



Four Winds

**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION INSTITUTE
P.O. BOX 58, BLUFF, UTAH 84512
435-672-2482, INDIGENOUSEDU.ORG**

January 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1

Navajo Astronomy Materials Developed

Four Winds

- Navajo Astronomy
- Evaluation Institute
- Meet Our Board
- From the Chair
- Advisory Council
- WIPCE
- IEI

Board of Directors

Chair—Pamela Standing (Detroit Lakes, MN)

President/Executive Director—Dr. Nancy C. Maryboy (Bluff, Utah)

Vice President—Dr. David Begay (Ganado, Arizona)

Vice Chair/Secretary—Evelyn Conley (Tahlequah, OK)

Treasurer—Patrick Toomey (Salt Lake City, UT)

Dr. VerlieAnn Malina-Wright (Honolulu, HI)

Dr. Lloyd Pinkham (Wapato, WA)

Technical Specialist—Christopher Teren, Teren Solutions, Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, WA

- 1
- 1
- 2
- 2
- 3
- 3
- 4

The Indigenous Education Institute is proud to announce the development of new Navajo Astronomy materials. The educational materials include a book of comparative astronomy, a CD of Navajo star stories and a poster of the Dineh (Navajo) Universe.

The book "Sharing the Skies: Navajo and Western Cosmos) contains an introduction to Navajo Astronomy as well as an introduction to Greek Astronomy. There is also an introduction to Space Science written by Dr. Isabel Hawkins, Space Science Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley.

The book contains 160 pages and also includes full color illustrations of many Navajo constellations, with stories explaining the use and significance of each one. Along with the Navajo constellations readers can find stories of the Greek constellations which provide the names that we call them in English today. For example, many people know how to find Orion, from the three bright stars on his belt, but how many people know who Orion was and how he came to be in the Greek sky.

Each constellation is also connected to a Hubble Telescope photo showing what you could see if you pointed a telescope in the direction of the Navajo constellation. Thus you will see a full color photograph of the Horsehead Nebula, where stars are being born, near the left-hand star in Orion's belt.

Along with the photos are interesting space facts, which teach facets of the western science of astronomy.



Also included in the book are locations, Navajo names of constellations, learning activities such as bingo, crossword puzzles and word find activities. A full set of flashcards provide challenges for readers. There are instructions for creating your own planisphere and building a pin hole camera to safely view the sun.

There is a full-length play included in the book so students can act out the stories of

American Indian Evaluation Institute Begins

The American Indian Evaluation Institute will begin holding sessions in Minnesota this spring. The Institute will be located at St. Scholastica College, in Duluth, Minnesota, taking place in March, April, May and June, 2006.

The Evaluation Institute has been developed to train Native Americans to

do strategic planning and evaluation, based on their own traditional knowledge and values. Dr. Begay and Dr. Maryboy will begin the institute with an overview of the Dine Cosmic Model that they have developed, and continue to assist participants in the development of their own planning modules. (cont. on page 2)

Goals of IEI

1. To initiate collaborative research involving traditional knowledge holders
2. To organize, articulate and develop strategic and realistic application of the research to indigenous education in order to provide cultural enrichment and empowerment to succeeding generations.

Meet our Board Members

In this issue we wish to honor one of our Board Members, Dr. VerlieAnn Leimomi Malina-Wright. VerlieAnn, a Native Hawaiian, lives in Honolulu, Hawaii. She is the Vice Principal of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Anuenue School, a Hawaiian Immersion school, where all the students study in their native language, Hawaiian. Dr. Malina-Wright is the former Chairperson of the Native Hawaiian Educational Council. She has just been named President-Elect of the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), the

largest and most prestigious indigenous education association in the United States. The 2007 Annual Meeting of NIEA will be in Honolulu. Plan to attend and support VerlieAnn!

Dr. Malina-Wright is also one of the founding members of the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC), which recently held its annual meeting in New Zealand. WINHEC is composed of members of higher education institutions around the world, who honor and apply in-



Dr. VerlieAnn Malina-Wright

digenous values and ways of knowing in a higher education settings. WINHEC has developed its own criteria for accreditation and has already accredited several programs. VerlieAnn was a member of the first accreditation team.

American Indian Evaluation Institute (continued)

IEI has taken a leading role in the field of strategic planning and evaluation for indigenous peoples. The Cosmic Model has been used to develop goals, objectives, actions and evaluations, comprehensively aligned for groups such as the World Hope Foundation in Boulder, Co,

which is supported by the Kellogg Foundation. The Cosmic Model has similarities to the Kellogg Foundation's Logic Model which is in use across the United States, but it is based on native ways of knowing.

Dr. Michael Patton, the renowned author of several books on Utilization Fo-

cused Evaluation, will be participating in the first Institute session, which will be led by Dr. Maryboy and Dr. Begay. Pamela Standing has organized the Institute and is recruiting participants. Dr. Chandra Mehrotra, Director of the Psychology Department at St. Scholastica, will also be teaching in the Institute.

Message from the Board Chair, Pamela Standing

Two significant events stand out in my mind in 2005. The first is the collaboration between Dr. Michael Patton, Dr. Chandra Mehrotra, Bremer Foundation, and IEI to offer first ever American Indian Evaluation Institute, utilizing the Cosmic Planning model as the focal piece.

Second is the exciting part-

nerships that emerged with Dr. Isabel Hawkins and her team at the University of Berkely, Space Science Laboratory during the NSF Cosmic Serpent grant submission in December 2005. For the first time, IEI has received the recognition it so richly deserves and is the Principal Investigator on this grant.

We have exciting times ahead of us as board members in 2006.



Navajo Astronomy Materials (continued)

The poster of the Dineh (Navajo) Universe is based on a painting by Melvin Bainbridge of the skies as Navajos would view them during the entire year, from the Navajo Nation. It features characteristics of the night sky, with the Navajo and English names of the constellations and the months when certain constellations will be seen.

Dr. Nancy Maryboy and Dr. David Begay worked closely with the World Hope Foundation to develop the materials. They researched, developed and wrote the book, play and designed the poster. Paul

Soderman and Cathie Quigley-Soderman from WHF designed the book and made several trips to the reservation, organizing presentations to local schools. They even brought in John Herrington, the Chickasaw Indian NASA astronaut, a role model to all native youth.



The work was supported by the Kellogg Foundation, the Utah Humanities Council,

Space Grant (NASA), and the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, among others.

The new materials will complement the Navajo Star Cylinder and Guide to Navajo Astronomy, that IEI has developed for the Starlab, a portable planetarium developed by Learning Technologies, Massachusetts. Many schools and thousands of students across the country have benefited from presentations given by IEI over the past 15 years.

Sharing the Skies

“I recommend that this book have a place in every school and home on the Navajo Nation.”

**Leland Leonard,
Executive Director,
Department of Dine
Education**

IEI International Advisory Council

IEI has an illustrious International Advisory Council composed of members from around the world. Each of them is renowned in their field and together they share their tremendous expertise to our organization.

- Robert Charlie, Alaska
- Troy Cline, NASA

- Dr. Polly Walker, Australia
- Dr. Oscar Kawagley, Alaska
- Leroy Littlebear, Canada
- Amethyst First Rider, Canada
- Emil Wolfgram, Hawaii
- Dr. Paul Coleman, Hawaii
- Jerry Elliot, NASA
- Rose Von Thater-Braan, California
- Linda Hogan, Colorado
- Yvonne Yazzie, New Mexico
- Jill Mulroy, Australia
- Pat Moss, Oklahoma
- Dr. Cheryl Metoyer, California
- Ida Bagus NyuomanMantra, East Bali
- Tjorkora Gede Agung Dharma Putra, Central Bali
- Leon Secatero, New Mexico
- Dr. Isabel Hawkins, California
- Lee Nichol, New Mexico
- Phil Lambert, New Zealand
- Dermot O’Hara, Ireland
- Elizabeth Matlack, Mississippi
- Dr. Shelly Valdez, New Mexico

WIPCE—New Zealand

Several IEI board members and advisory council members traveled to New Zealand in November to participate in the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE), including David Begay, VerlieAnn Malina-Wright, Nancy Maryboy, Isabel Hawkins, Troy Cline, Rose Von Thater-Braan, and Emil Wolfgram. Ki Ora!



**Indigenous
Education Institute**

P.O. Box 58
Bluff, Utah 84512 USA

Phone: 435-672-2482

Website:
indigenousedu.org

E-mail:
dilyehe@gmail.com

IEI

**The Indigenous
Education Institute
was created for the
preservation and
application of ancient
traditional knowledge.**



Please Consider a donation!

The Indigenous Education Institute is a 502.c3 non-profit organization. Donations to IEI are tax deductible and gratefully accepted. Please consider giving a donation to a grass roots organization that truly is making a difference in indigenous lives today.