Immigrants in Arizona Provide Positive Net Fiscal Impact of $1 Billion Annually

A report published recently by the Udall Center’s Immigration Policy Program, *Immigrants in Arizona: Fiscal and Economic Impacts*, estimates that immigrants in the state generate more than three dollars in taxes for every two dollars they incur for government services, such as education, health care, and law enforcement - for a net economic gain approaching one billion dollars per year.

Using an economic simulation model, the study’s researchers tallied the fiscal costs and benefits of immigrants in Arizona’s economy for 2004, finding that the total state tax revenue attributable to immigrant workers was nearly $2.4 billion ($860 million for naturalized citizens plus $1.5 billion for non-citizens, a majority of whom are likely to be undocumented) balanced against estimated fiscal costs of about $1.4 billion, for a positive net impact of about $940 million.

“What the research shows is that immigrants, regardless of their legal status, make a significant contribution to our state’s economy,” said Judith Gans, the report’s principal author and manager of the Udall Center’s Immigration Policy Program.

“Because immigrants are filling specific gaps in Arizona’s labor force, they are making possible economic activity that otherwise would not occur,” Gans said. The report estimates that immigrant workers generate about $44 billion, or 12 percent, of Arizona’s economic output.

Gans said that non-citizen immigrants are a vital source of labor in key industries that employ large numbers of low-skilled workers, such as construction, agriculture, manufacturing, and various service industries. Eliminating these workers, she said, would result in lost output of approximately $29 billion.

“The tax revenues that result from this economic activity outweigh the fiscal costs of immigrants, and the result is a significant net fiscal benefit to the state,” she said.

Gans said the aim of the study, commissioned by the Thomas R. Brown Foundations, is to help create a better understanding of the economic costs and benefits of immigration and of the tradeoffs involved in the legitimate desires for a secure border and a robust economy.

“It is my hope that public understanding of what is at stake for the economy, along with the costs of immigration, can contribute to a less polarized environment for making and enforcing immigration policy,” Gans said.

For more information, contact Judith Gans at (520) 626-4393 or <judygans@u.arizona.edu> or visit <udallcenter.arizona.edu/immigrantsinarizona>.
RESEARCH

Implementing the Federal Endangered Species Act in Indian Country: The Promise and Reality of Secretarial Order 3206

by Marren Sanders

Joint Occasional Papers on Native Affairs (JOPNA), No. 2007-01

This paper considers whether Secretarial Order 3206 has lived up to its promise of true bilateralism between the United States and sovereign tribal governments regarding their rights vis-a-vis the Endangered Species Act (ESA) process. It reviews the key requirements of the ESA, pertinent executive orders, and SO 3206 itself. The paper discusses how tribes can create and implement their own habitat-management plans as alternatives to designation of critical habitat on Indian lands, including partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Conservation Service.

<jopna.net>

Related Publications

Researchers with the Udall Center’s environmental policy team have published several articles and essays recently, including:


NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM NNI

Implementing the Federal Endangered Species Act in Indian Country: The Promise and Reality of Secretarial Order 3206

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<jopna.net>

NNI Research Report

No. 6, Summer 2007

The latest NNI Research Report is now available online.

NNI Research Report is a free, electronic information service of the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy (NNI) at The University of Arizona.

The report reviews new research by NNI staff and affiliates, summarizes published work by other scholars relevant to Indigenous self-determination and nation building, notes ongoing research projects, and provides links to other organizations working on related issues.

<nii.arizona.edu/resources/NNIRR06>

No. 34

October 2007
Economic Development Administration Awards Training Grant to NNI

Udall Center director Stephen Cornell (center) receives a check from U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah (left) and U.S. Representative Raúl Grijalva, D-AZ, (right) for $142,400 to support the Native Nations Institute’s executive education curricula in digital and other distance learning formats that can be utilized by American Indian nations, tribal colleges, and other institutions.

Source: Economic Development Administration <eda.gov>

NNI Radio Series Available Free via AIROS

The highly acclaimed Native Nation Building (NNB) radio series produced by NNI is now available for free via podcast on the AIROS Native Radio Network. In addition to all ten segments of the NNB series, listeners can download a segment from the recently held NNI Forum on Tribal Sovereign Immunity.

<airos.org/nni>

New NNI Web Site

The Native Nations Institute recently launched its newly designed Web site.

<nii.arizona.edu>

Executive Education Training

Modeled on similar programs for corporate CEOs, military leaders, state and national officials, and other decision-makers, the NNI executive education seminars focus on leadership, governance, and economic development in Indian Country.

The seminar curriculum builds upon more than 20 years’ experience by researchers at NNI and the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development - work that has identified key elements for successful nation building.

The instructional program also includes dozens of case studies from across Native America and around the world.

The seminars are designed for tribal chairs, presidents, governors, and chiefs; members of tribal councils and legislative committees; tribal planners and economic development staff; chief executive officers and staff of tribal corporations, and members of enterprise boards of directors; and tribal judges.

Registration Fee

The registration fee of $150 covers instruction, seminar materials, two lunches, and refreshment breaks, plus NNI’s Native Nation Building series on CD for each participant to take home. A limited number of fee waivers are available for UA graduate students.

Contact

To receive additional information, contact Monica Agar at cortes@u.arizona.edu or call (520) 626-0664.

<nii.arizona.edu/whatsnew/tribaloct07.php>
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The Udall Center, established in 1987, 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 in 2001 by the Morris K. Udall Foundation and The University of Arizona—and part of the Udall Center—serves as a self-determination, governance, and development resource for Indigenous nations in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere. <nni.arizona.edu>

Presentations
Miriam Jorgensen, NNI’s associate director for research, presented a talk, “The Financial Literacy of Native American Youth,” at the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures held in Boston in August.

Anne Browning-Aiken, program manager for environmental and community collaboration, presented a paper, “Energy and Water in the U.S.-Mexico Border Mining Industry: Looking Towards Sustainable Development” (co-authored by Floyd Gray and Denisse Fisher de Leon), at the 20th Annual Arizona Hydrological Society Symposium, “Sustainable Water, Unlimited Growth, Quality of Life: Can We Have It All?” held in Tucson in August. At the same event, Christopher Scott, assistant research professor of water resources policy, moderated a session, “Coupled Water and Energy Demand in the Southwest and U.S.-Mexico Border Region.”


Personnel Changes
Jaime Arsenault joined the staff of the Native Nations Institute in September as a research analyst. She recently completed a master’s degree in intercultural service, leadership, and management from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vt. A member of the Mikmak Nation, Jaime brings with her experience in development and Indigenous health.

Denise Lum joined the Center’s staff in August as a senior receptionist. She is working on a bachelor’s degree in journalism at the UA.

Lizet Villagrana, who recently received a master’s degree in public administration from the UA’s Eller College of Management, is now an accounting associate for the Center.

Several staff members have left the Center: Rose Chischillie, senior office specialist for NNI, received a master’s degree from the UA in agricultural and resource economics; Jamie Dolan, NNI graduate research associate and a doctoral candidate in sociology, is now teaching at Carroll College in Helena, Mont.; and Denisse Fisher de Leon recently received a master’s degree in natural resources from the UA.

Other
Udall Center director Stephen Cornell began a year’s sabbatical leave effective July and will continue his comparative research project on Indigenous governance in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, which will include spending some time in Australia. Manley Begay, NNI’s director, recently completed his sabbatical leave in which he worked with the Navajo Nation’s Diné College to establish a policy institute.