Native Nations Institute and Harvard Project Publish Landmark Books on Nation Building

Researchers with the Native Nations Institute (NNI) and its partner institution, the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, have produced two key volumes on Native nation building.

The most recent book, Rebuilding Native Nations: Strategies for Governance and Development, was published in November by the University of Arizona Press.

"Rebuilding Native Nations addresses issues ranging from constitution-making to inter-governmental relations, from tribal judicial systems to nation-owned enterprises," said the book's editor, Miriam Jorgensen, associate director for research for NNI and research director of the Harvard Project.

The book summarizes twenty years of practical research on governance and development in Indian Country and provides guidelines for creating new governance structures, rewriting constitutions, building justice systems, launching nation-owned enterprises, encouraging citizen entrepreneurs, developing new relationships with non-Native governments, and confronting crippling legacies of colonialism.

"For Indigenous nations that wish to reclaim the right to govern themselves and to shape their future in their own ways, this book can be a critical resource," said Udall Center director Stephen Cornell, a faculty associate with NNI and co-author of several of the book’s chapters.

With support from the Ford Foundation and Morris K. Udall Foundation, Rebuilding Native Nations is being distributed free to every Native nation in the United States, to tribal colleges, and to a number of Indian Country nongovernmental organizations.


For information about Rebuilding Native Nations, contact the University of Arizona Press at (800) 426-3797 or see <www.uapress.arizona.edu>.

Rebuilding Native Nations: Strategies for Governance and Development
384 pp., University of Arizona Press
ISBN 9780816524211 (cloth, $40.00)
ISBN 9780816524235 (paper, $20.00)

The State of the Native Nations: Conditions under U.S. Policies of Self-Determination
448 pp., ISBN 9780195301267 (paper, $29.95)

Produced by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and published by Oxford University Press, The State of the Native Nations provides an overview of the political, economic, social, and cultural realities of contemporary Native America, including extensive and up-to-date empirical data and analysis.

For more information, contact Oxford University Press at (800) 451-7556 or see <www.oup.com/us/he>.
Researchers Survey Water Users in Mexican Watershed

A research team from the Udall Center and other units at The University of Arizona interviewed about 600 water users in urban and rural areas of the Mexican portion of the Upper San Pedro River basin to study the influence of climate information on water consumption and management.

The researchers found that within the urban areas, the major concern for respondents was the lack of reliable, potable water service, due primarily to the breakdown of infrastructure. While climatic changes, particularly drought and high temperatures, exacerbate the limitations of the urban water system, users tend not to rely on climate information to change their patterns of usage.

Water managers, however, prefer to have access to climate, weather, and hydrological information to improve their planning. The limitation for them is availability of such information, both in terms of collection (i.e., a limited number of weather stations and stream flow gages) as well as dissemination (i.e., through bureaucratic channels).

For rural water users, such as ranchers, while there is widespread recognition about the general impacts of climatic conditions on livelihoods, such information seems to play little role in planning for or adapting to climatic changes.

Source

For more information contact Anne Browning-Aiken at (520) 626-4393 or <browning@u.arizona.edu>.

Udall Center Hosts Visiting Scholar from French Science Agency

The Udall Center is pleased to host Dr. Graciela Schneier-Madanes, of CNRS, the French National Center for Scientific Research (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), and the Institute for Advanced Studies of Latin America at the Sorbonne-Nouvelle in Paris (IHEAL-CREDAL), for a year’s affiliation with the Center as a visiting scientist. She also has visiting scholar status with the Department of Geography and Regional Development, the Water Resources Research Center, and the Center for Latin American Studies.

Schneier-Madanes’s mission is to help implement a new binational, interdisciplinary water-research center linking CNRS and The University of Arizona. The center, known as a “UMI” (international joint unit), is only the third such center in the United States. She also will develop a consortium for joint research on urban water issues in the Americas.

Schneier-Madanes has a degree in architecture (Universidad de Buenos Aires) and a doctorate in geography (Université Paris I Sorbonne). At CNRS, she is director of “Res-Eau-Ville,” an urban water research network. Her research interests include urban water management, urban networks, and Latin American cities (urbanism and architecture).

She can be reached at (520) 626-1959 or <graciela.schneier@cnrs-dir.fr>.

GRANTS RECEIVED
Udall Center Environmental Policy Program

The Udall Center’s Sustainability and the Transforming Southwest Project recently received the following grants totaling $365,400:

- Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research ($147,000): an award to Robert Varady, Christopher Scott, Anne Browning-Aiken, and collaborators at The University of Arizona (UA) and other institutions in the United States and Mexico to conduct a two-year research project, “Information flows and policy: Use of climate diagnostics and cyclone prediction for adaptive water-resources management under climatic uncertainty in western North America”

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ($10,600): an allocation to Anne Browning-Aiken in support of work on the project, “Multi-method evaluation of the RISA model, with lessons for NIDIS,” coordinated by the UA Institute for the Study of Planet Earth

- Arizona Water Institute ($50,000): a grant to Christopher Scott, Robert Varady, and others at the UA and Arizona State University, for the project, “Water and energy sustainability with rapid growth in the Arizona-Sonora border region”

- International Water Management Institute ($17,000 for 2007, $66,000 approved for 2008): a grant to Christopher Scott to conduct a project, “Rural and environmental water gradients under rapid urban expansion in water-scarce basins”

- WateReuse Foundation ($74,800): A grant to Christopher Scott, Anne Browning-Aiken, and Robert Varady to support a one-year project, “Water reuse to offset growth-driven water scarcity in the Southwest: From supply augmentation to substitution”
The Native Nations Institute held its eleventh Native American Youth Entrepreneur Camp (NAYEC) in June 2007. The event’s organizer is Joan Timeche, assistant director of the Native Nations Institute.

The innovative and award-winning camps are intended to teach business skills to Native American high-school juniors, seniors, and recent graduates to encourage private-sector development in Indian Country.

This past year’s camp brought 18 high-school students from eight Indigenous nations to The University of Arizona campus to learn the basics of economics, computer skills, strategies for success, and business plan preparation.


Photos of NAYEC students (courtesy NNI staff)

**YOUTH GOVERNANCE**

NNI is developing a youth governance camp modeled on the successful youth entrepreneur camp, to be held in the spring/summer of 2008. This past June, NNI piloted the camp in conjunction with the Leadership Institute of the Santa Fe Indian School. Twenty-five students from the New Mexico pueblos and the Navajo Nation attended.

**NAYEC 12**

Preparations are underway for NAYEC 12, which will be held July 20-25, 2008, in Tucson.

<www.nni.arizona.edu/whatwedo/youth.php>

For more information about the NNI youth camps, including opportunities to provide tuition sponsorships, please contact Monica Agar at <cortes@u.arizona.edu> or (520) 626-0664.

Photos of NAYEC students (courtesy NNI staff)

**GRANTS AND CONTRACTS RECEIVED**

The Native Nations Institute recently received the following grants and contracts totaling $175,500:

**Research**

- National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center ($50,000): a grant to Miriam Jorgensen and Stephen Cornell for collaborative work on “Strengthening Tribal Governance,” an ongoing project looking at steps American Indian nations can take to enhance their governance capacities

- First Nations Development Institute ($23,000): an award to Miriam Jorgensen for a study of predatory lending practices in Indian Country

**Outreach**

- Northwest Band of Shoshone ($2,500): to support an executive education for tribal leaders seminar

- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ($100,000): to support a major initiative to expand executive education services to Native nations, tribal colleges, and other organizations working on reservation governance and community and economic development, including developing a “youth and governance” curriculum, organizing a “teach the teachers” seminar, sponsoring an NNI policy fellows program, and publication and dissemination of curricular materials
Manley Begay, NNI director, gave a presentation in August on Indigenous nation building for staff at the Administration for Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. In September, Begay was appointed to the board of trustees of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. In October, Begay delivered a keynote address at the 17th Annual Navajo Studies Conference held at Dîné College in Tsaile, Ariz.

In various team configurations, NNI Staff conducted a Strategic Planning Update with the Yavapai-Apache Nation (Joan Timeche and Rachel Starks) and Nation Building seminar for the Pueblo of Laguna (Stephen Cornell and Joan Timeche) in August; Nation Building seminars for the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin (Stephen Cornell and Joan Timeche) and Six Nations First Nation (Manley Begay and Miriam Jorgensen) in September; an ‘open’ Nation Building seminar in October (all staff); and a strategic planning session for the Pueblo of Laguna in October (Joan Timeche and Ian Record).

Miriam Jorgensen, NNI’s associate director for research, gave the keynote address, “The Importance of Indian Entrepreneurship,” at the Montana Indian Business Alliance annual conference in September. In October, Jorgensen spoke in the political science department seminar series at the University of Toronto on “Aboriginal Governing Institutions: Connections between Research and Policy Advice.”

In October, Judge Joseph Thomas Flies-Away, NNI senior policy associate, and Miriam Jorgensen spoke at a landmark meeting between officials of the Pima County Juvenile Court, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and Tohono O’odham Nation aimed at reducing the length of stay of juveniles in county and tribal corrections facilities. Over 150 representatives from the county, tribes, and state government attended. NNI will likely continue to be involved as a convener and educator with this work, which is part of the county’s “Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.”


In September, Christopher Scott, with support from the Udall Center, the Department of Geography and Regional Development, and Water Resources Research Center, hosted Itay Fishendler of Hebrew University in Israel, who spoke on transboundary effluent management. In October, Scott, with support from the Udall Center, Department of Geography and Regional Development, and the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, hosted Francois Molle of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (France) and the International Water Management Institute (Sri Lanka), who spoke on “Cities vs. Agriculture: Revisiting the ‘Allocation Stress’” and “Elements for a Political Ecology of River Basin Development and Management.”

Ariel Mack recently joined the Udall Center staff as a graphic designer and will focus primarily on projects for the Native Nations Institute.