

FIRST INNOVATIONS INITIATIVE:
Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship for American Indian Sustainability

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ASU American Indian Policy Institute

American Indian Policy Institute

Mission:
 AIPi is committed to transforming American Indian policy analysis using a **trans-disciplinary** approach and **tribally-driven** participatory research in which tribal government identify their own research needs and seek out collaboration with the university.

- Collaborate
- Empower
- Recognize



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AIPi Projects and Initiatives

- > **Governance:**
 - Tribal Financial Manager Certificate
 - Certified Public Manager for Tribal Managers
 - Organizational Assessment
- > **Environmental Management:**
 - compliance and enforcement
 - strategic planning
 - JATAP
- > **FIRST INNOVATIONS:**
 Innovation and Entrepreneurship for American Indian Sustainability
 - Summer Internship & Two- Course Sequence in AIS
 - YES Academy



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First Innovations Initiative

- 2011 President's Award for Innovation
- Reconnecting and rekindling the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of American Indian people.
- Responds to the negative view and mistrust about the words 'business' and 'entrepreneurship'.



Course Curriculum (Summer Internship & Two Semesters)

- Summer Internship
(Applied Experience)
- Fall Semester
(Innovation)
- Spring Semester
(Development & Implementation
of product/service)



A Trans-disciplinary Partnership



- First Innovations team includes:
 - Eddie F. Brown, Professor, American Indian Studies and Executive Director, American Indian Policy Institute
 - Dan O'Neill, Lecturer and Director, Technology Entrepreneurship & Management Program
 - John Palamony, Assistant Professor, The Design School
 - Fonda Walters, Senior Research Analyst, American Indian Policy Institute
 - Pat Marrella, Director, American Indian Policy Institute

Summer Applied Internship

- Real-world applied experience
 - Identified opportunities & challenges
 - Graduate Level work
 - Four-week intensive, 100-hour internship
- Interns worked at the Native American Community Services Centers (NACSC)



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Innovation for American Indian Sustainability (First Semester)

- Understanding the current issues and trends in tribal development
- Introduced to the principles of sustainable entrepreneurship
- Identification of challenges that teams can address through innovation



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Entrepreneurship for American Indian Sustainability (Second Semester)



- Review of the innovation process and resulting product/service ideas and choices.
- Concentrates on developing a product/service from an identified prototype idea and creating a business model and plan.



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