



2008 Indian Education Positions

Future projections for aspiring generations

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Old Ways of Fostering Effective Culturally Related Education for American Indian Tribes and Citizens

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Choctaw Indian Reservation

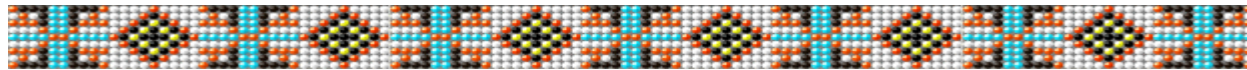
Choctaw, MS

Issues and Discussion

- Culturally Related Academic Needs (history repeats itself)
- Drop Outs-Still a need for accurate data base
- Academic Enforcement/Reinforcement (math, science, writing, composition, communication skills)
- Parent Participation (parenting skills, public school familiarity/sensitivity, contemporary Indian parent descriptors in relation to participation)

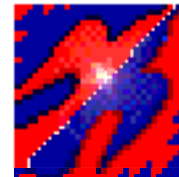


- Curriculum Relevancy
- Textbook Imagery in relation to self-esteem, learning, teaching, etc.
- Teacher Training
- Technology
- Values Clarification
- IMAGERY
- Self-Development



Old Prescriptions for Indian Education

- Compulsory Parent Participation (\$) in relation to public school funding
- Financial Criteria for participation (school lunch criteria) (?)
- Guidance/Counseling Activities
- Cultural Sensitivity Training
- Indian Student Learning/Teaching training
- Indian Representation
- Higher Education Participation



Results from 35 years of Treatment

- Still high drop-out rates
- Still low academic achievement among students
- Lesser amount of Indian parent participation
- Public School Curriculum still void of American Indian emphasis
- Greater social development pitfalls for/among Indian students
- Higher Education participation still minimal
- Dilution of Cultural Base of Identity (?)



What to do?

- Research (from an American Indian perspective)
- Partnerships (critical for future sustainability)
- Tribal Government Accountability (Oklahoma)
- American Indian Educational Leadership Needs
- Educational Alternatives for students (?)
- Self-Development
- Teacher Training
- Legislation
- Investment of gaming monies
- Continued Dialogue



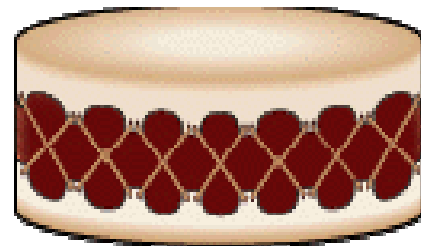
Practice

- Legislation (curriculum, teacher training, higher education assistance)
- Tribal Education Department (knowledge, understanding, creativity, vision)
- Tribal College Development
- Community Mentorship for Public School Indian communities
- Indian led research
- Student Responsibility Training (accountability for participation in Indian education programs, higher education scholarships, public school progress, etc.)
- Parent Training for Indian parents
- Social pitfalls and intervention/prevention
- Culturally Related Education Program development from TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS (language, customs, values, ceremonies, spirituality, home life)
- TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION (communication, culture, teaching, researching, preserving, perpetuation, usage, etc.)



Continuing Issues

- Racial Discrimination
- Racial Prejudice
- Stereotyping and racial profiling in education
- Absence of relevant, appropriate representation within public governance
- EASY BUTTON syndrome (one Indian for all Indians)
- Institutional racism
- Parent Participation



Recommendations

- Meaningful Partnership Development with federal, state and business entities 
- State and Tribal Educational Legislation 
- Research from an American Indian base 
- Elimination of stereotyping through education and mandate 
- Tribal Education Department Accountability 
- Tribal College Development 
- Focused Scholarships for college (technology, education, business, governance, health) 
- Student accountability standards development 
- Indian Parent Training 
- Substance training refocus and accountability 
- Technology Awareness/Practice in Indian Education

Closing Statements

- Must formulate meaningful partnerships with the public school in regards to Indian student learning, teaching, culturally related academic needs of Students/Community.
- Need up to date legislation reflective of the unique situations/conditions to/of Indian education in respective states/reservations/other areas.
- Must address the concept of Indian education reform for the sake of continuity/change/relevancy.
- Need to integrate technology into the Indian communities/homes/parents in relation to working with children, schools, teachers and administration.
- Review and refinement of strategies to attract/recruit and place Indian teachers, administrators, researchers, etc., in relation to all schools.
- Textbook reform movement that addresses the concept of stereotyping, political correctness, accuracy of history and understanding of contemporary American Indian progress.
- Increase funding for higher education participation
- Standards of accountability for higher education sponsorship and participation among Native college students.
- Increase American Indian representation in educational policy making at all levels of government.
- Increase the number of American Indian professors in the nation's institutions of higher education.
- Refine academic programs of Indian Studies at college level to include governance, leadership, policy, law and administration.
- Encourage and support Indian education research at all levels of education.
- Establish meaningful/productive network of tribal government partnership in Indian education at the local, state, regional and national levels.