

American Indian & Alaska Native Leadership Academy



This twelve-month, culturally informed leadership program is intended to strengthen the behavioral health workforce in Native communities.

THIS ANNUAL PROGRAM PROVIDES:

- Development of knowledge and expertise in the behavioral health field
- Learning opportunities through interaction and supervision between mentors and mentees
- Networking with other mentors and mentees
- Interactive seminars, distance learning, webinars and individual leadership development plan
- Certificate of Leadership

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY III

2019 - 2020

2019-2020 Leadership Academy cohort meets in Iowa for 5-day Immersion Training

Our Native American and Alaska Native Leadership Academy kicked off with a 5-day Immersion Training at the Meskwaki Hotel and Casino in Tama, Iowa in August 2019. Mentees gathered on Monday and began their yearlong training in various leadership topics including recognizing personal strengths, delegation, the art of listening, addressing conflict, and more. On Wednesday, mentors joined the group and were trained in their roles and matched with their mentees. Leah Slick-Driscoll and Delonda Pushetonequa welcomed the attendees to the Meskwaki Settlement.



The 22 mentors and mentees from mental health, prevention, and addiction fields are an excellent group of earnest and highly motivated behavioral health professionals. Throughout the week we focused on topics such as recognizing personal strengths, delegating responsibility, addressing conflict, and putting mentoring skills into practice.

We took a field trip to the Meskwaki Tribal Center at the invitation of Leah Slick-Driscoll and Delonda Pushetonequa. After a visit to the Tribal Center Museum, Ms. Driscoll conducted a simulation for the group illustrating the historical journey and trauma experienced by Native Americans. We were grateful to be gifted a wonderful meal of beef hominy, fry bread, sweetcorn and fruit prepared by Ms. Driscoll and Ms. Pushetonequa.

Featured lectures

We were honored to have Rose Weahkee from IHS spend several days with us. She spoke to the group about “Leadership in Tribal Systems of Care”. Professor Amy Colbert from the Tippie Business College at the University of Iowa also visited us and spoke about “Using Feedback to Grow as a Leader”.

The American Indian and Alaska Native Leadership Academy gathered at the end of February in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico for a successful enhancement session.

The mentees gave inspiring mid-year presentations focusing on the progress of their projects. A few examples are Mashaya Engel, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe’s work on “Importance of Community Involvement”, Jason Butler, Ute Indian Tribe’s presentation called “Integrating Cultural Ideology into Tribal Health Practices”, and Maria C. Molina, Pascua Yaqui Tribe’s talk about the “Men’s Path Program Development and Enhancement.”

Leadership Academy Enhancement Session in Santa Ana Pueblo



Featured lectures

We heard Esther Lucero, Diné, CEO of Seattle Indian Health Board, and Dr. Annette Squetinkin-Anquoe, Colville, Chief Traditional Health Officer (SIHB) speak about Indigenous Knowledge Informed Systems of Care – how SIHB has integrated the opportunity for traditional health practices into all aspects of their clients’ health care. Dr. Jacque Gray, Choctaw and Cherokee descent, presented on Native Women in Leadership. Dr. Gray discussed important female contributions in Native leadership through history.

Monthly follow-up and training sessions

Between our three collective meetings we offer monthly support and follow up conversations for mentors. Dr. Dale Walker leads these sessions. We also hold monthly follow up and training sessions on topics identified as important by mentees. To date we have discussed “Multidisciplinary Teams and Collaborating with Tribal Programs”, and “Experiences developing and disseminating Native LGBTQ/Two-Spirit Curriculum”.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY IV

2020 - 2021

We have accepted 22 Mentors and Mentees into the 4th annual American Indian & Alaska Native Leadership Academy. The Immersion Training is starting in virtual mode, and we are excited to welcome and onboard the new participants in our program.

The two cohorts will get the opportunity to meet during trainings, and will eventually get to meet in person when travel can be done safely.

For more information, contact:



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