



SEEDTM INSTITUTE

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Bridging Indigenous knowledge and western ways of scientific thought

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Greetings! (Yaa'at'eeh!)

December 12, 2010

Happy Holidays!

A few days ago, I attended a traditional council meeting on the Tohajiilee reservation and several elders on the council were discussing the idea of survival. One elder commented, "It is great to be alive in this day and age but, in today's world, we must do more to survive and help those in need including our children, our elders, and people who are struggling." I asked, "But how? There is so much to do." One elder replied, "Life begins with a tiny *seed* and it continues to grow with plenty of love and nourishment. It is something that we all need to do as human beings to help others. Then, the *seed* will blossom to help feed and nurture all living things."

With these words from my elders, I connected these words of wisdom with our organization, the SEED (Source for Educational Empowerment & Community Development) Institute. It is an exciting time of the year as we envision and nurture our mission here at SEED. In the spirit of "giving back," we are asking for your continued monetary support. As a non-profit 501c3 organization, your tax deductible donation will help revitalize SEED Institute's mission of bridging indigenous knowledge with western and other ways of knowing. Your donation will be used to fund our newly added components of our program and our promise is to continue the work of bridging indigenous ways of knowing and western ways of science.

As an organization, SEED continues to blossom. In accordance with our four seasons, SEED has expanded our mission by adding three more events throughout the year. We have added two projects that include the Striking Eagle Well Being Project which incorporates spiritual, mental, social, and physical well-being pillars in self-growth and life-long learning. As part of the Striking Eagle Project, we are implementing our first annual Indigenous Well Being conference in April. Also, we have incorporated the Friends of Indigenous Elders of America into one of our program components. As part of our elder component, we are scheduling an elder's gathering in October.

At SEED, we feel that our future generations are important and we have replanted our SEEDlings youth component. We have partnered with the New Mexico Activities Association to sponsor the First Annual New Mexico American Indian Classic basketball tournament in December of 2011 which will feature 32 high school teams from around our state. During this exciting basketball tournament, we also plan to sponsor a health fair, a pow-wow, and college fair that students can become actively involved and learn about opportunities and wellness.

We have six new board members that have been added to replace departing members. Our new SEED board members include Beverly Rubik, Ph.D., Geneva Becenti, Jodie Burshia, Matthew Shoulders, Helen Maslocka, Joyce Anastacia, and Ramey Growing Thunder.

Here is a list of our events for the upcoming 2011 year:

SPRING 2011

Inaugural Indigenous Well Being Conference: *Planting our SEEDs of Knowledge: Our sacred roots of healing and well-being.* April 25-28, 2011, Embassy Suites, Albuquerque, N.M. This innovative conference that will specialize in helping individuals develop a personalized well being model that incorporates spiritual, mental, physical, and social well-being pillars. We have attached a list of our proposed events for the 2011 calendar year.

SUMMER 2011

13th Annual Language of Spirit Conference; August 13-16, 2011 at Embassy Suites in Albuquerque, N.M. Our premiere event promises to be an exciting event that will bridge indigenous ways of knowing and western ways of science. We have planned a pre-conference on August 13th with four workshops and a possible trip to visit a Pueblo during a feast day.

FALL 2011

Wisdom Keepers. We have added an elders component to our SEED mission by incorporating the components of Friends of Indigenous Elders of America. The Wisdom Keepers will work closely with a local tribal group to sponsor a spiritual gathering to reconnect with Mother Earth and Father Sky. This year, an elders traditional gathering and ceremony is scheduled for October 2011.

WINTER 2011

2011 First Annual New Mexico American Indian Basketball Classic, Santa Ana Star Center, Rio Rancho, N.M. This tournament will feature the top Native American teams in the state of New Mexico which will also include a health awareness venue, college fair, pow-wow, and traditional knowledge competition.

SEED is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization and contributions are tax-deductible. We ask for your support and donation to help us fulfill our long-term vision of establishing the SEED Graduate Institute. Thank you for making our plans achievable.

I hope to continue this vision with the blessings from my elders to see SEED blossom and flourish to benefit everyone at the local, tribal, national, and global levels. If you would like to become involved in replanting *seed*, please contact me at your earliest convenience. I conclude my letter by leaving you with these wise words from my elders, “*Si’ah Naaghai Bik’eh Hozhoon,*” (May you continue your beauty way path in life).

Sincerely,



Shawn Secatero, Ph.D.
SEED President



Shawn Secatero, Ph.D. (Canoncito Band of Navajo) is a member of the Water's Edge people and born for the Latino clan. Shawn received his Ph.D. in 2009 from the University of New Mexico and graduated with distinction after completing his dissertation study, "Beneath our sacred minds, hands, and hearts: stories of persistence and success among American Indian graduate and professional students." He has worked in numerous capacities as a secondary language arts teacher, bilingual program coordinator, youth opportunity program director, and coordinator of student services at the American Indian Graduate Center Gates Millennium Scholars. Shawn continues his service as a researcher and has established the Striking Eagle Well Being Project to address higher education retention efforts, and serves as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico. He has conducted workshops and seminars on his well-being model at local, state, and international conferences and continues to work as a consultant for various programs and institutions. Shawn also serves as a board member for the Indigenous Elders of Amerika, Canoncito Band of Navajos 12-member traditional council, and is currently president and CEO of Source for Educational Empowerment and Development (SEED) Institute which is a non-profit organization that bridges Indigenous knowledge with western ways of knowing.