Most Indian communities are still suffering under terrible economic and social conditions. Gambling enterprises have done little to change the poverty and other problems suffered by most Indian communities.

The US Census reports that Indian unemployment is six times the national average, and that more than 30% of all Indians live in poverty - compared to 13% for all Americans.

The life expectancy for American Indians is just 47 years, while for all Americans it is 78 years. The infant mortality rate for Native Americans is almost 50% higher than the rate for white Americans. Conditions for Indian peoples in Central and South America are even worse.

Indian people are doing a lot to change these grim statistics. For example, Indian owned businesses increased 93% between 1987 and 1992. Still, faced with the injustice and severe economic and social hardship of life on the reservation, many Indian people have left their traditional homes and cultures.

Today nearly three-fourths of all reservations and Indian villages have fewer than 500 inhabitants. Thirty-five percent have fewer than 100 persons in residence.

The Indian Law Resource Center helps Native Americans and other Indian people to meet these challenges - and to proudly maintain their ways of life and the intimate relationship between their cultures and the land. Indian nations and indigenous peoples throughout the Amer-
This issue of *Pathways* follows on the heels of good news! Our program was refunded for a new five year period under the TEA-21 legislation, so we still have jobs!

We also welcome a new TTAP! *The Northern Plains TTAP*, directed by Gib Red Dog (Cheyenne River Sioux), is located at United Tribes Technical College, 331 University Drive, Bismark, ND 58504. Phone 701/255-3671

*NOTE* Several conference events are coming up fast! (see events, pg 6)

R. Evan Fulton, TTAP Consultant, has been working hard arranging seminars on *Partnering for Indian Employment in Highway Construction* and *Construction Zone Safety Inspection*, both National Highway Institute courses (see article pg 4.)

And ~ I'm a new grandma! Baby Winter was born during the worst blizzard of January (It was very exciting - I got to sleep in a chair.) She's a healthy, quiet little one. So, that makes me

Alice Karsama, (Grandma) Editor :)

Visit our Internet Home Page:
http://www.tttc.mtu.edu/ttap/TTAPindex.html
Utility Department Trains For Safety

By Paul Johnson
Potawatomi Traveling Times

The Forest County Potawatomi Community's Utility Department recently completed a three-day workshop in Heavy Equipment Operation and Safety. The workshop was conducted at the Utility Department, and was presented by John Lovato, a trainer from the Tribal Technical Assistance Program. The program is funded jointly by the BIA and the Federal Highway Administration.

The purpose of the training, according to Lovato, is to help small contractors and utilities on reservations to operate heavy equipment safely and productively. "The tribe has a big investment in equipment. We try to help tribes get the most from their equipment."

The training was a combination of talks, tapes, and hands-on training. The classroom work was done mainly in the morning. The afternoons were spent working with the trucks and equipment used by the Utility Department. Classroom work included review of OSHA rules and regulations.

The group practiced snow plowing and digging procedures, as well as safety operations and "walk-around" pre-use safety inspections of equipment.

According to Lovato, the training has a lasting effect, because the group that is trained starts off "jokingly" reminding each other of the lessons. This joking actually becomes habit. The workshop is also intended to build confidence, pride, communication skills, and professionalism.

Lovato says he doesn't care if the trainees don't remember his name. What he wants to do is to start a chain of professionalism, in which those he has trained will train the new people who come into an organization.

Steve Crawford, Safety Manager for the Utility Department, stated, "The tribe has a lot of vehicles and other departments could benefit from this type of training."

Kelly LeMere said that the workshop was a good refresher course. One of the results should be a reduction in workman's compensation.

Irv Lupee said that working as they did with the equipment should help form good habits. He also hopes that as the crew gets better, the Utility Department will be able to keep more jobs in-house.

Finally, Nate Adler thought he learned a lot of new techniques and greatly appreciated all of the hands-on experience.
Special Projects of the TTAP

By R. Evan Fulton, Ph.D.
TTAP Consultant

Over the past couple of months, the TTAP has been actively involved in promoting and coordinating courses offered by the National Highway Institute (NHI). Typically, NHI courses require a substantial fee, but through arrangements with the national TTAP office and the NHI, we have been able to schedule two of these courses as free demonstration projects.

Current Workshop Schedule
The courses currently scheduled are:

1) Partnering for Indian Employment in Highway Construction (PIE) - set for April 28-29 at the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Casino Resort in Onamia, MN; and
2) Construction Zone Safety Inspection Workshop, which is scheduled for late May at Red Lake, MN.

Course Registration
The PIE workshop is filling quickly, and will likely be underway by the time this newsletter arrives to readers. The Safety Workshop, however, should be a few weeks away and there ought to be time for readers to register for this course. Call the TTAP at 1-888-230-0688 to register.

Work Zone Safety
The Construction Zone Safety Inspection Workshop (course 38063) is one that has been under development by the NHI and has only recently been available for scheduling.

This workshop is being marketed as a "Train the Trainer" course, in which participants will have the opportunity to learn basic safety concepts and practices, then return to their jobs with this information and train others.

Of course, the program is also intended to teach practical applications of workzone safety and, as such, is open to anyone interested in developing their workzone safety skills.

If your organization would like to discuss holding one of these courses, or you would like more information on what courses are available:

- Contact the TTAP center,
- Call NHI Course Scheduling at 703/123-0528, or
- See NHI's Web Site:
http://nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/courses

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Funding Deadlines - TEA-21 Program Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovative Bridge Research Program</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Action Due Dates</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provides funding to demonstrate the application of innovative material technology for bridge construction. Bridges on public roads, including state and locally funded projects, are eligible.</td>
<td>Research/Technology funded at $1 million annually; Construction funded at $10 million in FY98 to a high of $20 million FY03</td>
<td>April 99: Call for Projects</td>
<td>George P. Romack FHWA 202 / 366-4606</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>October 99: Selection of Projects</td>
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<tr>
<th>Value Pricing Pilot Program</th>
<th></th>
<th>Soliciting participation;</th>
<th>John T. Berg FHWA 202 / 366-0570</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A continuation of ISTEA's Congestion Pricing Pilot Program. USDOT is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with up to 15 state or local governments or other authorities.</td>
<td>$7 million authorized for FY99 and $11 million for each of the fiscal years 2000-03</td>
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<tr>
<th>Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program</th>
<th></th>
<th>May 99: Comments and Letters of Intent due</th>
<th>Susan B. Petty FHWA 202 / 366-6577</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Provides funding for grants to address the relationship between transportation, community and system preservation. States, local governments and metropolitan planning organizations are eligible for grants to plan and implement strategies to improve the efficiency of the transportation system.</td>
<td>$20 million for FY99 and $25 million for each of the fiscal years 2000-03</td>
<td>June 99: Applicants selected</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>August 99: Grant proposals due</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>October 99: Grants awarded</td>
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National Highway Institute
4600 N. Fairfax Drive, suite 800
Arlington, VA 22203
Indian Law Resource Center, continued from pg. 1:

icas have vital cultures and traditions. The Indian Law Resource Center fights for the survival and vitality of Indian cultures, because they are precious and irreplaceable. Indian peoples' identity and culture are often bound together with their ancestral lands. This is reflected in the work the Center does to protect native lands and resources.

For example, thanks to a special grant from the Lannan Foundation, the Indian Law Resource Center purchased nearly 2,500 acres of wild lands in Florida for the Independent Traditional Seminole Nation to use as ceremonial grounds and to protect as a wilderness area (see photo.)

This is just one example of a range of efforts, and the progress made, by the Indian Law Resource Center in securing the rights and the lands of native peoples in the United States and in Central and South America.

For more information, contact:

The Indian Law Resource Center
602 North Ewing Street
Helena, Montana 59601
Phone: 406 / 449-2006
Fax: 406 / 449-2031
email: ilrc@mt.net

TTAP Does Its Part for The Miami Circle

When the discovery of the Miami Circle occurred last month, TTAP was able to offer assistance by sending a shipment of books used by those working to resolve the situation.

Louis Mejia of TribaLink International, a news agency for Native issues, wrote: "Protecting Archeological Sites on Private Lands' has been a big hit here. I have given copies to the Mayor, the Governor, Lawyers and even Jesse Jackson who was in Miami last night."

A "Save Our Circle Concert" has been scheduled for late April. For more information call Louis Mejia at 305/667-6399.

Visit TribaLink's website: http://www.tribalink.com for more information on the Circle and other Indigenous issues.

Protecting Archeological Sites on Private Lands

This book contains concise but comprehensive information on archeological value, strategies, ownership, stewardship programs, site protection, and summaries of applicable federal laws. (Interior Dept/National Park Service)

Order from the TTAP 1-888-230-0688
20th Annual AISES Conference Held in Denver

Adapted from an Article
By Doreen Baron


Nine members of MTU NAA/AISES chapter, along with two advisors, attended the national conference. Several of the students were sponsored by TTAP. The conference drew about 1200 Native American college and high school students, along with representatives from various corporations, businesses and colleges.

National Conference Highlights

Steve Covey was the main speaker at the opening ceremony. For over 25 years, Covey has taught millions of individuals in business, government, and education about the transforming power of principles rooted in unchanging natural laws that govern human and organizational effectiveness.

The students then attended a Career Fair with more than 200 exhibitors recruiting students for internships and job interviews with their companies. Conference events also included a Traditional Honors Banquet, with honors going to students and various conference sponsors. The conference closed following a traditional powwow.

Regional Conference

The La Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College hosted the Region 5 AISES Conference March 19, 1999 in Hayward, Wisconsin. Information or a post-conference update can be obtained from Robert Waglars, Region 5 Student Representative, at 605/430-0077 or by e-mail at rw@lakota.cc.edu.

MTU Chapter to Host AISES 2000

The year 2000 AISES National Conference will be hosted by the Michigan Technological University NAA/AISES chapter in Houghton, Michigan. For more information, contact Carole LaPointe, Coordinator for Native American Programs, at 906/487-2920 or e-mail: cllapointe@mtu.edu.

Events Calendar 1999

Looking Ahead ~

Seattle, WA
April 24-28, 1999
1999 American Planning Association
Northwest Tribal Planners Forum

APA Contact: Carolyn Torma 312 / 786-6386
Program Materials: Patty Hjertquist 312 / 786-6705

Tucson, AZ
April 26-28, 1999
Tucson Convention Center
NIGA ’99 - Trade Show & Convention
Especially for Tribal Tourism

Contact: NIGA 202 / 546-7711
or visit their website: www.niga.org

Onamia, MN
April 28-29, 1999
Mille Lacs Casino Resort
Partnering for Indian Employment in Highway Construction (PIE)

Lodging Reservations: 1-800-626-5825
Workshop Registration (TTAP): 1-888-230-0688

Mt. Pleasant, MI
Soaring Eagle Complex
May 12-13, 1999
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Michigan Conference
Hosted by the Saginaw Chippewa

Contact: Cheryl Bigboy, BIA Engr / Coordinator
716 / 682-2709

Baton Rouge, LA
May 23-27, 1999
7th International Conference on Low-Volume Roads

Registration: 202 / 334-3214
Lodging: 228-925-2244 or 1-800-333-3333
website: www.radison.com

Scottsdale, AZ
June 4-8, 1999
Oweesta '99
First Nations Economic Development Conference

Registration Info: 540 / 371-5615 (ext 11)
Lodging: Sunburst Resort 800-528-7867

Rapid City, SD
June 8-10, 1999
Intertribal Transportation Association
Last in the ITA Town Hall Meetings Series

Contact: Intertribal Transportation Association
Ph: 405 / 372-0303; Fax: 405 / 372-0808
Funding Opportunities Posted on Federal Internet Site

A new internet site, provided by the Department of Commerce and the Government Printing Office is THE PLACE where federal government "Requests for Funding Proposals" are posted. So, if you're looking for funding opportunities, check it out!

The federal government Electronic Posting System (eps) can be accessed through the following website:

http://www.eps.gov/

TTAP Email Discussion List, from pg. 1:

With your help, we hope to make the TTAP discussion list a positive and solution-oriented service.

In addition to a forum for discussing problems, or getting questions answered, the TTAP list would be an appropriate place to post upcoming events related to transportation, or to share information about funding, resources, tourism, or economic development.

Subscribe or Unsubscribe

Anyone with e-mail can subscribe to the list by sending an e-mail message addressed to: majordomo@mtu.edu

In the body of the message, type the words "subscribe TTAP-L," and then hit the send button. Each subscriber will receive a confirmation message welcoming him or her to the list.

To unsubscribe, send e-mail to the same address with the words "unsubscribe TTAP-L" typed in the body section of the message. A confirmation message should then return to you.

Post Messages to TTAP-L@mtu.edu

To post a message to the list, or reply to another message in a manner that all list recipients receive your message, address your e-mail to: ttap-l@mtu.edu

Then, type your message into the body portion of the e-mail form and hit the "send" button. It's that easy.

Contact the List Operators

If you ever need to get in contact with the owner of the list, have trouble subscribing or unsubscribing, or have questions about the list itself, send email to: owner-ttap-l@mtu.edu

This is the general rule for most mailing lists, in order to contact a human. Of course, we humans are also available by phone at 1-888-230-0688. If you have questions about how to use e-mail, get on the internet, or just need some assistance, call and we will do our best to "talk you through the process."

New Publications
From the TTAP Library

BRIDGES

--- Prefabricated Timber Bridge Deck Panels (Video)
Low cost method for fabrication of timber decks over steel girders

--- Timber Bridge - Field Performance
Six booklet series from the Timber Bridge Research Program

ROADS

--- The New Generation of Snow And Ice Control (Video & Booklet)
Anti-Icing and Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS)

--- Problems Associated With Gravel Rds
Problems, Solutions, Equipment and Techniques (Well-Illustrated :)

TRANSPORTATION

--- Technology Information at Your Fingertips
A Directory of Resources and Transportation Agencies

--- Pocket Guide to Transportation '98
Bureau of Transportation Statistics

To Order
call TTAP at 1-888-230-0688
Training Available Through the TTAP

Heavy Equipment Operator Training

To arrange a training session in your community,

Contact the TTAP Toll-Free: 1-888-230-0688
Fax: 906/487-1834

Partnering For Indian Employment in Highway Construction

Construction Workzone Safety Workshop