

## NAFFA 2017 Annual Report



It is my pleasure to present the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association's 2017 Annual Report. This year was a very busy and successful one for NAFFA. With over 1100 trained facilitators and over 200 tribes and tribal agencies offering our curricula, we are proud of what we have been able to accomplish in improving the lives of fathers, mothers and children across the US and beyond.

### Overview of NAFFA

Established in 2002, Native American Fatherhood & Families Association (NAFFA) works with over 200 tribes across the country and has trained over 1100 certified facilitators who are helping approximately 20,000 fathers and mothers with limited assistance from federal or state funds.

It is the goal of NAFFA to create a synergistic environment and deliver information in the form of sessions, keynotes, presentations, seminars, professional training and social engagements that showcase and address the most recent information relating to building strong families and healthy communities.

Based in Arizona, NAFFA provides programs to strengthen Native American families through responsible fatherhood and motherhood. These unique programs create a passion in parents to take a leadership role in keeping families happy and safe. Through their programs' success, NAFFA has found that their purpose and methods extend to people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

The **Fatherhood Is Sacred, Motherhood Is Sacred** program was created and designed for fathers and mothers using a Native American approach. The goal of the program is to strengthen families through responsible parenting. NAFFA teaches parents to connect with their heritage as they become actively involved in the lives of their families.

The goal of **Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships** (LGSR) course is to assist fathers, mothers and families to enhance their capacity to engage and maintain healthy relationships, such as married couples, adult siblings, co-parenting and children within the family. This three-day course offers participants with the opportunity to learn the truths and myths of strong, healthy positive relationships. It builds upon NAFFA's Fatherhood is Sacred and Motherhood is Sacred program and works to assist parents in regaining a sense of self-worth, understanding and healing.

For those interested in seeking college credit, FIS/MIS participants and facilitators may earn college credit toward a BA degree from Wilkes University upon completion of the program. Please contact our office for additional details.

## **Move to Larger Office**

As NAFFA continues to grow our programs and curricula, we moved our offices to a larger space in Mesa in March. We now have adequate space to provide training on site and house our growing staff and interns. To publicize our new space and promote our expanding programs, we sponsored an Open House on May 23 and saw a great turnout.

## **Overview of NAFFA's Impact**

NAFFA certified 18 new facilitators in Linking Generations By Strengthening Relationships this year and certified 162 new facilitators in Fatherhood Is Sacred™, Motherhood Is Sacred™.

New tribes that contracted to receive facilitator certification in 2017 include:

1. Bishop Paiute Tribe, California
2. Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
3. Colorado River Indian Tribes, Colorado
4. Forest County Potawatomi, Michigan
5. Kansas Kickapoo, Oklahoma
6. Ketchikan Indian Community, Alaska
7. Oneida Nation, Wisconsin
8. Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
9. Southern Plains, Oklahoma
10. Tulalip Tribe, Washington

New agencies contracted to receive facilitator certification in 2017 include:

1. Center for Public Partnerships & Research, Lawrence Kansas
2. Feather River Tribal Health, Yuba City California
3. Friend Forever Family
4. Humboldt Count DHHS
5. Lutheran Indian Ministries, Wisconsin
6. Native Women's Health & Wellness Alliance, White Mountain Apache Reservation,
7. Pacific High School
8. South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency, Happy Families Program, Shelton, Washington
9. Spotted Bull Recover Resource Center, Fort Peck, Poplar Montana
10. Two Eagle River School, Pablo Montana
11. White Sky Hope Center, Montana



## Seminars

Our seminars provide a chance for an organization to bring in Mr. Pooley for a one-day presentation about how to strengthen families in Native American communities.

In 2017, NAFFA sponsored three seminars in Polson Montana, Baltimore Maryland and Mesa Arizona.

On May 1, 2017, the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health (JHCAIH), the Native American Father and Families Association (NAFFA), and Casey Family Programs convened a daylong national symposium entitled, *Engaging the Strength of Family to Promote Lifelong Health: Lessons from the First Americans* at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland.

The conference was designed to share effective family-based strategies for improved individual and community health and well-being. It featured expert researchers and practitioners from across North America including indigenous health leaders, representatives from top academic institutions dedicated to Native health, and Indian Health Service leadership.

The speakers outlined the constellation of public health issues facing tribal communities today and presented comprehensive, evidence-based family-based interventions, policies, and systems of care to renew Native health and well-being.



## United Nations Meeting

In March 2017 NAFFA was asked to attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The theme for 2017 was Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work. NAFFA representative met many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and foreign Ambassadors during our visit.

In March 2018 NAFFA will be presenting at the United Nations CSW with the theme focused upon Women in the Rural Setting. At this event we will have fathers and mothers who are in the Fatherhood Is Sacred™/Motherhood Is Sacred™ programs be present to share with the world our Native culture and viewpoints on the importance and sacredness of fatherhood, motherhood, and families.



## Teen Parent Conference

NAFFA sponsored our second National Teen & Young Parent Conference on June 8 & 9 in Mesa, Arizona. The theme was on Leadership, Education, Awareness and Diversity (LEAD). It was a great opportunity for attendees to meet other Native American youth from across the country. The conference consisted of 16 workshops in Leadership, Education, Awareness and Parenting with powerful keynote speakers. There were also several fun activities for the youth to be involved in throughout the two-day conference.



## **Fifth Annual Native American Responsible Fatherhood Day**

On June 17, NAFFA sponsored a special day to honor and celebrate the importance of fatherhood and the great contributions that dads bring to strengthening families and communities.

- Sis Horn of Fort Belknap Child Support Program sponsored a Dads' and Kids' Fishing Derby
- David Espinoza of Teach for America in Mission, SD
- Rodney Loonsfoot of Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan sponsored a potluck dinner for fathers and their families
- Ian Petershoare of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska sponsored a community picnic with games and prizes
- Joel Merrifield of Round Valley Tribe in Colville California sponsored a potluck for the families

## **FIS/MIS Groups at NAFFA Office**

NAFFA initiated a Fatherhood Is Sacred™, Motherhood Is Sacred™ group meeting at our Mesa office on Wednesday evenings beginning July 5. While the group has focused upon participants on parole, others are also welcome to attend. Participants may start on any Wednesday and attend 12 sessions to receive a certificate of completion.

## **2017 Annual Conference: November 1 through 3**

NAFFA's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual "Fatherhood is Leadership" National Conference was a great success. We had over 175 attend representing 36 tribes from across the US. The conference offered four keynote presentations, 16 break out workshops, an update and training for the 38 facilitators in attendance, testimonials by graduates of FIS/MIS and LGSR groups, all wrapped up with a fry bread lunch outdoors. We received consistently positive evaluations about the facility, the staff, We Ko Pa Resort at Fort McDowell, as well as the content of the workshops and key note presenters.

**We especially want to acknowledge the generosity of the sponsors of the conference: Casey Family Programs, Cook Native American Ministeries Wells Fargo Foundation, Casey Family Programs, Indigenous Enterprise, Pee Posh O'otham Veterans Association, Mutual of Omaha Bank, Desert Diamond Casino, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Casino Arizona Talking Stick Resort, Pima Awards and Promotional Products and On-Auk-Mor.**



## **Certified Facilitator Training**

NAFFA is increasing the number of certified FIS/MIS trainers to help with the expansion of our programs and services across the US and Canada. When we are invited by a tribal organization to bring the FIS/MIS or LGSR facilitator training to their community, we ask that they recruit a minimum of ten people to attend the three-day session. Most of these are presented by our president, Albert Pooley. But, due to the increasing number of requests, we now have two other certified facilitators who provide the training.

Mike Duncan: Tribal Affiliation: Con-Cow/Wailaki/ Wintun, California

Katie Whipple: Tribal Affiliation: Nomlack Wailak; Wintin (Round Valley Indian Tribe)

If you are interested in discussing this opportunity, please call Grace Richards at our office.

## **Webinars in 2017**

NAFFA presented two webinars funded by Cooks Native American Ministries Foundation:

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren was presented by Albert Pooley on January 9

Raising Children with Special Needs was presented by Neil Tift on May 10

NAFFA also presented two webinars funded by Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health in Baltimore.

Positive Indigenous Parenting by Albert Pooley on August 22

Boy Brain/Girl Brain by Neil Tift on December 14

## Conference and Staff Development Presentations

NAFFA staff was invited to present at local, state and national conferences including:

### FEBRUARY

- National Association of African American Studies national conference in Dallas, Texas
- Head Start staff development in Mesa
- Salish & Kootenai Tribes Families First Program in Pablo Montana

### MARCH

- Association for Supportive Child Care in Glendale, AZ
- Fathers workshop at Chandler Community Center in Chandler, AZ

### APRIL

- Men's Wellness Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma
- First annual Fatherhood Summit, sponsored by Phoenix Head Start
- Kith & Kin annual Conference in Phoenix
- West Valley CAP Council in Avondale, AZ

### MAY

- Intertribal Council of Michigan Conference in Traverse, City

### JUNE

Men's Health Conference at Fort McDowell in Scottsdale, AZ

### JULY

- Seneca National Peace Making Court in Buffalo, New York
- Child Abuse Prevention state conference in Litchfield Park, AZ

### AUGUST

- First Annual "Good Medicine" Addiction Summit in New Town, North Dakota
- Arizona Faith Council in Phoenix
- National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) National Conference in Scottsdale Arizona
- Fifth Annual Great Beginnings Family Conference in Helena, Montana
- Early Childhood Summit in Phoenix

### SEPTEMBER

- Fatherhood Conference at Rocky Boy Reservation in Havre Montana

- Strong Families State Home Visiting Conference in Phoenix
- Arizona Department of Developmental Disabilities staff training in Mesa

#### OCTOBER

- Early Childhood Conference at the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico
- Women's Health & Wellness Conference for White Mountain Apache

#### NOVEMBER

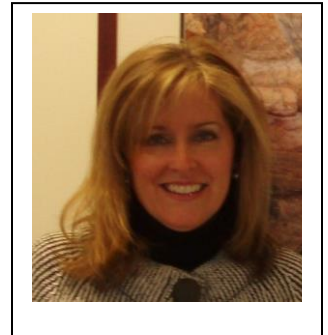
- Pow Wow at the Arizona Department of Corrections in Florence
- International Advocates for Male Survivors of Sex Abuse Conference in Christ Church New Zealand
- Met with indigenous representatives in Melbourne Australia
- Hopi High School in Keams Canyon, Arizona

#### DECEMBER

- Arizona Department of Education Family Engagement Summit in Phoenix
- National Head Start Parent and Family Engagement Conference in Austin, Texas

### **New Staff**

Grace Richards is the Training Coordinator for NAFFA. Prior to working with NAFFA she worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 17 years. She is originally from New Jersey but has lived in many places. She has been married for 37 years, has 3 children and 2 grandchildren. She is happy to now be living near her grandchildren and two of her children here in Arizona. She loves spending time with family, reading, and is learning to quilt.



Karra Papa is the Special Events Coordinator for NAFFA. She was raised in Mesa, AZ and attended school at ASU where she received a Bachelors in Early Childhood Education. Karra has a Masters in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University. Karra is part Navajo and Hopi. She has been married for 22 years and is the mother of 6 children.



Valerie Steimle is the Marketing/Economic Coordinator for NAFFA.

Originally raised in New Jersey, she moved to Mesa to be closer to her daughter's family and has learned to love the desert. She has been a family advocate for 30 years and is the author of 6 books and hundreds of articles about strengthening the family. The mother of 9 children, 12 grandchildren and widowed since 2006, Valerie continues to be the contributing writer for several online blogs and websites. She has also helped other organizations write grants for funding. Besides writing, she loves staying active by riding her bike and hiking, researching her family history and spending time with her family.



## **Internships**

NAFFA benefitted from the expertise of interns this fall. They are all attending ASU pursuing a degree in social work.

Molly Fritsch, MSW student, 1<sup>st</sup> year

Angie Hernandez, BSW student

Tatiana Daughtrey, MSW student- graduated Dec 2017

Pertasha Mallahan, BSW Student

## **Coming in 2018**

As NAFFA continues to expand our horizons, we plan to implement several objectives in the New Year. These include:

Expand our programs throughout the ten provinces and three territories in Canada.

Offer the curricula to more non-Native communities.

Recruit more facilitators that work in the criminal justice field to sponsor groups in probation, parole, prisons, jails and reintegration efforts.

Begin offering facilitator training in Addressing Family Violence and Abuse. (See below)

## **FIS/MIS Now Offered at Tribal Colleges**

Two tribal colleges will begin teaching an undergraduate course on Fatherhood Is Sacred Motherhood Is Sacred in 2018. Stone Child College in Box Elder Montana and the Nebraska Indian Community College in Macy Nebraska will both start offering a three credit course beginning in January.

## **New Curriculum**

NAFFA will be offering a third curriculum that will train facilitators to grow happy and safe families in their communities. On April 17 to 19, Mr. Pooley will present Addressing Family Violence and Abuse at our Mesa office.

Addressing Family Violence and Abuse is a 12 session program that was created to provide a more in-depth and focused resource for families and communities facing this devastating problem. The three-day training defines domestic violence and abuse, identifies contributing factors, and provides ways to overcome the effects of abuse and much more. This program offers hope and healing to individuals caught in the cycle of abuse and violence.

“I know of no tradition, belief, ceremony, or teaching that allows family members to abandon, abuse, neglect, ignore, harm, injure, or molest other family members, specifically children.” -Albert M. Pooley

## **New Project**

NAFFA is implementing the Native American Fatherhood Initiative, a multi-pronged approach to enhance and coordinate the development and expansion of programs and services for Native American fathers and men in families in communities across the US.

Announced as a pilot project at our annual conference in November, NAFFA seeks to recruit three communities in 2018 to sponsor the initiative for the fathers and families on their reservations. We propose that a group of NAFFA certified facilitators, interested parents, tribal council members and local service providers establish a coordinating committee to bring together individuals with the shared interest in expanding opportunities for fathers to receive educational, employment, legal and social supports in their community. Tribal representatives from family courts, behavioral health, TANF, juvenile justice, Head Start, child protection, social services, foster care, education, housing, domestic violence, child welfare and the tribal council may be invited to offer their recommendations and support this four step process. These include:

1. Coordinate a needs assessment process to identify unmet needs of local fathers seeking assistance. NAFFA will supply the assessment tool for service providers to distribute and collect from local fathers. NAFFA will then compile this data and write a report.

2. The coordinating committee will identify potential service providers that might address the specific needs identified in an agency self- assessment tool such as family law assistance, affordable housing for fathers and children, family mediation, parent education, mentoring, anger management, assistance for fathers of children with special needs, co-parenting, custody evaluation, job placement, credit repair, family planning, paternity establishment, child care, and other related concerns.

3. NAFFA will then provide on-site consultation to help process and apply the results of steps one and two. In addition, NAFFA will provide training to staff of community service agencies and tribal government organizations on how to establish and maintain father-inclusive policies and practices and to create father-friendly environments.

4. The coordinating committee will recruit local parents and service providers to complete certified facilitator training in Fatherhood Is Sacred, Motherhood Is Sacred, Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships and Addressing Family Violence and Abuse.

Please contact Neil Tift at NAFFA if you are interested in discussing how you might bring the Native American Fatherhood Initiative to your community.

### **FIS/MIS Groups at NAFFA Office**

NAFFA will again offer FIS/MIS classes for adults on probation and parole, running from February 7 to April 25. The classes are \$10 per person per session, which runs from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at our Mesa Office. You may start attending this series any week.

We will also begin offering Linking Generations By Strengthening Relationships on Thursday evenings at our Mesa office. This free course will run for 14 sessions, starting on February 1 and ending on May 3. You may start attending this series any week.

### **Seminars in 2018**

NAFFA is working with our facilitators across the country to build support to sponsor at least three seminars in 2018. They are tentatively scheduled for:

New York in March

Minnesota in June

Northern California in September

If your agency or community is interested in bringing a seminar to your area, please contact Grace Richards at the NAFFA office.

### **National Conference Scheduled**

Our 15th Annual National Fatherhood Is Leadership Conference is scheduled for November 6 to 8, 2018. It will again be held at the We Ko Pa Resort at Fort McDowell.

We will be issuing a Call for Presenters in May. Please contact Karra Pappas if you are interested in submitting a proposal or want to suggest a keynote presenter or workshop topic.

## **2018 Calendar of Trainings at our Mesa Office**

### **January**

January 9-11, 2018 – Fatherhood Is Sacred™ / Motherhood Is Sacred™

### **February**

February 6-8, 2018 – Linking Generations By Strengthening Relationships®

### **March**

March 6-8, 2018 – Fatherhood Is Sacred™ / Motherhood Is Sacred™

### **April**

April 17-19, 2018 – Addressing Family Violence and Abuse

### **May**

May 15-17, 2018 – Fatherhood Is Sacred™ / Motherhood Is Sacred™

### **June**

June 19-21, 2018 – Addressing Family Violence and Abuse

### **July**

July 17-19, 2018 – Fatherhood Is Sacred™ / Motherhood Is Sacred™

### **August**

August 14-16, 2018 - Linking Generations By Strengthening Relationships®

### **September**

September 18-20, 2018 - Fatherhood Is Sacred™ / Motherhood Is Sacred™

### **October**

October 16-18, 2018 – Addressing Family Violence and Abuse

### **November**

November 27-29, 2018 – Fatherhood Is Sacred™ / Motherhood Is Sacred™

### **December**

December 11-13, 2018 – Linking Generations By Strengthening Relationships® –

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