

ABOUT US

The FIELDS Organization

- FIELDS is a Native American owned and managed 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
- The FIELDS Team has:
 - Over 25 years of experience in higher education leadership, economic development, business education, and community development for Native American people.
 - Extensive Native American higher education mentorship, program delivery, and curriculum development experience.
 - A record of success in educating and training many of today's top Native American business and community leaders.

“Cultivating Native American Self-Reliance”

- **The Need:** Education and employment success that creates self-reliance and effective leadership to help strengthen and fortify Native American communities.
- **Keys to Success:** Regional economy-focused tribal workforce planning, high-contact mentoring and support, and self-reliance-focused Native American curriculum.
- **Results:** Empowered tribal nations and strengthened Native American leaders and tribal members.

The Mission of FIELDS

To serve as a catalyst in cultivating Native American self-reliance, leadership, and prosperity by facilitating Native American higher education and career success and building human capital for sustainable economic and community development.

“Buffalo Jump” Analogy

- A **buffalo jump** is a cliff formation which Native American people historically used to hunt and kill plains bison in mass quantities. Hunters herded the bison and drove them over the cliff, breaking their legs and rendering them immobile.
- Significant investment in preparation of Native American people for higher education and employment is often wasted when the students are not able to complete their programs of study and secure meaningful employment. This has been likened to herding buffalo over a buffalo jump.
- FIELDS provides a solution: a bridge to educational success, sustainable career employment, and economic self-reliance.

THE BUFFALO JUMP



American Indian/Alaska Native Statistics

- 29 % live below poverty line, the highest of any race group
- Suicide rate of young adult ages 15-24 two-to-three times higher
- Alcoholism rate 519% higher
- AI/AN students nearly twice as likely to drop out of high school
- Only 28 % enroll in degree-granting higher education institutions
- Only 40 % of those enrolled complete their degrees within 6 years
- Only 11% of total AI/AN population complete 4-year degree in 6 years
- AI/AN bachelor's degree holders earn 24% less than bachelor's degree holders in the general population

BRIDGE TO SELF-RELIANCE

SELF-RELIANCE

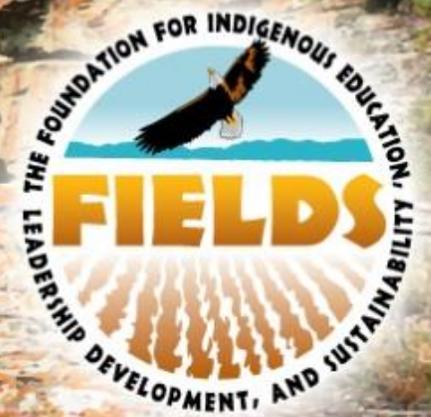
GRADUATION
AND
EMPLOYMENT

PREPARATION

INDIGENOUS HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER

FIELDS

MENTORSHIP AND SUPPORT



FIELDS Provides a Bridge to Native American Economic Self-Reliance

- Higher education and career preparation for middle school and high school students;
- Higher education and career preparation for adults and facilitation of adult recovery programs;
- Academic and career mentorship and support for students enrolled in higher education; and
- Facilitation of workforce development leadership education for tribal education, employment and career development leaders.

The Role and Impact of FIELDS

- FIELDS cultivates Native American self-reliance by building a bridge to academic success and to sustainable career employment in the regional economy.
- FIELDS significantly increases the effectiveness and impact of investments in Native American higher education success.
- Through its outreach to Native American students who have become disengaged from the educational process and to middle school and high school students, FIELDS engages a much larger pool of students in the higher education and career engagement system.
- By increasing Native American higher education and career success, FIELDS strengthens tribal nations, the economy and society.

The FIELDS Formula

1. FIELDS works with a tribal community to assess its regional economy.
2. FIELDS identifies career pathway opportunities in regional industries and higher education and training programs to prepare tribal members to enter these career pathways.
3. FIELDS facilitates high-contact student mentoring, tutoring, instruction, advising, and workplace internships to guide tribal students in completing their education and training programs.
4. FIELDS delivers curriculum in financial literacy and academic preparation; Indigenous economic, organizational, and sustainable development; entrepreneurship; and related disciplines to build self-reliance leadership.

The FIELDS formula is “teaching a person to fish” - building capacity in the community to create self-reliance and prosperity

Project Implementation

- A phased approach is being utilized to deploy FIELDS education and career engagement services to tribal communities.
- FIELDS has implemented two initial projects serving parts of parts of the Idaho/Utah/Nevada/Wyoming region in the U.S. and the Alberta/Saskatchewan region in Canada.
- In the future, FIELDS will deploy these services to other tribes across the U.S., Canada, and beyond.