosted students representing Tohono O’odham, Navajo, Hopi, and Pasqua Yaqui Nations. NAYEC participants listened to speakers from the Native American business community, utilized their computer skills, worked on personal business plans, and sold items at the youth marketplace among other activities during each 10-hour day. “I pushed them hard,” Timeche said. “I’m a workaholic, so I expect the students to work hard too.” Participants showcased the business plans they developed over the week to parents and guests on the camp’s last day.

For more information on the entrepreneur camp, contact Joan Timeche at timechej@email.arizona.edu or (520) 884-4393.
This fall, the Udall Center welcomes many new employees to its staff. Emily Chiles joins the Center’s Native Nations Institute (NNI) as its senior office specialist. She is responsible for event planning and office administration. Miriam Jorgensen has been hired as NNI’s associate director for research. Tom Sheeran is the Center’s new computer systems analyst and oversees the desktop and network operations.

Three new graduate students join the Center as well. Michelle Hale, program associate, assists Stephen Cornell and Manley Begay on NNI research in the areas of tribal self-governance, policy development, and nation-building. Michelle is a Ph.D. student in comparative cultural and literary studies. Ian Record, also a program associate, is working on several research and writing projects associated with the Center’s American Indian policy program as well as NNI. He is currently a Ph.D. student in American Indian studies. Leah Stauber, program assistant and master’s student in anthropology, helps Robert Varady and Anne Browning-Aiken on the National Science Foundation-funded SAHRA project and on U.S.-Mexico border environmental research. Additionally, five new undergraduate assistants are working at the Udall Center this fall. Irene Hsiao (journalism) helps with the Center’s publications program. Jennifer Huff (anthropology), a University of Arizona Space Grant intern, assists with the research and writing of the weekly AuroraNet News electronic newsletter. Lisa McLaren (business), Kamille Thomas (pharmacy), and Tiffany Woody (business management) provide administrative support at the Udall Center.

The Center also bids farewell to three staff members who have left the University to pursue other opportunities. Jen McCormack, former editorial associate, is pursuing a dual master’s degree in public affairs and Middle Eastern studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Charles Polkiewicz, former computer systems analyst, has accepted a position with IBM. Katherine Hankins, former program associate, is pursuing her Ph.D. in geography from the University of Georgia at Athens.