2001-2006

Native Nations Institute

Five Years of Service to Indigenous Communities

This past year, the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy (NNI), an administrative entity of the Udall Center, marked its fifth year of operation.

Founded in 2001 by the Morris K. Udall Foundation and the University of Arizona, NNI serves as a resource on self-determination, governance, and development for Indigenous nations in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.

During the past five years, NNI has:

- conducted research on tribal law enforcement and community justice programs, asset building, border policy, and intergovernmental resource-management, among other topics (see pages 2-3)

- presented more than 80 executive education training programs to nearly 2600 tribal leaders and other participants in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand

- launched and published nine monographs in the series, Joint Occasional Papers on Native Affairs (JOPNA), with the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (see jopna.net)

- initiated a quarterly, electronic newsletter, NNI Research Report, to document relevant research activities and findings (see nni.arizona.edu/researchreport.html)

- hosted seven sessions of the award-winning Native American Youth Entrepreneur Camp serving more than 150 high-school student participants

- produced the acclaimed ten-part television and radio program, Native Nation Building (see page 5)

- generated revenues of nearly $6 million through grants – including nearly $3.25 million from the Morris K. Udall Foundation – and fee-for-service contracts, conferences, workshops, donations, and sponsorships

A summary document noting these and other NNI accomplishments is available at: nni.arizona.edu/whatsnew.htm
**Focus on Indigenous Nations Policy**

An overview of selected, ongoing research projects being conducted by NNI staff and collaborators

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**Primer on Issues Facing Border Tribes**

Within the United States more than 40 Indigenous nations have traditional lands that span contemporary international borders with either Mexico or Canada. In many cases, this means these nations’ populations are to some extent split, with people living on both sides of an international boundary.

These nations face distinctive issues resulting from their proximity to international borders. Issues include legally and physically divided populations, constrained access to cultural resources that lie across such boundaries, law enforcement and security concerns, environmental impacts, particularly of cross-border movement, public health issues, and the challenges of dealing with central governments that often fail to understand the concerns of border tribes.

NNI is assembling a primer on issues facing border tribes, including information on tribal responses to the problems and resources available to address them.

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**Asset-Building Programs and Policies in Indian Country**

Economic research suggests that opportunities and incentives for wealth building have improved the circumstances of individuals and families in the middle and upper income brackets. Such policies have rarely been targeted at low income individuals and families; instead, income transfer programs with negative incentives for wealth building have been the main components of “poor support.”

Today, however, programs ranging from the Earned Income Tax Credit to individual development accounts (IDAs, also known as matched savings accounts), supported by financial education, credit counseling, and home-buyer education programs, are attempting to extend the benefits of wealth building to low-income individuals and families. Significantly, there is great interest in such programs in Indian Country. The challenge is to design programs that work in this environment—which may have different cultural and policy constraints than are present in the mainstream.

NNI has been engaged to evaluate the effectiveness of a curriculum designed by the First Nations Development Institute, Oweesta, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development that trains Native leaders and program directors to implement matched saving account programs in their communities. NNI’s evaluation research ultimately will lead to the design of better curricular resources and improved opportunities for wealth building in Native communities.

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**Leadership Development and Philanthropy for Native Arts/Culture**

Building on its leadership training expertise, as well as the 2005 publications *Large Foundations’ Giving to Native America* (produced in collaboration with the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development) and *Native Cultural Arts Organizations: Who They Are and What They Need* (for Atlatl, Inc.), NNI was engaged by the Ford Foundation to provide research and consulting on the leadership development and philanthropic needs of the Native arts and culture sector.

NNI’s work supports a broader understanding of investments in Native arts and culture—specifically, that such investments not only serve to differentiate Native people and nations from the dominant society, but that they also enhance a sense of self and of belonging among tribal citizens, which in turn reinforces community cohesion and Native nation survival.

NNI is providing the Ford Foundation, the philanthropic sector, and the Native arts and culture field with vital information about the knowledge and support the field and its leaders need to fulfill this broad mission.
Socio-economic Changes in Indian Country from 1990 to 2000

Using U.S. census data for 1990 and 2000, the aim of this project is to understand the diversity in the extent and nature of socio-economic change across Indian nations and the relative roles that such things as casino gaming, self-determination, quality of governance, education, regional economic activity, and other factors have played in these nations’ efforts to improve the situations of their peoples.

A preliminary analysis of the data has found several intriguing patterns related to changes in (1) per capita income, (2) the number of dependents per worker, and (3) the employment rates for males and females.

Generally, the data show that American Indians living on Indian lands continued to experience substantially below average socio-economic conditions, but also that there is significant improvement across a host of indicators. Thus, the story emerging from the decade 1990-2000 is mixed—there was a great deal of improvement, but there is still a large gap to be closed.

A summary of this work appears in NNIRR No. 5, Summer 2006 at: <nni.arizona.edu/researchreport.html>.

Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement (CIRCLE) Project

NNI recently concluded a 30-month outcomes evaluation of the Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement (CIRCLE) Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. CIRCLE is a demonstration project designed to explore the benefits of more integrated federal funding for tribal justice programs and more comprehensive and strategic program planning at the tribal level.

The research report offers a new paradigm for conducting evaluation research on Indigenous criminal justice systems, suggests alternative funding procedures to support comprehensive criminal justice programs in Indian Country, and recommends an increased connection between Indigenous justice system development and nation building.

NNI’s partners in this effort included Oglala Lakota College, Chief Dull Knife Memorial College, and the Zuni Community Development and Advocacy Center.

New Zealand Fisheries Research

NNI is currently participating in a major research project underway at the University of Auckland that examines determinants of innovation and growth in New Zealand’s seafood industry.

NNI is researching innovations among tribal fisheries in the United States and First Nations’ fisheries in Canada with an eye toward their potential implications for further seafood sector innovation and growth by the Māori, who are major stakeholders in New Zealand’s seafood industry.

Study of Consultative Process for Bureau of Land Management

NNI, in partnership with the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, has undertaken a project for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to explore appropriate early involvement strategies that might foster opportunities for communication and conflict resolution between the BLM and Native Nations.

The aim of the project is to develop an informal consultation framework, within BLM’s renewable and non-renewable resources program decision-making processes, that relies on early involvement with tribes. The assistance includes designing, developing, drafting, and completing a BLM national policy and strategies guide.

The guide will serve as a resource to BLM’s managers and staff nationwide, to Native nations, and to the general public. During the coming year, NNI researchers will vet a draft guide with tribes and submit a final version to BLM in the summer of 2007.

For more information on these projects, contact:

Miriam Jorgensen, NNI associate director for research, at <mjorgens@u.arizona.edu> or (520) 626-0664
Stephanie Rainie, NNI research coordinator, at <scrainie@u.arizona.edu> or (520) 626-0664

SOCIO-ECONOMICS

JUSTICE PROGRAMS

NATURAL RESOURCES
National Symposium on Immigration  
Arizona State Capitol, Phoenix  
Thursday, November 16, 2006  


“The aim of the symposium,” said Judith Gans, the Udall Center’s program manager for immigration policy, “is to discuss in an open and objective forum a range of issues, such as the economic and fiscal impacts of immigration and the politics of immigration reform.”

“We hope to present the conceptual frameworks for understanding immigration in a global economy and to be able to explore constructive policy options that might be available to state and local governments grappling with immigration’s impacts,” said Gans, who will present initial results of her research analyzing immigration patterns and trends in Arizona.

The format for the event will include a series of presentations and moderated discussions by distinguished scholars, governmental officials, and other experts (see sidebar).

For more information contact Judith Gans at <judygans@u.arizona.edu> or (520) 626-4393.
Native Nation Building Television and Radio Programs Now on CD/DVD

Native Nation Building, the acclaimed ten-part television and radio program developed by the Native Nations Institute, is now available for purchase in CD or DVD format.

Featuring roundtable interviews with accomplished Native political, business, and community leaders, as well as noted scholars and educators, the program chronicles the growing number of nation-building success stories currently taking hold across Indian Country and explores the roots of those successes.

“Native Nation Building shares with Native people, as well as the general public, the governance and development lessons that NNI has learned through two decades of community-based research with Native nations,” said NNI director Manley A. Begay, Jr., a citizen of the Navajo Nation.

“The series examines where, how, and why nation building is currently taking place, in particular the fundamental issues governing Native nations’ efforts to exercise their sovereignty, restore their economic vitality, and shape their own futures,” he said.

Native Nation Building examines how Native nations are building effective governments, developing strong economies that fit a variety of cultures and circumstances, solving difficult social problems, and balancing cultural integrity and change — just a few of the challenging questions that face contemporary American Indian, Alaska Native, and Canadian First Nation governments.

The series, which debuted in January, is being broadcast on tribal radio and public television and radio stations across North America. A CD version (audio) of the series is available for $20 (for individuals) or $40 (for organizations), and a DVD version (video) is $35 (for individuals) or $70 (for organizations).

The series was produced by NNI in conjunction with the University of Arizona’s KUAT MultiMedia, with financial support from the Morris K. Udall Foundation, Flintco Constructive Solutions, and the Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation’s Economic Development Corporation.

nni.arizona.edu/nativetv

NNI Calendar

The Native Nations Institute will be hosting several executive education training programs and other events during the coming months. Here’s a brief listing. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Tucson, Ariz.

Executive Education for Tribal Leaders
November 8-9, 2006
Portland, Ore.

Executive Education for Tribal Leaders
April 10-11, 2007

Executive Education for Newly Elected Leaders
April 12, 2007

Native American Youth Entrepreneur Camp
June 17-22, 2007

For more information, contact Monica Agar at (520) 626-0664 or <cortes@u.arizona.edu>.

nii.arizona.edu/whatsnew.htm

In various configurations, NNI’s instructional team—Manley Begay, Stephen Cornell, Miriam Jorgensen, Joseph Kalt, Ian Record, and Joan Timeche—delivered seven executive education training sessions during April through September 2006, including customized programs for leaders of the Naut’sa mawt Tribal Council (British Columbia), Fort McKay First Nation (Alberta), Pueblo of Isleta (N.M.), and Crow Tribe (Mont.).

AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

NNI director Manley Begay is on sabbatical leave during the 2006-07 academic year. During part of his leave, he will be working on two projects: (1) assisting the Navajo Nation’s Diné College in the development of a Diné Policy Institute, and (2) researching the experience of Navajo Vietnam War veterans.

Deputy director Robert Varady was elected this past spring vice-president (president-elect) of the International Water History Association.

Immigration policy program manager Judith Gans has been appointed to the board of trustees of the Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona. She serves as chair of the foundation’s Committee on Trusteeship.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Pamela Dixon became senior office specialist at the Center, replacing Kim Abraham who moved to the San Francisco area. Pamela, who is soon to receive a bachelor’s degree in art history, will provide administrative assistance to director Stephen Cornell, deputy director Robert Varady, and operations manager Stephanie Rainie. Erin Suelmann joined the Center’s staff as a senior receptionist in May. She is a master’s degrees student both in the College of Public Health and the Department of Anthropology. Graphic designer Colleen Loomis left the Center in July to reside in the Chicago area with her husband, filmmaker Robert Loomis, and their two young sons, Declan and Jet.

“Any [Indigenous] nation that seriously wants to support the citizenship-entrepreneur sector should consider action in these three areas—attitudes, investments, and institutions—and particularly in the institutional arena. This is nation-building, and it is the key to economic success.”

Stephen Cornell, Udall Center director, from an article on tribal-citizen entrepreneurship appearing in Community Dividend (Issue 3, 2006), published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

“We’re seeing more [Native American] businesses, not only starting but surviving and thriving.”

Joan Timeche, NNI assistant director, quoted in an article in the Arizona Daily Star (June 21, 2006) about the growing number of Native American businesses in Arizona

“There is no question that community hospitals along the [U.S.-Mexico] border face a special burden, but in the aggregate, it is difficult to make the case that immigrants are breaking the bank.”

Judith Gans, manager, Immigration Policy Program, quoted in the Sierra Vista Herald (July 26, 2006) after presenting a public lecture on the relationship of immigration and uncompensated health care costs at the Arizona Rural Health Conference

“It looks as if the NADBank has been saved for now, but it came very close to being eliminated.”

Robert Varady, Udall Center deputy director, quoted in an article appearing in the Tucson Weekly (April 13, 2006), describing attempts to eliminate the binational North American Development Bank (NADBank), which funds U.S.-Mexico border environmental infrastructure projects
Christopher Scott
Assistant Research Professor

Christopher Scott joined the Udall Center this past July as assistant research professor of water resources policy with a joint appointment as assistant professor in the UA Department of Geography and Regional Development.

Chris's areas of expertise are the human dimensions and drivers of water scarcity and quality degradation.

His research focuses on river basin management including surface- and groundwater, urban wastewater reuse, and land use and urbanization impacts on water resources and quality—primarily in South Asia, Mexico, and Arizona—with particular interest in the processes and strategies that enhance stakeholder involvement in water-related decision-making.

Chris holds a Ph.D. in hydrology from Cornell University. He has ten years' experience working for the International Water Management Institute in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Mexico, as well as two years each in Honduras and India working for nongovernmental organizations.

Prior to his arrival at the University of Arizona, he was a senior international project manager with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Silver Spring, Md., where he led National Weather Service collaboration with Mexico and India.

Chris's spouse, Stephanie Buechler, a sociologist, works as a researcher at the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology. Chris and Stephanie have two children, Celina and Gabriel, and a brand new, Arizona-born Chihuahua, Bandit or Bandido.

Renee La Roi
Graphic Designer

Renee La Roi began work as the Udall Center's graphic designer in September.

Renee, a dual U.S./Canadian citizen, moved to Tucson from Vancouver, British Columbia, via Edmonton, Alberta. She grew up in Edmonton and lived in Vancouver for 13 years. She received a B.F.A. degree from the University of Alberta and studied at the Emily Carr School of Art and Design and the Western Front Multimedia School in Vancouver.

She has extensive Web and print graphic design experience, including work for the Marine Mammal Research Consortium at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver Aquarium and Marine Science Center, and Vancouver magazine.

Renee also has a passion for photography and art, and maintains a Web site displaying her works at <reneelaro.com>. You may see her with her blind dog Roxie, with whom she has the role of seeing-eye human.

Ian Record
Manager, NNI Leadership and Management Programs

Ian Record, who has been on the staff of the Native Nations Institute since 2004, is now manager of NNI’s leadership and management programs.

In addition to continuing his responsibilities in the area of curriculum development, Ian will assume various administrative duties, including developing and scheduling programmatic work plans, supervising program staff, and working with other UA departments in delivering high-quality educational programs to Native nations and organizations.

Ian received a Ph.D. in 2004 in American Indian studies from the UA and recently produced the ten-part video series, “Native Nation Building.” He is author of Big Sycamore Standing: The Apaches, Aravaipa and the Struggle for Place, forthcoming from the University of Oklahoma Press.

The Udall Center specializes in research and outreach in the areas of: (1) environmental policy, primarily in the Southwest and U.S.-Mexico border region; (2) immigration policy of the United States; and (3) indigenous nations policy.

udallcenter.arizona.edu

The Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy (NNI)—founded by the Morris K. Udall Foundation and the University of Arizona, and housed at the Udall Center—serves as a self-determination, self-governance, and development resource for indigenous nations in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.

nni.arizona.edu
Udall Center Selects Faculty Fellows for 2006-07

The Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy has selected five University of Arizona (UA) faculty members to become Udall Center Fellows for 2006-07: Thomas Christiano, professor of philosophy and law; Don Grant, professor of sociology; Dale Kunkel, professor of communication; Spike Peterson, professor of political science; and Margaret Wilder, assistant professor of Latin American studies.

With release from their teaching and other major responsibilities, the fellows will affiliate with the Center and will engage in research on topics related to public policy.

This year, two fellows will receive stipend support from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (Kunkel and Peterson), two from the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth (Grant and Wilder), and one from the Department of Philosophy (Christiano).

The fellows, and their proposed research topics, are:

**Thomas Christiano** (philosophy and law): **Global justice and international law**

Christiano will study the ethical question whether there is a human right to democracy—a question that relates to the current and explicit foreign policy goals of the United States and other nations. As a Udall Center Fellow in 1993-94, his work contributed to a book entitled *The Rule of the Many: Fundamental Issues in Democratic Theory* (Westview Press, 1996).

**Don Grant** (sociology): **Social impacts of toxic emissions**

Grant will examine the health risks that chemical plants pose to disadvantaged populations, such as the poor and ethnic minorities, and especially vulnerable groups, such as children and the elderly. The work Grant will undertake builds on earlier research he conducted as a Udall Center Fellow in 2000-01, where he looked at variations in the amount of toxic emissions from different types of industrial plants (large vs. small plants, subsidiaries versus principal or headquarters plants).

**Dale Kunkel** (communication): **Food marketing to children**

Kunkel aims to develop a detailed proposal for a uniform system of food ratings that would be comprehensible and appealing to children and adults, and would aid public policy-making. Currently, Kunkel notes, food products developed for and advertised to children tend to be predominantly high in calories, sugar, or fat, and low in nutrients, and there is little guidance for children regarding the nutritional qualities of these foods.

**Spike Peterson** (political science): **“Coping” and “criminal” economies during war**

Using Iraq as a case study, Peterson will examine public-policy issues related to promoting the economic stability needed for conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction, including the processes that individuals and groups use to cope and recover from a period of significant social disruption.

**Margaret Wilder** (Latin American studies): **Mexican water policy**

With a focus in the state of Sonora, Wilder will examine how Mexico’s water policy addresses or resolves competing urban and rural water-supply needs, how changes in access to water are affecting rural livelihoods, and how climate information is used in designing municipal water-supply strategies, especially during periods of drought.

This year’s selection committee comprised UA faculty members Karl Flessa (professor of geosciences), John Garcia (professor of political science), and Sharon Megdal (director of the Water Resources Research Center).

Since the inception of the program in 1990, the Center has named nearly 100 fellows from 34 UA departments.

For more information, contact Pamela Dixon, senior office specialist at the Udall Center, at (520) 626-4393 or <padixon@u.arizona.edu>.