

NOTICES

Native Communities Focus on Links Between Traditional Foods and Contemporary Health

Recognizing that traditional foods are a cornerstone of strong Native communities, First Nations Development Institute is launching a new initiative to help Native communities nationwide renew food systems that were broken on the wheel of America's westward expansion.

Through its Native Agriculture & Food Systems Initiative, First Nations has announced 14 grants totaling \$560,000 to projects across the country. The First Nations initiative provides financial resources and assistance with systemic reform efforts to tribal communities working on food-related projects.

First Nations also convened its first Native Food Summit in mid-November in Albuquerque, N.M. The Native Food Summit brought together nearly 200 tribal agricultural, health, and community leaders and non-Native partners, as well as interested funders, to identify and discuss pathways to positive change in Native food systems. More information can be found at www.firstnations.org.

Practitioners and project leaders developed an agenda for outreach to agricultural, political, economic, and community stakeholders who can help tribes reform their food systems. The program has received primary funding through a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

"For countless generations, traditional foods were primary ingredients in healthy, prosperous Native American communities," said Rebecca Adamson, founder and president of First Nations Development Institute. "Traditional foods enabled the community to maintain physical health, respect cultural connections to land and spirituality, develop vital skills, and engage in far-ranging trade. Today, many Native food systems are broken as a result of physical, cultural, and economic isolation. First Nations is now working to help tribes renew and rebuild this essential component of their communities.

A 1999 study by the United States Department of Agriculture reported that 22 percent of Native American households are "food insecure," meaning they do not have access to nutritionally good, safe, affordable, culturally appropriate food at all times. Additionally, native communities have lost direct control of many agricultural assets because 70 percent of Native cropland is leased to non-Indians.

Native health also has suffered as a result of radical change in food resources. For instance, the American Diabetes Association reports that six of every 10 Native

Americans are apt to develop diabetes, although diabetes was essentially unknown among Native Americans in 1912, according to the Indian Health Service.

Among the community projects receiving the grants are:

- The Indigenous Diabetes Education Project in Broomfield, Colo., which is reintroducing bison meat in tribal communities as a potential way to reduce diabetes. (\$51,689)
- The Kenaitze Indian Tribe and Loudon Tribal Council in Alaska, which are developing new greenhouses and gardens to provide greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables. (\$8,000 and \$10,000, respectively.)
- Tohono O'odham Community Action – Food System Development Project in Sells, Ariz., which is increasing the production, processing, and marketing of traditional foods, as well as educating the local community about tribal ceremonial traditions. (\$89,520)
- Developing Innovations in Navajo Education, Flagstaff, Ariz., which is leading a major agricultural effort to develop gardens based on tribal knowledge while educating members about traditional growing techniques. (\$75,000)
- The Native American Community Board of Lake Andres, S.D., which is providing traditional plants to community members and teaching traditional preservation and other food traditions. (\$30,635)
- The Oneida Nation of Wisconsin in Oneida, Wis., which has launched an expansive effort in instruct youth about food systems, reintroducing young people to their food traditions. (\$50,000)

Happy Holidays

Visit the Kaleidoscope of Colleges and Cultures

The 8th Annual Kaleidoscope of Colleges and Cultures program is scheduled for Jan. 18, 2003, at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore. The program provides information about OSU and its programs, academic colleges, and services.

The deadline to sign up with the education specialist for your area is Dec. 31, 2002:

Portland: Katy Kaady, 503-238-1512
Salem: Sonya Moody-Jurado,
503-390-9494
Eugene: Nick Sixkiller, 541-484-4234
Siletz: Mona Fisher, 541-444-8373

You also may contact OSU's Student Orientation and Retention Programs at 541-737-2626 or 1-800-291-4192 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Tribal Council Applications Due

Application for names to be placed on the 2003 ballot for candidates in the Siletz Tribal Council election.

Name: _____

Tribal Roll No.: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone or contact #: _____

I understand I must be an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon and 18 years of age or older. This application must be filed with the Election Board by 4 p.m. on **Dec. 18, 2002**. I also understand that if for any reason I decide to withdraw my application for Siletz Tribal Council, I must withdraw in writing by **Dec. 23, 2002**. Otherwise, my name will appear in the voter's pamphlet and on the ballot.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you would like your candidate's statement and photo to appear in the voter's pamphlet, please submit your statement and a recent 3x5 photograph of yourself along with your application. Statements and photos will appear only in the voter's pamphlet. **Mail your statement, photo, and this application to:**

CTSI Election Board
P.O. Box 490
Siletz, OR 97380