

# **HONORING TRADITIONAL WAYS TRIBAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING CURRICULUM**



## **A Path for Leadership and Community Development Based in Traditional Practice and Self-Knowledge**

December 20-21, 2007  
Rapid City, South Dakota

Prepared by Northwest Indian College through the generous participation of tribal people  
Throughout Indian Country and with support from the Northwest Area Foundation

# HONORING TRADITIONAL WAYS TRIBAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING CURRICULUM



Honoring Traditional Ways Tribal Leadership Training Curriculum was developed by Northwest Indian College to explore native traditional leadership concepts. The curriculum serves to promote the emergence of young, tribal leaders throughout Indian Country. Northwest Indian College, located on the Lummi Indian Reservation in Bellingham, Washington will be conducting a two day training open to schools of all levels along with tribal leaders in an attempt to share the teachings of traditional methods of tribal leadership with emerging and future leaders of our tribal nations.

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Embracing the teachings and wisdom of our elders and our current and past leaders led to the development of this curriculum as a means of sharing teachings with emerging and future leaders of our tribal nations particularly throughout North America.

The role of leadership among Tribal peoples has been discussed in Indian communities and higher education institutions for many years. The possibility of gathering the information and putting the data together from the many years of symposiums, interviews with tribal leaders and community members, and Indian educators across the country is not a new idea. If we, as indigenous people, do not take the responsibility of passing along this information then we are morally remiss in our inherited duty and will lose valuable knowledge and key areas of wisdom for all time. It is our obligation to ensure the continuance of this knowledge within the younger generations of our tribes.

The leadership curriculum is based on three (3) strands centered on objectives that have come about through interviews with tribal leaders, tribal citizens, and educators. The curriculum promotes leadership in individuals in the hope that they may consider this knowledge and teachings in their family, community and elected leadership roles. The curriculum recognizes that leadership comes in multi-faceted opportunities for our people. The curriculum itself guides the student on a journey through various lessons and experiential scenarios to gain insight into the path that an individual must take in becoming a leader. It also includes a reflection component so participants may self-assess including exploring the spiritual side of leadership and deciding whether or not they have the values, thoughts, characteristics, and aspirations to be a leader. The expectation is that once completed the individual that chooses to accept the challenge of leadership will have many necessary skills, processes and understandings that are aligned with the identified standards set forth in this curriculum.

The model curriculum was developed through a series of interviews and data collection sessions by staff of Northwest Indian College. A grant from the Northwest Area Foundation supported both development of the curriculum and field testing of the courses and workshops. The grant's purposes include defining what leadership is and identifying which skills and processes are needed to become a leader in a tribal system or organization. The defined goals are as follows: 1) to develop in our students an awareness of his or her own leadership potential, 2) to assist Tribal citizens in developing and harnessing the essential leadership skills necessary to live in the present and embrace the teachings from the past, 3) to take on that role of tribal leader through experiential learning from an active standpoint in the community.

Current research in Indigenous Lands has taken years of interviews, data collection, and public symposiums headed by Indian country's most recognized, award winning, and distinguished individuals so that information gathered can be recorded and put into a curriculum.

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*In the words of John Poupart, president of the American Indian Research and Policy Institute,*

*“ It is time for us as a people to reach back into our history for tribal customs and oral traditions. To find a place for that which is Indian. It’s the minds of the old people. They’re the keepers of the oral history. Those are the words, the stories and the legends that have been handed down.”*

Although this curriculum is written in a linear fashion simply because of the convenience of the organization tool used, the curriculum itself reflects the fact that leadership development rarely occurs in a linear fashion. It is understood that leadership in some individuals evolves intrinsically because of the natural leadership characteristics they possess but for others it requires an awakening through a guided journey to self-awareness of potential and applied leadership skills.

The curriculum itself is divided into 3 strands for the purpose of developing leadership in our students. Within each strand there are seven (7) objectives with 4 or 5 subsets under each. It is set in a clear progression from strand 1 to 3 but each strand can also be used independently if need be.

This model curriculum is intended to be very flexible in nature as the objectives are open ended to allow for added resources found by the instructor that may be relevant and can be used if desired. The individuals that developed this curriculum were also allowed to contribute their own ideas and find resources to assist the instructor in promoting leadership. The following excerpt characterizes the kind of material that may be brought into the curriculum to enhance the concepts studied and promote active and engaging discussion.

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First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/School/Tribe Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact Morning \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Best method of contact Email \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registration will close December 20, 2007 at 8:45 AM.

**Pre-registration Fee: \$175 USD.**

**On Site Registration: \$200 USD.**

**Daily Registration Fee: \$100 USD.**

**Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_**

Registration Fee includes 2 day training and a copy of the curriculum. Registration will only be accepted on a first come first served basis. Limited Space is Available.

Payment Enclosed: Check \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase Order \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Northwest Indian College

(Call Pam Hillaire – 360-392-4313 for credit card payments)

RETURN REGISTRATION TO: Tribal Leadership Program  
Northwest Indian College  
2522 Kwina Road  
Bellingham, WA 98226

For More Information: Alex Prue, Sr. 360-392-4302 [aprue@nwic.edu](mailto:aprue@nwic.edu)

VISIT THE NWIC WEBSITE ([www.nwic.edu/tgep](http://www.nwic.edu/tgep)) FOR MORE  
INFORMATION