Join us for our NIEA College & Career Readiness Webinar!

Attention parents, students and educators! Are you or someone you know preparing for college? Or are you currently in college and want to learn more or share your experiences? For tips and information from experts, please join NIEA and a panel of Native higher education organizations from our Native education community for a lively and informative webinar. We will discuss each panelists' respective organization, the work that they do, any resources they provide, and how they help to prepare Native students for college and their future career goals.

**When:** Friday, March 22, 2019

**Where:** [Webinar Event - Registration](#)

**Time:** 2-3pm EST

Panelists:

- Carrie Billy, President, AIHEC
- Dinée Dorame, Associate Director, College...
Annual Conference  
*March 26-31, 2019*

**Nebraska**

Council of Chief State School Officers - Diverse and Learner-Ready Teachers Initiative Conference  
*April 2-4, 2019*

**New Mexico**

NMPED Government to Government Summit and Indian Education Conference  
*April 14-16, 2019*

**Wisconsin**

Wisconsin Indian Education Association Annual Conference  
*April 26-27, 2019*

NIEA will be giving 2 presentations and holding a listening session.

**Workshops**

ESSA and Foster Care Workshop, Bartlesville, OK  
*April 30, 2019*

Co-hosted by NIEA and the Delaware Tribe of Indians

**Meet Our Program Team**

- Horizons & Graduate Horizons  
  - Jack Soto, Career Readiness Pathways Program Manager, AICF  
  - Matthew Makomenaw, College Pathways Manager, AICF

Email your questions to: kabrams@niea.org

**Our Program Team at Work**

**Boarding School Healing Coalition**

**Kairos Blanket Healing Exercise & Training**

NIEA will be partnering with Kairos Canada to provide the Blanket Healing Exercise and Facilitator Training.

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise program is a unique, participatory history lesson - developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators - that fosters truth, understanding, respect and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

Participants will undergo the Blanket Healing Exercise, and participate in a training to become certified trainers themselves, with the opportunity to implement the exercise in their own local communities.

All are welcome to attend. More details to follow.

For any questions, please contact Kurrinn Abrams, kabrams@niea.org

**Every Student Succeeds Act**

**ESSA and Foster Care Workshops in Oklahoma**

On March 7, 2019, in Shawnee, OK, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe co-hosted the first of two workshops, focusing on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Foster Care. This project was born out of a collaboration with NIEA, the Oklahoma Council on Indian Education (OCIE), and the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association (OICWA). Participants included Native educators, Indian Education Directors, Indian Child Welfare workers (ICW), and officials from Oklahoma state agencies.

This five-hour workshop allowed NIEA, OCIE, and OICWA an opportunity to present what each organization's missions are to the participants. It
continued with a presentation covering ESSA and what ESSA says about students in foster care. This short presentation allowed participants to ask question about ESSA, ICWA, and foster care in general. However, the main focus was on Native students in foster care, and how educators and ICW workers can ensure Native students, in foster care, get the education they deserve.

The workshop continued with breakout sessions where educators and ICW workers were in groups to answer several questions. Questions targeted both what educators needed and what ICW workers needed. Topics brought up were better communication with all parties; educators, or Indian Education Directors not knowing if there were students in foster care, which might need additional assistance; both educators and ICW workers having issues with schools and IEPs; transportation issues for students in foster care; resources that can be shared; and some information required under ESSA, which neither educators nor ICW workers knew should exist at each school.

This was the first time many of the participants had ever interacted with each other. All participants came away with new understandings of how ESSA and foster care work. They also left the workshop the new knowledge of additional resources on how to assist Native students in foster care. There were several "ah ha" moments when either an educator or an ICW worker realized there were additional resources or information, which can be tapped into to help Native students. Every participant left saying they had learned something new, which would help them do their respective jobs better.

NIEA’s second workshop will be co-hosted by the Delaware Tribe of Indians in Bartlesville, OK in mid- to late April.

NIEA will compile the notes and comments from both workshops into a final report for all participants. The report will include recommendations on better communication, additional/shared resources, links to resources, and information both educators and ICW workers can share with foster parents and students.

**Language Revitalization**

NIEA is currently working on a project with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to build capacity for both improving and creating Native Language
Immersion Programs in schools across the United States.

NIEA will undertake this work by collaborating with local Native education partners that have a deep level of knowledge and expertise about Native education at the state level. Additionally, NIEA will be holding Language Convenings within target states to gather as many stakeholders together as possible, including parents, tribal leaders, school principals, superintendents, teachers, and students.

Specifically, we will be addressing two key questions:

- What is the current status of your Native Language Immersion program?
- In what areas can your Native Language Immersion program be improved?

The goal of this project is to develop a model of a Native Language Immersion Program that will employ best practices from our research, as well as strategies to mitigate any potential challenges of pitfalls.

In our current phase, NIEA is conducting preliminary research in the form of a context analysis, to understand Native language immersion as a whole, that will be used to better understand our local communities.

**School Choice**

NIEA is currently working on a project to understand if urban public schools in Denver, CO and Phoenix, AZ are effectively serving Native American students, and how other school models, like schools of choice, might provide a better context for educating Native students.

Specifically, we seek to understand the scope of school choice in relationship to urban-based tribal populations and answer such questions as:

- Are urban public schools effectively serving Native students?
  - If not, are charter schools, or other school innovation approaches, better options?
  - If yes, what tools are required to help Native communities establish those school options?

In our current phase, NIEA is traveling to the two locations to hold a series of community meetings, in which we will meet with parents,
students, educators, school administrators, and other key stakeholders, to create a substantive dialogue about the state of Native education in urban settings.

**Educator Initiative Project**

**Educator Recruitment Website & Updates**
Teacher shortages in rural and low-income school districts have had a pronounced and negative impact on Native students. Not only is it challenging for school leadership to recruit and retain effective teachers every school year, but many teachers may also feel under prepared to teach our Native students effectively.

As part of our commitment to improve educational opportunities for Native students, NIEA has developed the first-ever online job board where schools representing hundreds of tribal communities can post employment opportunities available across the United States.

Following the creation of our job board, to further address the teacher shortage in rural and low-income school districts, and to support recruiting and retaining effective teachers, we are now moving in to the next phase of this project, in which we will be creating resources for our teachers and school leadership to assist them to better serve our Native students. A few of these resources include:

- A resources toolkit to assist school leadership to more effectively recruit and retain effective teachers.

- A resources toolkit that will provide teachers with the knowledge, tools, and skills to better serve our Native students. This toolkit will include a variety of teacher preparation resources, culture-based education resources, and professional learning opportunities that will cater to educating the whole student.

- A resource toolkit for prospective educators that will include a variety of pathways to teaching, including traditional teacher preparation programs and alternative certification pathways.

- Finally we are developing a resources toolkit for College and Career Readiness that is culturally relevant to our Native students.

To support us in reaching our goal to help improve education opportunities for Native
students, encourage prospective teachers and community partners to visit our Educator Initiative Job Board today!

To upload your resume or search for open educator positions, please visit our website.

Are you interested in having job positions in your schools posted on our job board? Would you like more information about the initiative? Contact us today at teachnative@niea.org.

Become a Member of NIEA

NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Advancing Excellence for All Native Students

Whether you're an educator, a student, or invested in increasing educational opportunities for Native students, NIEA members help advocate for better policies. Your membership will help us continue to be effective advocates, train educators that work with Native students, and close the achievement gap. To join as a member, please click here.

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