Pyramid Lake Scenic Byway
Planning for Sustainable Tourism and Economic Growth

Source: Whiteman & Taintor

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Tribe, of Nevada, in collaboration with planning, policy and development consultants, Whiteman & Taintor, has completed a grant application, together with a corridor management plan which has been submitted as the Tribe’s nomination for state and federal Scenic Byway designation. The Pyramid Lake Scenic Byway was selected in the first round of National Scenic Byways designations, and represents the only such byway sponsored by a Native American tribe.

Lake Central to Tribal Culture
Pyramid Lake is the home of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Tribe, whose reservation encompasses the lake and the lower reaches of the Truckee River. The Lake has always played a central role in the Paiutes’ culture, economy and society. In the twentieth century it has also become an important recreational area for northwest Nevada.

Preservation & Tourism
Recognizing the importance of preserving the Lake’s special attributes, and wishing to encourage sustainable tourism as the foundation for economic development, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Tribe designated the main roads through the Reservation as a Scenic Byway.

Continued on page 4

Self-Governance Report Released

Source: Center for World Indigenous Studies

The Center for World Indigenous Studies is pleased to announce the release of the final report of the Indian Self-Government Process Evaluation (SGPE).

Self-Governance Compacts
In 1988 the U.S. Congress enacted the Self-Governance Demonstration Project. After nearly 120 years of legislative dictatorship by the U.S. Congress over Indian governments, this legislation quietly renewed treaty negotiations between the United States and Indian nations on a government to government basis.

Between 1990 and 1995 thirty-three Indian governments and native communities engaged in bilateral negotiations with the United States resulting in Compacts of Self-Governance.

Continued on page 5

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Transportation Center
Michigan Technological University
Greetings...

From our new location!

In a tangle of computer lines and phone cords—amidst mountains of papers, and books—the TTAP has moved!

The Tribal Technical Assistance Program has recently moved out of its former quarters on the MTU campus to make way for university expansion. We are now finally settled into our new office space—a portion of the lovely octagonal wooden structure (with skylights) called The Pine Ridge Professional Building. From our new location at the summit of the Houghton hillsides, we are enjoying a daily dose of mostly gray clouds, with Portage Canal stretched out below—it's a wonderful view, and we are becoming quite comfortable.

Our regular mailing address and phone numbers remain the same. Please note that our new physical location is the shipping address for UPS delivery:

402 Sharon Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931

We have also obtained new FAX and TOLL-FREE numbers:

FAX: 906/487-1834
TOLL-FREE Phone Line: 1-888-230-0688

We welcome your calls and visits, and apologize for any inconvenience caused by the interruption of our services.

Vol. 4, No. 3

Pathways

Pathways is published quarterly by the Tribal Technical Assistance Program in Michigan's Transportation Center at Michigan Technological University. The Tribal Technical Assistance Program is part of a nationwide effort financed by the Federal Highway Administration and supported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It intends to relate the latest technology and information on tribal roads and bridges, tourism and recreation, related economic development to tribal transportation and planning personnel. TTAP's regional tribes are in the BIA's Minneapolis and Eastern Areas. Contact the TTAP office for a free Pathways subscription or to obtain permission to reprint any articles. Articles and suggestions may be submitted to the editor at the following address:

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Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs

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Increased Awareness Can Reduce State/Tribal Conflicts

By Alice A. Korsam, TTAP Assistant/Editor

Accept Self-Determination

Despite the support of seven U.S. Presidents acknowledging tribal sovereignty and Indian self-determination, problems have increasingly arisen during the past three decades around the planning, development, construction and operation of highways that cross Indian reservations. This is due in part to jurisdictional conflicts between state personnel and Indian tribes, most notably in connection with enforcement of tribal self-determination policies. According to a legal research study by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), such "conflicts can be greatly reduced if Indian self-determination is accepted."

TERO Conflict in Montana

One recent jurisdictional conflict, reported in Indian Country Today (Sept. 23-30, 1996), has arisen between the Montana State DOT and Fort Belknap Reservation officials over enforcement of the tribe’s TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance) regulations. A federal district judge has extended a temporary restraining order allowing the state to continue routine maintenance work on two state highways on reservation lands - without requiring conformity with the tribe’s TERO provisions. The TERO ordinances are to address unemployment rates of between 50% and 70% on the reservation. The tribe’s TERO office stopped the construction project because the state lacked permits to work on the reservation, and issued a directive to cease construction. The state halted construction until a restraining order could be obtained. Now, the matter likely get bogged down in expensive litigation over jurisdictional questions, and over whether the workers were contract workers or public employees.

Misconceptions of Law and the Lack of Cooperation

In an article, published in NCHRP’s Legal Research Digest, Attorney, Richard O. Jones states that "a renewed assertion of tribal sovereignty, fully supported by a revised federal Indian policy, and the past reluctance of state officials to accept tribal sovereignty are at the root of the conflicts. Much of the conflict and the resulting problems are caused by a misunderstanding of federal Indian law, federal requirements and limitations in the Federal Aid Highway Program, and by a lack of open communication and government-to-government cooperation."

Pilot Projects in New York

In the State of New York, State DOT personnel and Seneca Nation representatives have been working together towards a positive outcome. They have been holding ongoing meetings regarding rights-of-way and easements, and recently met in June to form a pilot project. Under these projects, the state will notify contractors and present them with information about TERO. It will also supply the Seneca Tribe with the state’s list of contractors. In addition, TERO officers will be invited to prebid conferences and meetings so that they can present information about TERO regulations.

The Hope for an Accord

The parties in New York initially attempted to reach a comprehensive agreement in early 1994, but negotiations fell through - mostly because the state had problems with some of the TERO language. Apparently, the state was concerned about equal opportunity requirements, and feared they might exceed their statutory authority in complying with TERO provisions. Under an agreement in place, the state is holding off on capital improvements. Some time in the near future, NY DOT, BIA, and FHWA representatives will be meeting together to discuss some of these issues. Members of the Seneca Nation hope to be involved in the process, and hope that such meetings will eventually result in a Memorandum of Agreement.

TERO Information & Training

According to the Council for Tribal Employment Rights, granting Indian preferences will not violate federal Equal Employment Opportunity laws. Granting Indian preference is legal through federal laws because of signed treaties, and reflects a political preference, not a minority issue. Furthermore, the preferences supported by TERO regulations apply to every federally recognized reservation. Unless individual tribes have restricted their rights by entering into specific agreements with state officials or other parties, then the federal laws apply without restriction.

John Navarro, Vice President of the Council for Tribal Employment Rights, is available to go out on location and supply training on Tribal Employment Rights Information, and a packet listing resources, qualifications and goals can be obtained through CTER’s main office (see box.)

Legal Resource Available

Richard Jones’s research report, published in NCHRP’s Legal Research Digest, is entitled “Legal Issues Relating to the Acquisition of Right of Way and the Construction and Operation of Highways over Indian Lands.” It is a comprehensive document citing statutory and case law, and containing interpretation on a variety of issues - from TERO provisions, to trust responsibilities, to jurisdictional questions. This report should provide guidance for highway officials and tribal officials, and help to create a better understanding of federal Indian law and federal highway law as it relates to Indian lands.

In concluding his report, Jones states, “highway officials and tribal officials must make adjustments in their government-to-government relations and begin to better emphasize ... coordination in a spirit of cooperation.”

NCIIRP’s “Legal Issues Report” can be obtained, cost-free, through the TTAP office at 1-888-230-0688.

For TERO information and training:
Council for Tribal Employment Rights
28621 Pacific Highway South, Suite A
Federal Way, WA 98003
Phone: 206/839-1200
John Navarro, V.P.: 602/759-2071
Pyramid Lake Scenic Byway, continued from pg 1:

**Corridor Management Plan Developed**

Whiteman & Taintor helped the Tribe to prepare the byway nomination and to develop a corridor management plan meeting the guidelines of the National Scenic Byway Program. The plan provides a framework for the Tribe’s efforts to protect the Reservation’s critical natural and cultural resources, while enhancing the ways in which visitors can experience and understand Pyramid Lake and its environs.

The tribe’s grant application is for the purpose of completing construction of the Tribal Museum, which will house a visitor center, and will function as the interpretive center for Paiute history and culture and the intricate relationship between the tribe and the lake.

**Environmental Protection & Economic Development**

The Scenic Byways Program is particularly useful for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe because of its dual emphasis on promotion and protection. It recognizes that tourism based on natural and cultural resources must respect these resources in order to be sustainable, and that environmental protection must take place within the context of people’s need for economic security.

The Scenic Byways Program thus provides a way to join together the separate strands of the Tribe’s tourism, economic development and environmental protection efforts. The designation and promotion of the Pyramid Lake Scenic Byway is both an outgrowth of previous tourism promotion efforts and an integral component of the Tribe’s larger economic development efforts.

The official announcement for the first round of National Scenic Byway site designations was scheduled for September 26, 1996, at the Department of Transportation, South Lake Tahoe, located on the California/Nevada border. Pyramid Lake was the only tribally designated site, and was among the first 17 sites selected nationwide.

Complimentary copies of the corridor management plan, as submitted for the Pyramid Lake Scenic Byway Nomination, are available from the office of Whiteman & Taintor, or through the TTAP office. For more information contact:

**Whiteman & Taintor**  
Planning, Policy and Development Consultants  
85 Main Street  
Hopkinton, MA 01740  
Ph: 508/435-0340  
Fax: 508/435-0344

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**National Scenic Byways Clearinghouse**  
1440 New York Ave, NW, Suite 202  
Washington, DC 20005  
Toll-free: 1-800-4BYWAYS  
Phone: 202/628-7718  
Fax: 202/783-4788  
E-mail: clearinghouse@byways.org
FCC Chairman Seeks Feedback for Implementing New Law
Telecommunications Act of 1996 Opens Schoolhouse Door to New Technology

From an article by Reed E. Hundt, FCC Chairman

FCC To Ensure Access
The new Telecommunications Act of 1996 directs the Federal Communications Commission and state utility commissions to ensure that classrooms and libraries have access to telecommunications services - like the Internet and E-mail - at affordable rates. This new law can provide us with 100,000 hubs of advanced communications spread across every community of our nation.

In every community, there are countless adults who would welcome the opportunity to use a school or library computer training center to learn new skills they may need for a new career.

The new telecommunications law has been celebrated for the many new opportunities it will offer phone companies and other businesses, but the best opportunity of all may be the one we have to prepare all young Americans for a bright and promising future.

The Future Job Market
By the beginning of the next century - in less than 4 years - 60 percent of new jobs will require computer skills possessed by only 22 percent of Americans entering the job market. Already, most high-wage jobs require the use of networked computers. On average, jobs that require computer use pay about 15 percent more than those that do not.

Only 10 percent of the classrooms in America are prepared to train our young people to be technologically literate. Are the schools in your community prepared?

Get Involved
The FCC is hard at work with our state partners answering questions like what services do schools need - and how much is affordable.

We have to start answering these questions by November 8th. As a parent, student, businessperson or interested member of the community, now is the time for you to get involved in this process and help us answer these questions. You can do this by learning about the new law and the steps being taken to implement it.

You can contact the FCC at the address below or your state regulatory commission. Or you can ask your local schoolboard members what steps they are taking to get plugged into the information highway.

For more information, contact:
Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554
phone: 1/202/418-0260
E-mail: rhundt@fcc.gov

FCC World Wide Web address:
http://www.fcc.gov

Adopted with permission from Indian Country Today, 1920 Lombardi Dr, Rapid City, SD 57702

Self-Governance Report, continued from pg. 1:

A Ten Year Reflection
The report is the culmination of a year-long, tribally initiated study undertaken by CWIS in the summer of 1995. This report is the first to attempt a comprehensive evaluation of what has been achieved over the past 10 years.

Have the measures taken by Indian governments and the U.S. government since 1987 begun to achieve self-government for Indian nations? What are the basic measures for defining a self-governing nation, and under what circumstances can it be said that the Demonstration Project has been successful? To what extent do both parties understand the process they are currently engaged in, and is the United States negotiating in good faith with Indian governments?

The Indian Self-Government Process Evaluation is an important document for anyone wishing to better understand the steps being taken by Indian Nations to reclaim their sovereign powers and redefine their relationship with the United States.

Preliminary Findings Report
The Preliminary Findings Report of the SGPE can be requested from the TTAP office at 1-888-230-0688, and is also available on the World Wide Web at:
http://www.halcyon.com/FWDP/298prelm.html

This Preliminary Findings Report was distributed to Self-Governance Tribes in November 1995 and contains a basic outline of what is contained in the Final Report.

Final Report Available
Copies of the Final Report of the Indian Self-Government Process Evaluation may be purchased online at the internet address above, or by email to John Burrows (jburrows@halcyon.com), Director of the Center for World Indigenous Studies.

CENTER FOR WORLD INDIGENOUS STUDIES
P.O. Box 2574
Olympia, WA 98507-2574 U.S.A.

For more information, contact:
John Burrows, Executive Director, Center for World Indigenous Studies - email: jburrows@halcyon.com
Microsoft and Four Directions Unite to Bring Computer Technology to Remote Native Schools

Eight pilot schools will receive software, computers and cash to fund training

Washington, DC

The Interior Department and Microsoft have announced a joint effort to bring computer technology to Indian schools. Microsoft Corporation has contributed over $350,000 in software, computers and cash to Four Directions, a project of the BIA that will electronically link Indian schools using the Internet, and provide new technological opportunities to Native American students in eight states.

Four Directions Project

Four Directions is designed to bring technology to Indian schools. It seeks to expand student access to technology, improve communication among BIA schools, share learning resources and expose the wider community to new technologies, including the Internet.

Access to Internet Resources

“Microsoft’s donation will bring the power of the Internet to tribal communities that have been geographically and economically isolated,” said Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt.

According to Bill Neukom, Microsoft’s Senior Vice President for Law and Corporate Affairs, “We view this as an opportunity to share the latest technology with students who otherwise might have little or no access.”

“Four Directions will help students, teachers, and the broader communities in which they live,” Neukom added.

“Every school should have access to the intellectual and cultural resources of the Internet.”

Transforming Potential

Microsoft will provide software, computers and cash to fund teacher training in eight pilot schools across the country.

Incorporation of Native American themes into curriculum, and expanded access and use of technology by Indian students will also be part of the project.

“The Four Directions Project has the potential to transform teaching and learning in schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and those public schools educating American Indian children,” says Gilbert Sanchez from the Pueblo of Laguna, lead local education agency for the project. “Significant learning will occur when technology, Indian culture, language and subject matter is integrated holistically.”

Four Directions Pilot Schools:

Dilcon Boarding School, Winslow, AZ
Ahfachkee Day School, Clewiston, FL
Indian Island School, Old Town, ME
Hannahville Indian School, Wilson, MI
Fond du Lac Education Div, Cloquet, MN
Laguna Middle School, Laguna, NM
Tahkini School, Hones, SD
Quileute School, La Push, WA

Adapted with permission from: Indian Country Today and News From Indian Country

Native Netsites:

American Indian Tribal Directory
http://www.indians.org/tribes/

Online List of federally recognized tribes:
Spirits of the Land Site
http://greatspirit.earth.com

Great Lakes Regional American Indian Network (GLRAIN)
http://www.glrain.net/glrain

American Indian Science and Engineering Society
AISES: Job/Internship Archives
http://bio02.uthsusa.edu/aisesinf.html

Oneida Nation
http://one-web.org/oneida/

Stockbridge/Munsee Band of Mohicans
http://www.rpi.edu/~winchd/mohican/mnation/html

Indian Country Today Newspaper
http://www.indiancountry.com/

Midwest Treaty Network
http://www.alphaedc.com/treaty/

Voices of Indigenous Peoples Links
http://www.m-i.org/~jz/spiritlinks5.html

Native Network Information Site
http://www.haleycon.com/FWDP/m-net/nai-net.html

CONTACT THE TTAP to add your HOMEPAGE ADDRESS to our List - We would be happy to include it in future newsletters.
More Netsites to Visit:

GOVERNMENT / LEGISLATION / PRESERVATION

Federal Register (U.S. Government Printing Office)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/

Aboriginal Law & Legislation Website
http://www.bloorstreet.com/300block/ablawleg.htm

U.S. House of Representatives
http://www.house.gov/

U. S. Senate
http://www.senate.gov/senator/members.html

Indian Gaming
http://www.dgsys.com/-niga/

e-mail addresses of all members of congress:
http://www.teleport.com/~amit/planetpeace/odds_ends/
govt_email.html

PlanetPeace (Preservation Netsite)
http://www.teleport.com/~amit/planetpeace/

National Archeological Database NAGPKA module
http://www.cast.uark.edu/other/nps/nagpra/

Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies
http://www.cast.uark.edu/

Rural Development
http://www.nurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/

US Department of Commerce
http://www.doc.gov

Commerce Department Agencies
http://www.doc.gov/agencies.html

Economic Development Grants
http://www.doc.gov/agencies/eda/index.html

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Research Board
http://www.nas.edu/

CTAA (Community Transportation Association of America)
http://www.ctaa.org/

NetDay96
Connecting Schools to the Information Superhighway

NetDay96 is a nationwide effort to wire all classrooms to the information superhighway and to ensure that all children are prepared for the new knowledge-based economy. Nearly every state has scheduled a NetDay96 for this fall, and it is imperative that Indian country not get left behind.

For more information on initiatives to connect schools and libraries and to discuss how to ensure that your community’s schools are included, contact:

Ms. Roanne Robinson
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Phone: 1/202/482-0516.

Telecommunications Grants

Early each year, the U.S. Department of Commerce publishes a booklet entitled “Notice of Solicitation of Grant Applications and Guidelines for Preparing Applications,” to be used in seeking matching fund grants through the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP).

According to last year’s Grant Application Solicitation, “TIIAP assists eligible organizations by promoting the widespread use of advanced telecommunications and information technologies. By providing matching grants for Demonstration, Access, and Planning projects, this program will help develop a nationwide, interactive, multimedia infrastructure that is accessible to all citizens, in rural as well as urban areas.”

To automatically receive the Notice and Guidelines for Fiscal Year 1997 when issued, you can add yourself to TIIAP’s mailing list.

Contact TIIAP by fax at 202/501-5136 or by mail:

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications
TIIAP, Room 4090
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230
Minnesota Indian Affairs Coordinator Appointed

Minnesota Governor Ann Carlson, hoping for better state relations with Native governments, has named Ann Glumac as the state's Indian Affairs Coordinator. Glumac began her duties August 7th, from her office in Duluth.

As Manager of State/Tribal Relations, Glumac will coordinate activities dealing with the 11 Native governments to bring a "consistent approach" to state relations with the tribes. For more information contact:

Ann Glumac, State/Tribal Relations
704 Government Services Center
320 West Second Street
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218/723-2358
Fax: 218/723-4727

Adopted with permission; News From Indian Country, R1 2, Box 2900-A, Hayward, WI 54843

Developing Safe Communities
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Initiative

Source: NHTSA

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provides information and training on a range of community and traffic safety topic areas. The recently developed Safe Community initiative represents one such topic. In connection with its Safe Community initiative, the NHTSA recently cosponsored a series of workshops in various geographical regions entitled "Moving Kids Safely: Building Safe Communities."

The NHTSA also puts out a quarterly publication entitled "Traffic Safety Digest." Each issue focuses on 25 innovative traffic safety projects that have been or are being conducted in communities throughout the country. Traffic safety topics include: Alcohol and Other Drugs, Occupant Protection, Police Traffic Services, Traffic Records, Youth Programs, Emergency Medical Services, Injury Prevention, Motorcycle Safety, Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety, Pupil Transportation, Community Traffic Safety Programs, and Joint FHWA/NHTSA Initiatives. You can get on the mailing list for the Traffic Safety Digest by sending your name, organization, and address to:

NHTSA State and Community Services, NSC-01
400 Seventh Street, SW, Room 5238
Washington, DC 20590
Fax: 202/366-7394

The Traffic Safety Digest is also available through the NHTSA's internet page:

http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Grants from the Administration for Native Americans

Title: ANA - Indian Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Projects CFDA 93.581

Deadline: 3/07/97
Funding Limit: $250,000 - Duration 1 year
Synopsis: Support for projects ... to support a tribal environmental program and to regulate and enforce environmental activities on Indian lands pursuant to Federal and Indian law. Approximately $3 million is available in FY 1997 to fund up to thirty-five grants of up to $250,000. Grantees must provide at least 20% of the total approved cost of the project, by cash or in-kind contributions.

For more information contact Sharon McCully at 202/690-5780

Title: ANA - Social and Economic and Development Strategies (SEDS) Projects CFDA 93.612

Deadlines: 10/25/96, 5/23/97, 2/14/97
Funding Limit: $30,000 - Duration 1 year
Synopsis: Support for projects to promote the goal of social and economic self-sufficiency for American Indians through locally developed social and economic development changes (SEDS). A total of $14 million is expected to be available to fund approximately 120 grants ranging from $30,000 to $1,000,000. Matching costs of 20% of total approved costs required (may be met through cash or in-kind contributions).

For more information contact Sharon McCully at 202/690-5780

Sponsor: Administration for Native Americans
200 Independence Ave, SW, Room 348F
Washington, DC 20201-0001

Safe Communities Publications Available

A set of informational materials on building safe communities has been obtained by the TTAP for distribution. They are:

- Getting Started: A Guide to Developing Safe Communities,
- Living in a Safe Community doesn't happen by accident,
- It wouldn't hurt to live in a Safe Community, and
- The 1996 Traffic Safety Materials Catalog (describing additional publications and brochures available from NHTSA.)

Contact the TTAP office to obtain these publications (1-888-230-0688)
TTAP PROGRAM EVALUATION

Please help evaluate our program's effectiveness, and offer your suggestions for improvement, by completing this evaluation. Thanks for your help!

1. Are you familiar with the Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP)?
   YES □ NO □ UNSURE □
   - Did you know that TTAP is one of the Federal Highway Administration LTAPs (Local Technical Assistance Programs)?
     YES □ NO □ UNSURE □
   - Did you know that TTAP is jointly funded by the FHWA and the BIA to provide technical assistance, information and training to tribes on topics related to transportation, economic development, tourism and recreational travel?
     YES □ NO □ UNSURE □

2. Are you familiar with the TTAP's Pathways Newsletter?
   YES □ NO □ UNSURE □
   - If so, please rate: (5=extremely; 4=very; 3=somewhat; 2=not very; 1=not at all)
     Informative___ Relevant___ Accurate___ Interesting___ Well written___ Well designed___

   Comments or Suggestions:

   ________________________________

3. Have you received training, technical assistance, publications or videotapes from the Tribal Technical Assistance Program?
   YES □ NO □ UNSURE □
   - If so, check those that apply:
     Workshop___ Conference___ Printed Material___ Video___ Phone___ Other___

   Comments or Suggestions:

   ________________________________

4. Have you had contact with TTAP personnel?
   YES □ NO □ UNSURE □
   The TTAP staff includes:
   Bernard Alkire, Director
   R. Evan Fulton, Program Manager
   Alice Karsama, Program Assistant/Pathways Editor
   Patt Hendrickson, Secretary
   Christie Quaderer and Steve Pesola, Student Workers
   - If so, please rate the contact: (5=extremely; 4=very; 3=somewhat; 2=not very; 1=not at all)
     Did you find the staff:
     Friendly___ Courteous___ Respectful___ Helpful___ Informed___ Timely___ Professional___

   Comments or Suggestions:

   ________________________________

5. Circle Overall Impression of Program's Usefulness:
   Extremely Useful 5  Very Useful 4  Somewhat Useful 3  Not Very Useful 2  Not at All Useful 1  Don't Know -

6. Would you like to see this program continued?
   YES □ NO □ UNSURE □

   Comments or Suggestions:

   ________________________________
BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  PERMIT NO. 10  HOUGHTON, MI
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

Tribal Technical Assistance Program
Transportation Center
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton MI 49931-1295

TTAP EVALUATION

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION...

The Tribal Technical Assistance Program would appreciate your help in evaluating our program's effectiveness. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation form on the back of this page, and drop it into the mail. We will pay the return postage.

Thank you!

MAILING LIST UPDATE

Add or Remove this person from your mailing list
Correct title or address of this person
Please send a list of free publications and/or training videos
Please call to discuss a training seminar in our area

NAME                      TITLE
TRIBE/AGENCY
ADDRESS                     ZIP
PHONE                      FAX                      EMAIL
American Indian Business Leaders

Offers "Return on Investment" to a Tribal Community's Long-Term Economic Base

From American Indian Business Leaders
by Joyce Helena Busin

Montana - home to seven reservations - is also home to the founding chapter of American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL). Drawing on the skills and experience of University of Montana Business School administrators and students, AIBL was established to "assist and promote the American Indian business student and/or entrepreneur."

Internships Complete the Circle

This inclusiveness is important to current AIBL director and founding member, Michelle Henderson. She points to AIBL's illustration of itself as a circle. American Indian students leave their reservation schools and home for universities and colleges where they learn business and other skills. The years away often diminish reservation contacts, and these same students are left with no avenue to return their skills to their home communities. AIBL seeks to complete this circle by providing internships with tribal governments and colleges. American Indian owned businesses, corporate and private businesses, nonprofit agencies, or federal and state governments.

"Our first career fair produced four internship placements for AIBL students," says Henderson. These internships illustrate the various ways American Indian business students and entrepreneurs can benefit home communities. "They can open a private business," Henderson explains, "which contributes to the local economy; they can work with tribal government using and teaching their management skills; or they can work for far away corporations as suppliers of goods and services to Indian country."

A Focus on the Long-Term

AIBL's faculty advisor, Business School Dean Larry Gianchetta, makes it a priority to attend the group's weekly meetings. He stresses the importance AIBL places on assisting those individuals and businesses who will add to a tribal community's "long-term economic base."

Such businesses tend to be found in the manufacturing, retail, service, or tourism industries, according to Gianchetta. "The potential for economic development in these areas is tremendous," he says. "The readiness is there now, as well. Tribal leaders have come to realize that there is a relationship between being sovereign and being economically independent."

Establishing an AIBL Chapter

AIBL modeled itself after the organization "American Indian Leaders in Science and Engineering," which has professional as well as international chapters in place.

AIBL has worked at helping students at tribal colleges in Montana and South Dakota start their own campus chapters of AIBL. Henderson and other members recently completed a "Student Chapter Handbook," which gives a "map of activities" for getting a chapter started.

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) is providing a substantial grant to UM to help AIBL realize its long-term goal of establishing chapters at every tribal college in the United States, as well as at other interested universities and colleges.

Contacts in Canada have also begun. Michael Peters, an Ontario financial planner, will write articles for AIBL's monthly newsletter, and is establishing a professional chapter of AIBL to assist other Indian business professionals in Canada.

Assisting Tribal Economic Development through AIBL

AIBL's tradition of inclusiveness extends to its membership, which is open to any interested undergraduate or graduate student.

One AIBL member, a history major, hopes to establish a museum near his reservation home. He's already received advice from other members on what Michelle Henderson terms, "the business side of things." He has learned about composing a professional resume, establishing a basic business plan, and networking with possible sources of support.

"AIBL members are professionally prepared," says Henderson, and learn to present themselves as such. Each member has his or her own business card, and a resume book is in the works to assist this year's membership.

AIBL's own brochure is an example of a thoughtful introduction. The "primary focus of American Indian Business Leaders," it says, "is to utilize its student foundation to assist tribal economic development through an emphasis on maintaining culturally appropriate American Indian business development."

Adapted with permission: University of Montana - Missoula, Vision Magazine, c 1996.
First Annual
Spirit of the
Harvest Gathering
and Powwow
Hosted Recently at MTU

The Houghton community and MTU have just experienced The First Annual Spirit of the Harvest Gathering and Powwow, sponsored by the MTU Department of Educational Opportunity, the MTU Native American Student Association, and the AISES Student Organization. The TTAP was pleased to support this event by holding an Open House, through Evan Fulton’s participation in Friday’s round of presentations, and by assisting to publicize the event. Thanks for the pleasant experience and good memories!

Our congratulations to:
Carole LaPointe (Keweenaw Bay Community and Bad River Band), MTU Educational Outreach Coordinator
Christie Quaderer (Lac Court Oreilles), TTAP Student Assistant, NASA member, and President of MTU's AISES Chapter
Helene T. Hiner (Puyallup), Advisor to the MTU Native American Student Association
Chris A. Anderson (Anishinabe), MTU Educational Opportunity and AISES member
And to all NASA, AISES, and community members who worked so hard to make this event a success!