

The Native Nations/UW Action Plan:



Collaborating on Environment and Health

Overview

The UW/Native Nations Summit on Environment and Health explored a range of critical issues facing tribal communities as well as current and potential research partnerships to address some of these challenges. The Leadership Roundtable provided an opportunity for native nations leaders to articulate their priorities, and two sets of breakout sessions focused on specific issue areas in environment, health and education.

These represent the foundational interactions for a forward-looking, tribal-led action plan that will use campus resources for investigations and programs of value to the sovereign nations living in and around *what is now called* Wisconsin.

In general, the measureable overall goals are, by 2020:

- 1) To increase the utilization of campus resources, faculty, knowledge, and facilities by native nations as and where they see benefit.
- 2) To increase the enrollment, retention and graduation of students from native nations.
- 3) To increase the role and resources of the UW-Madison campus in educational activities at other campuses where native students are enrolled (including tribal colleges as well as system schools with high native enrollment).

These goals will be met while maintaining key principles of our interactions. Activities will:

- 1) be based on the first principle: “walk softly and listen carefully.”
- 2) be tribal-led and only undertaken where native nations see benefits.
- 3) be vetted through sovereign native authority.
- 4) honor traditional knowledge as well as western science.

Follow-up activities to meet these goals will be organized into several areas, including immediate and current activities, medium-term plans, and long-term goals.

Immediate and Current Activities

- Development of a **website** clearinghouse for partnerships and activities
 - Preliminary website established, with reorganization as new projects emerge (nelson.wisc.edu/summit)
- Development of **Responsible Research Policy** for any/all interested tribal nations
 - Status: policy template developed and posted on summit website
 - Status: potential workshop on research policy to coincide with upcoming tribal leadership meeting
- Meeting and **follow-up summit** on specific projects: 2015-2016
 - Status: Preliminary planning around workshop led by National Congress of American Indians on expanding native research capacity
- Advocacy for **staff position** for liaison between UW-Madison and native nations
 - Status: Preliminary discussions between Nelson, Provost's Office, and UW Extension
 - Proposal before Ho-Chunk to support match for the position
 - Jesse Conaway presented partnership concept to GLITC on 5/14
- Advocacy for the filling of a **recruitment and advising position** for native students
 - Status: Preliminary discussions
 - Status: Program for recruiting native students at the Nelson Institute taken up by an academic programs committee
- Development of **working groups and governance** mechanisms for pan-tribal and UW collaboration in specific action areas
 - Status: Summit organizing committee to schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss working groups and actions
 - **Working groups currently forming in:**
 - Water and Sovereignty
 - Climate Change
 - Mining
 - Sustainability and Economic Development
 - Food Security
- **Climate change adaptation planning** with native nations
 - Status: BIA collaborative proposal submitted for online training and adaptation online workshops between Red Cliff, Oneida, and Ho-Chunk and Nelson, Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts, School of Human Ecology
- Collection of **baseline environmental data** in sensitive areas, tribal regions and ceded territories
 - Status: UW project assistants expected to enter the field in summer 2015

- **Water Working Group:** Project on Water Quality and Sovereignty, led by Richard Monette in conjunction with Law School and the Nelson Institute with USGS tribal liaison
 - Project proposed by Adrian Treves (with possible co-PIs Ari Cornman of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Bryan Bainbridge of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), recruiting two tribal members per year to undertake graduate training in animal behavioral ecology, conservation, and sovereignty – through the Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Prepare a pre-proposal for 10-year NSF Grant, Long Term Research in Environmental Biology (LTREB), due January 2016
- **Mining Working Group:** Evaluation of sand mining impacts; community education forum on frac sand mining as invited by members of the Ho-Chunk Nation
 - Plan a community forum in Ho-Chunk country for fall 2015
- Develop **workshops on American Indian research methods** to support research, courses, field work and service learning
 - Coordinate with teaching and learning programs in campus libraries,
 - Collaborate with Subject Library Liaisons in campus libraries,
 - Build working relationships with library diversity and inclusion initiatives in the General Library System.

Field courses with native nations

- Status: Potential Global Health Institute 2016 field course with Forest County Potawatomi Community
- Status: Summer 2016 Cultural Ecology field course with Bad River elder Joe Rose, Sr. Developed by Rose with Conaway and Henning.
 - Funding: Evjue, WHC, WEEB, Besadny?
- **Service learning class** with Title VII tutoring focus to forge a more direct link between UW American Indian students as mentors to Title VII K-12 students.
 - Status: Course proposed by Laura Hiebing
 - Status: Continue the Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums course (LIS 640), which provides service learning opportunities in tribal cultural institutions on Indian reservations.
- Nelson Institute presentation of scientific portion of conference, "Wolf and Wildlife Coexistence Initiative," Ho-Chunk conference facility, July 2015. The conference has four portions tentatively titled, (1) diversity, (2) democracy, (3) science (designed by Adrian Treves), and (4) next steps.

Medium and Long-term Goals

- Expansion of high school and university **curricula** in the area of tribal environment and health
 - Teaching Stewardship and Sovereignty with the Bad River Water & Culture Maps
 - Middle School, High School and Undergraduate curricula available on <http://badrivermaps.nelson.wisc.edu/teaching-with-the-maps>
- Workshops on **native nation business planning** in partnership with Department of Sustainability at College of Menominee Nation, also incorporating suggestions in first round of post-summit discussion; Menominee-Oneida shared business plan implementation.
- Outreach and inclusion of the **urban Indian communities** of Milwaukee
- Project on **native seed banks**