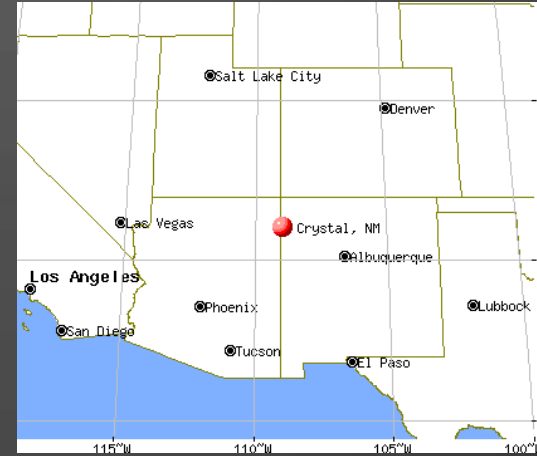


*“In School I learn from A to H,  
but the world is A to Z”*: Promoting  
educational relevance, equity, and  
sovereignty through  
community-engaged learning



Tiffany S. Lee, Ph.D.  
American Indian/Indigenous  
Teacher Education Conference  
NAU - June 17, 2016

# Dibé Łizhiní (Blacksheep)



## Oglala Lakota



## Family in Cochiti



# Stories in Indigenous education



# Community-Engaged Learning

- ❁ Community-based learning
- ❁ Place-based learning
- ❁ Experiential Education
- ❁ Culturally relevant learning
- ❁ Culturally sustaining pedagogy

- ❁ Philosophies of Indigenous education
  - Rooted in place and experience - all for the purpose of cultural transmission and to teach children to become contributing members of the community (Cajete, 1994, Kawagley & Barnhardt, 1999, Deloria & Wildcat, 2001)

# COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING = INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

- Purpose – support becoming a complete human being by connecting academic knowledge, cultural identity, & community responsibility
- Critical Indigenous consciousness
- Academic Content and Skills of Application – experiential learning
- Finding Face, Heart, Foundation

# CEL & K'é

*Education =  
Community*

Educational Equity

Social Justice

*Political clarity*

*Humanizing Pedagogy*

The world is A to Z



# Self-Determination in Education

- Return to “Community Control” (Nation Building)
- Examples from 1970s: Rough Rock, Rock Point, Ramah, Santa Fe Indian School
- Examples today: Tribal Colleges, SFIS CBEM, NACA, Walatowa Charter HS, TRIBES, NAS, Language immersion schools and programs, community programs – Poeh Arts

# Community-Based Education Model - SFIS

- ❉ Interdisciplinary: env. sci, math, tribal gov't, communications
- ❉ Weekly Site visits
- ❉ Community designed projects/curriculum
- ❉ Presentations and input back to community
- ❉ Results in human capacity building





# CBEM Projects

- ❁ Cochiti Dam & Farms
- ❁ Leaking tanks from dry cleaners in Santa Clara Pueblo
- ❁ Renewable resources in Jemez Pueblo
- ❁ Watershed protection in Tesuque Pueblo



# Native American Studies

- Community focus – building Native communities for 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Incorporate Indigenous knowledge
- Research
- Integrated and interdisciplinary
- Experiential



# NATV 461: Community-Based Learning in Indigenous contexts

- \*Strengthen experiential learning opportunities
- \*Community determined issues
- \*Students engage in critical analysis of issues and reflection of their experience



# Project Based Service-Learning

- Bureau of Indian Education
- 2000 students houseless/roofless/inadequate
- Create awareness for accessing higher education and resources – 4 projects

Seeking support is a sign of strength, not weakness





**Practice good self-care.**

Did you know that many schools have clinics where students can get cheap health care services? Many of these student clinics offer cheap or free counseling. Take advantage of it.

**If you have children, look into on-campus childcare.** It can be really difficult to juggle school, work, and caring for a child. On-campus childcare is convenient, and it's usually not expensive. Find out what your school has to offer.

**Visit your school's Career Services office.** The people at Career Services are there to help you reach your goals. They can help you find a job, make a great resume, apply to graduate schools, and much, much more.

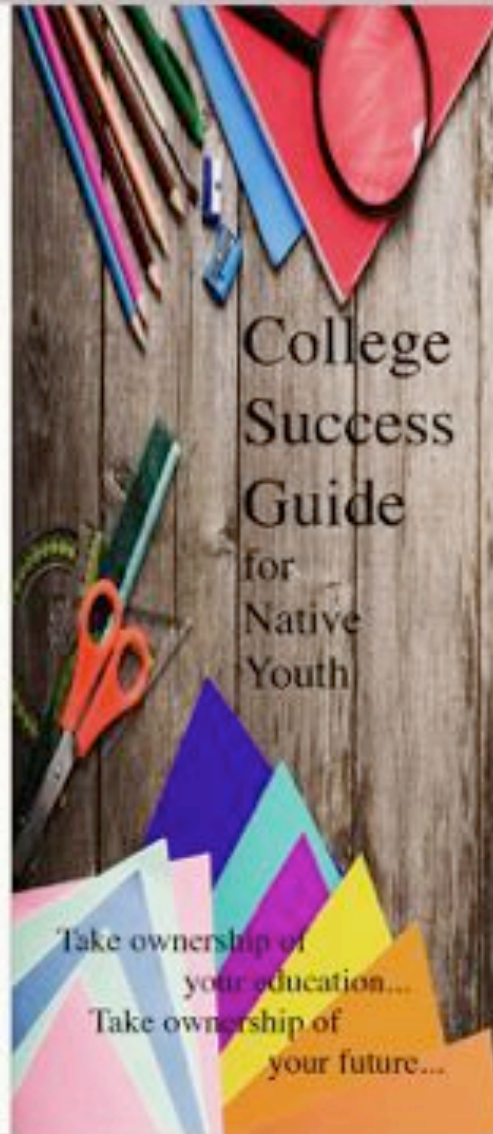
**Make your voice heard.** The staff and faculty of your college are there to support you as you get your college education. You have a right to learn in an environment that's safe, engaging, and where you feel like you belong. If you have questions, comments, or complaints about your school, voice them! One great way to do this is through student government. Otherwise, you can talk to a professor, department head, or the Dean of Students. You have a right to be heard.

So many resources exist to help you reach your full potential as a student. Take advantage of them.



**About Us:**

This flyer was created by students in the Community-Based Learning in Indigenous Contexts class in the Native Studies Program at the University of New Mexico. We are committed to helping Native youth succeed in college, and we believe that "We can succeed because of our challenges, not in spite of them."



# College Success Guide for Native Youth

Take ownership of  
your education...  
Take ownership of  
your future...



*College is an amazing opportunity. Through your experience in college, you can grow as a person and achieve your goals. Remember, you have a right to succeed, and supports are there for you.*

*Knowledge is our best resource*

## Academic Success

### Develop relationships with your professors.



When you have a professor you connect with, talk to them. Visit their office hours. Ask questions and get their advice. Keep in touch with them after the class ends. They can help you with future classes, mentor you, and even write letters of recommendation later.

### Contact with other students.

Classmates can also be a great resource for you. Talk to the other people in your classes, and get their contact information so you can ask them to fill you in when you have to miss class. You might also want to try studying with a study group.

### Take advantage of your campus' study resources.

College campuses offer a variety of study resources for their students. You can access free tutoring services, study in learning labs, and take web tutorials. If you need help with research, your school's librarians can also give you a lot of support.

### Get tech support if you need it.

Many college libraries offer computer help, and at some times you can even get a computer if you need one for class but you don't have one at home. Ask about it at your school's library.

### Check out your college's Native Studies classes.

Native Studies courses are a great way to learn about Native culture and history, to connect with Native students and professors, and to get in touch with your Native guide! Check out what classes are offered at your school.

**Enroll in a college readiness program before your first semester.** If you're nervous about entering college in the fall, it can be really helpful to take a college readiness program over the summer. This gives students the opportunity to get to know their school a little better, and to learn study skills to help them succeed.

**Get the accommodations you need from your school's accessibility services office.** If you have a disability, don't let that hold you back! Whether you have a learning disability, a physical disability or any other issue, make sure you get the help you deserve from the accessibility services office at your school.



## Financial Support

Financial issues can be a major obstacle to getting a college education. But colleges also offer support to help you overcome these challenges and achieve your goals.

### Go to your college or university's Financial Aid Office.

Your college's Financial Aid Office is the best place to start if you're looking for financial support. The staff there can help you fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, and help to make sure you have access to all the funds you need to get through school.

### Apply for scholarships and grants.

Do some research and find out what kind of scholarships you qualify for through your state, your town, your school, the federal government, and other foundations and organizations. Scholarships and grants can open up a world of opportunities for students, and help to alleviate the stress of paying for college.

### Get smart about textbooks, tools, and supplies.

Even with financial aid and scholarships, the textbooks and other supplies you need for your classes can be expensive. You can save money by renting books & supplies or buying them online. In some instances, you can even check out textbooks from your college's library.

### Learn about your campus' emergency funds.

Many organizations on a college campus offer emergency funds for students in tough financial times. These funds can be used for tuition and fees, and in some cases they can even help students to buy clothes, food and other essentials. If you ever find yourself struggling to make ends meet, ask an advisor or a staff member at the Student Services or Financial Aid Office about your school's emergency funds.

## Making the Most of College

College is challenging. It's normal to feel overwhelmed and stressed at times. Remember to take care of yourself, and take the time to have fun too.

### Get involved in the campus community.

Whatever your passions are, there's probably a campus group about them. Many schools have Native American Enthusiast or Historians who promote a Native American cultural focus through academics, cultural awareness, and community activities. Join a student organization, club, or group. Attend campus events. It's fun, it's a great way to meet people, and feel more connected to your school.

### Seek out resources for yourself.

Many schools have resource centers or student centers especially for native students, wealthy financially and academically. Many universities have College Success Centers. You may also want to check out resource centers for LGBTQ students, Women, Veterans, and more.



# WEBSITES

<http://tslee44.wix.com/navajo-houseless>

<http://bieeastguide.weebly.com/>

<http://>

<ftp.communityresourceguide.altervista.org/>

**Video:**

**Coming Full Circle**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6k5sMaYrBM>**

# Community Centered Learning

Community gardening

- Lobo Gardens
- Los Jardines
- Rio Grande Community Garden/Farm
- IPCC



# Sharing their knowledge

Presentation back to  
community partners

Tribal Service Corps –  
collaboration with UNM's  
Community Engagement  
Center

