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1994

### INDIANnet Telecommunications Network Project

Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO)

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New Mex Node

**T E C**      **INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**To: Susan**  
**From: Anne**  
**Date: March 23, 1994**

I tried to include documentation that would let AIO take this out of the Internet connections budget if that is best for you.

The scenerio is this:

If we hook the two Quadra BBS's (SD and NM) together via this software, then when INDIANnet SD gets to be a full Internet node this next month, we can give INDIANnet NM a "sub-node". This will give you more benefits than you get from your new e-mail accounts there, but you will probably want to keep the email accounts too for "instant" mail.

22571 Smokey Ridge Road  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-6139  
Voice 605-348-7293      Fax 605-341-0940  
Modem-Dakota BBS 605-394-6859    8-N-1 (Up to 14,400 baud)  
E-mail-afallis@silver.sdsmt.edu

TO: AIO  
FROM: Anne  
March 23, 1984

**INDIAN COMPUTER TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK PROJECT- MODEL  
SUGGESTIONS 3-23-84**

I. Use Becenti Introduction or adapt as needed.

II. Insert:

**Overview:**

Americans for Indian Opportunity is a national organization with twenty-five years experience creating new initiatives that improve life for American Indian people and Tribes.

In this Telecommunications Project, Americans for Indian Opportunity will play two roles.

\* In Stage One, the Development of a Local Model, AIO will work with a local team to develop processes and products to produce electronic information needed by the Pueblo of Jemez.

\* In Stage Two, Americans for Indian Opportunity will implement the Model with other Tribes and on a national basis.

**Stage One: Development of a Local Model**

Insert here Becenti's proposal or adapt as needed.

III. Add:

**Dissemination, Replication, and Creation of a National Model**

Americans for Indian Opportunity will seek resources to implement the model with other Tribes throughout the Nation.

(Note-when we see Robert's final proposal for a local model, we can decide if we need to add more elements to the local model). For example:

Data from or useful for all BIA operated, funded, or supported operations including education, general assistance, social services, realty, law enforcement, Tribal courts, loan operations, other.

Americans for Indian Opportunity will also seek resources to implement similar models with other federal agencies in order to provide Tribes an all-encompassing model.

(Note- we may want to delete this last statement if we think it would hinder the original BIA funding.)

More when we get more from Robert. I have NOT sent this to him so that you have a chance to look at it first.

**INDIANnet NEEDS  
In Order of Priority**

- AIO site-Probably no expenses if you receive software, modem, Quadra and carrier detect cable from Arkansas and if you can use your fax line for nightly calls.

- To meet the Apple requirement that we run a two-line BBS by June, 1994:

1 US Robotics modem, 14,400	\$499
1 Hurdler Board for multi-line	\$379
Installation of second line	\$400
Carrier Detect Cable	\$20
Second line will average \$45/mo.	

- To hook to Internet:

Res Nova Software - Internet Professional Option (This is for the Quadra only so can't be shared with anyone)	\$600
Router (1/4 of cost)	\$1375
Annual membership fee (1/4 of cost)	\$1150
Leased line costs per month (1/4 cost) \$150/mo. x 12 mo.	\$1800

- To hook to FidoNet (would allow links between our computers:

Average of \$50-\$100/mo. for long distance calls -depending on how many computers are linked

**Back-up**

*Quadra -Minimal 610 8/1 gigabyte CD rom	\$3,500
*or minimum get machine with smaller storage	\$1,900

**Other**

*Scanner	\$2,000
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Two additional lines (if the BBS gets busy) (may or may not be needed)

\$800 installation  
\$90/mo. for phone  
\$1000 for 2 modems  
\$40 for carrier detect cables

*Draft letter  
approving  
↓*

1200

5000

Future Needs- Additional staffing

Hooking up additional BBS's into the Network  
Tribally-based and other

- Apple Corporation might provide

CURRENT COSTS-INDIANnet, SD site  
Per Month

Technician -Randy Foudray	\$1500
Phone line for Quadra (Basic services)	\$45
Calls to respond to users per month	\$100-\$200
Clerical to post some information	\$256
Balance to Anne to cover time and overhead	\$999-\$1099

NTIA proposal

# FAX

## Sunday, May 8

TO: Laura or Sue, AIO  
Fax: 867-0441

FROM: Alison Freese, Native American Studies, UNM  
Phone: 277-3917; Fax: 277-1818

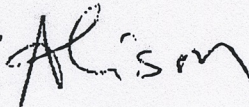
Dear Laura or Sue,

Here is a revised draft of the narrative I send you on Friday with a timetable. Thought you might want to see it.

Again, I will need to pick up your letter on Tuesday morning, either on my way to Santa Fe or on the way back late morning. Hope this isn't a problem.

Best wishes,

Alison



**TILAP PLANNING GRANT:  
ASSURING EQUAL NII ACCESS TO NATIVE AMERICANS IN NEW MEXICO**

**NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87131  
MAY 1994**

***EQUITY OF ACCESS ISSUES***

One of the primary roles for the NII initiative is to promote equity of access so that the information age does not create information "haves" and "have nots." In New Mexico, however, the majority of Native Americans living in rural and reservation areas are at risk of being totally excluded from current NII initiatives unless there is a coordinated effort to include them in the statewide planning that will be conducted during the next twelve to sixteen months. It is imperative that these Native American communities be included because the advantages the NII can offer them in the realm of education, health, government and social services can directly affect the problems specific to these communities: low literacy rates, high drop out rates, inadequate health care and high unemployment. Native American Studies at the University of New Mexico (NAS/UNM) submits this proposal for a planning grant with the goal of providing this critical coordinating role in order to ensure that state networking plans meet the needs of the Native American population in New Mexico.

Native American Studies, with its charter to provide community service in order to improve Native American retention rates in higher education, proposes to work in close conjunction with New Mexico tribes and the following organizations that are in the forefront of statewide NII planning: State Office of Communications, New Mexico State Library, State Office of Indian Affairs, New Mexico Library Association, Legislative Committee on Indian Affairs, State Commission on Information and Communication Management, Americans for Indian Opportunity, Los Alamos National Labs, New Mexico Technet, U.S. West Communications, and commercial vendors interested in offering services needed in these remote communities.

New Mexico tribes are showing a great interest in NII networking but lack resources to pursue comprehensive plans for the future. During the last six months, NAS/UNM has been consulting with tribal leaders, tribal librarians, BIA- public-, and private school librarians and teachers about the potential Native American end-users who will not gain access to the NII if their interests are not heard. A series of meetings and hearings in early 1994 led to a bill introduced by State Senator Leonard Tsosie (Navajo-State Senate District 22), which resulted in the appropriation of \$500,000 from the 1994 State Legislature to upgrade library and information services to New Mexico



tribal, community, and school libraries serving Native American constituents (see "Synopsis of Native American Library Needs in New Mexico" and copies of relevant legislation in *Additional Materials*). It was found that these libraries and resource centers are generally and consistently out-of-date, understaffed and underfunded. Only through the dedication of the existing staff do they provide what services are available.

While libraries which are a part of the state library system in New Mexico will soon be connected to the information superhighway as a result of legislative appropriations this year, there is no provision for creating a plan that takes the vast majority of the Native American population into consideration. For example, at present, 23,000 of the total 55,000 Native American elementary and secondary school students in New Mexico attend BIA-funded day- or boarding schools or private schools. With increasing cuts in BIA and private school budgets, not to mention IHS and other Indian program budget reductions, Internet connectivity remains a low priority, although the vast NII resources could begin to alleviate some deficiencies almost overnight. For example, access to current and culturally-relevant information for educational institutions and long-distance learning opportunities could rekindle young people's interest in education; telemedicine innovations could assist a doctor in making a more accurate diagnosis for a patient living far from a hospital; tribal, state and federal governmental communications could promote networking between tribal, state, and federal offices.

The soon-to-be-formed New Mexico State Commission on Information and Communication Management, mandated by the 1994 State Legislature to study the state's current computer, technology and network capabilities and needs, is expected to present a plan for the future to the legislature at its session in January 1995. The New Mexico State Library, mandated to assist tribal and community librarians with the upgrading of their facilities, will also be reporting to the legislature in January 1995 about their progress. Unfortunately, neither the State Commission nor the State Library will have the staff or funds necessary to comprehensively assess all Native American NII needs throughout the state. NAS/UNM proposes to fulfill this need.

If we are not careful to include *from the beginning* those areas and populations with the most urgent NII connectivity needs because of their isolated and impoverished conditions--the have-nots of New Mexico--then plans will almost inevitably call for a phased introduction of NII services. This would entail hookups for urban, easily-accessible sites first, while the more difficult, less technologically-sophisticated areas will be left for an unspecified time in the future. A glance at the planning map for the expansion of New Mexico Technet to state libraries (attached) indicates that proposed

lines will either pass through or nearby a number of Indian reservations. If the planning is appropriately coordinated now, during the next year, there will be an opportunity to plan for future interconnectivity and interoperability between these various networks and Native American communities throughout the state. For example, the core nodes and secondary nodes planned for this statewide library network could be used as the infrastructure for a further branching of networks reaching into the remote areas of the Navajo and Apache reservations and into the Pueblo communities along the Rio Grande corridor. This would ensure access for the highest quality service at the lowest cost possible.

### **PLAN**

Under this planning grant, Native American Studies will dedicate two half-time positions (see *Additional Materials* Resumes of Alison Freese, Ph.D., and Michael Sandoval, Research Associate) to coordinate the following activities during the next twelve to sixteen months:

1. With the technical assistance of the State Office of Communications, NAS/UNM will 1) conduct a comprehensive survey of technological needs in Native American communities of New Mexico, including tribal offices, schools serving Native American students, hospitals, libraries, and social service organizations; 2) also research information needs of Native American end-users; 3) research potential technologies for connectivity in remote sites, including phone lines, microwave, and satellite feeds; and 4) as soon as they are available, present these findings and recommendations to the state-level planning commission for inclusion in the statewide plan to ensure the widest connectivity at the earliest possible date.

2. NAS/UNM will coordinate between the state planning commission, state library, legislative committees, service providers and Native American end-users so that relevant and timely information concerning planning efforts can be relayed from the state to the local level and vice versa. NAS/UNM is serving this function presently on an informal basis using funds and personnel available through the Native American Intervention and Retention Project, a legislatively-funded special project housed within NAS/UNM. We are currently planning Internet hookups for tribal scholarship officers through the UNM Computing Center so that students can be better served by both campus and tribal educational advisers. NAS/UNM currently issues a monthly newsletter for a wide student and community readership (see sample in *Additional Materials*) and this format could easily be adapted for dissemination among project participants.

3. NAS/UNM will convene one major meeting in early Fall 1994, in conjunction with state and local organizations, to bring together Native American end-users with NII service providers and network planners to initiate a dialogue and determine common goals. This meeting would specifically be to 1) clearly define the potential usefulness of NII connectivity to Native American end-users and 2) to clearly define for the service providers and network planners the needs and concerns of the Native American end-users so that they will be included in future plans.

4. NAS/UNM will conduct a series of local meetings and site visits in Navajo, Pueblo, Jicarilla Apache, and Mescalero Apache communities during late Fall 1994 and early Spring 1995 to continue more detailed planning sessions, determine the most appropriate technology for NII hookups at local sites, and demonstrate Internet capabilities to local groups in order to increase grassroots and tribal support of the project. Input from all meetings will be compiled and made available to the state planning commission.

5. In our discussions so far, Native American librarians and school teachers have made it clear that training is an essential part of this endeavor. NAS/UNM, therefore, proposes to conduct an assessment of training needs for Native American end-users and the most efficient means to undertake training activities, i.e. training Native American students on Internet and have them, in turn, train their own communities.

6. In order to ensure that continued funding will be available in the future, NAS/UNM will compile sources of funding and conduct application workshops for Native American end-users, make presentations to tribal officials to encourage tribal financial support of NII projects, advocate for further funding from the state legislature, and pursue any other funding avenues that arise, including joint applications for further federal funding.

7. NAS/UNM will continue discussions that began in March 1994 with Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), a non-profit organization headquartered in Bernalillo, NM, to create and test the capabilities in New Mexico for the AIO-initiated INDIANnet, an Internet project for nationwide tribal networking (see attached letter of support).

8. NAS/UNM will prepare and present an interim report to the New Mexico State Legislature in January 1995 and a final report for the interim Indian Affairs Committee in mid-1995 and will maintain close contact with NTIA representatives regarding the progress of this project.

**CONCLUSION**

We do not yet know the impact that NII connectivity will have on the remote Indian communities in New Mexico. That is why this planning grant is so essential. We do know, however, that at Native American Studies we meet many bright and talented students every day who come from these communities and who are burdened with educational handicaps because of the long-term lack of adequate resources at home on the reservations. They arrive at the university already far behind mainstream students and struggle in an environment that neither understands their cultural values nor their dilemma of having to live in two worlds. While fifty percent do not make it through the first two semesters here at UNM, many persevere and graduate because they have been told by their tribal leaders that they are needed at home to serve their own people. Future graduates need to return to a reservation environment that allows equal access to the educational advantages they have in Albuquerque and elsewhere so that they can become tribal leaders themselves and encourage the next generation to follow their path of learning.

**TIAP PLANNING GRANT:  
ASSURING EQUAL NII ACCESS TO NATIVE AMERICANS IN NEW MEXICO  
TIMETABLE**

**NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87131  
MAY 1994**

**Summer 1994:** Continue to communicate with organizations that will be involved in planning of NII networking in New Mexico. Confer with state communications office to request appointment to the State Commission on Information and Communication Management. Begin informal inventory of equipment and technology in Native American communities and request direct input to determine information needs of those communities.

**September 1994:**<sup>1</sup> Transfer two NAS/UNM staff members to half-time positions as coordinating team: Alison Freese, Ph.D., Principal Investigator/Coordinator, and Micheal Sandoval, Technical Advisor (see resumes in *Additional Material*) Team members will remain half-time on NAS/UNM salary.

Establish formal contacts with State Office of Communications, New Mexico State Library, New Mexico Technet, State Office of Indian Affairs, New Mexico Library Association, Legislative Committee on Indian Affairs, State Commission on Information and Communication Management, Americans for Indian Opportunity, LANL, US West. Consult with tribal communities, etc.

**October 1994:** Create survey instrument for equipment and information needs in Native American communities based on informal survey conducted during summer months. Update existing NAS mailing list and send out survey. Begin planning large one-day conference in Albuquerque to take place in early November. Send out invitations with survey, with request to return surveys with meeting registration so conference can be tailored to survey results.

Coordinate activities with other state and private organizations named above. Begin coordinating with Americans for Indian Opportunity on project that promotes INDIANnet as an Internet forum for Indian issues state- and nationwide.

Confer with other Native American NII projects in US and Canada.

**November 1994:** Preliminary analysis of surveys. Preparation for conference. Hold conference with two-part agenda: morning session on what the NII can offer Native American communities and afternoon session on technological requirements and the challenge of access on New Mexico Indian reservations, with update on statewide NII planning efforts.

Prepare report on meeting and survey results and disseminate by newsletter to all participants and others who could not attend. Continue to build mailing list so that dissemination is as widespread as possible in Native communities.

Begin site visits to Navajo, Jicarilla, Mescalero, and Pueblo communities, particularly libraries, schools, and social service agencies to follow up on large conference. Give on-site demonstrations of NII capabilities; confer on technological needs; offer information on funding; communicate with tribal officials to garner support for NII connectivity.

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<sup>1</sup>This is assuming that funding would begin in or around September 1994.

**December 1994:** Continue site visits. Begin compiling preliminary report for New Mexico State Legislative session in January 1995. Work with State Senator Leonard Tsosie to draft legislation to continue NII network planning and to begin implementation on Indian reservations in New Mexico.

**January 1995:** Present reports to legislative committees and confer with legislators during the 90-day session from mid-January through mid-March concerning appropriate legislation.

**February 1995:** Continue garnering legislative support for Native American networking. Continue formal contacts with state planners to begin formulating a definitive plan for meeting Native American NII needs in New Mexico.

**March 1995:** Report to Native American communities on the outcome of New Mexico State Legislative session concerning continued funding. Continue to formulate final report on NII needs. Research funding agencies for continuation of NII project.

**April 1995:** Confer with technical experts on timetables for connectivity and confer with Internet trainers on how to meet training needs in Native American communities. Create a plan to implement a training program for local communities, utilizing UNM Native American student volunteers who are trained on Internet use.

**May 1995:** Continue compiling results of research. Continue communication with tribal communities through newsletters (and Internet connections whenever possible). Maintain contacts with other tribal NII projects.

**June 1995:** Work on finalizing report for Interim Committee on Indian Affairs and other state agencies. Plan follow-up visits to selected sites for funding seminars and Internet training.

**July -August 1995:** Report to Interim Committee on Indian Affairs about progress of NII network planning. Follow-up visits to be conducted.

**September 1995:** Evaluation of progress. Write report of accomplishments during project period and determine short-term goals. Reassess Native American community needs based on work done during project period. Revise long-term goals for NII connectivity in Native American communities in New Mexico. Submit final report to tribal communities, NTIA, and state agencies.



# Americans for Indian Opportunity

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Founder and President

**Eddie Tullis**  
Poarch Creek  
Vice President

**Elma Patterson**  
Tuscarora  
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**Grace McCullah**  
Navajo

**Jerry Muskrat**  
Cherokee

**Faith Roessel**  
Navajo

**Joe S. Sando**  
Jemez Pueblo

October 3, 1994

Senator Leonard Tsosie  
New Mexico State Senate  
P. O. Box 1003  
Crownpoint, NM 87313

Dear Senator Tsosie:

I look forward to working with you to make universal access available to all tribes both in New Mexico and throughout the United States. I have great appreciation for the Crownpoint project and look forward to being helpful to you.

I will begin my efforts with the southern Pueblo and Mescalero tribes. Jemez is pretty much ahead of us because several Jemez people have personal interest.

I am enclosing some literature that might be useful to you, your colleagues and friends from Los Alamos.

Please feel free to call on me. I have a lot of other materials that might be useful to them because I serve on the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council particularly on the committee for access.

I will be contacting you later regarding the possibility of having the Advisory Council meeting in April of 1995.

Looking forward to working with you for our bright future for all of our people.

Warmest regard,

LaDonna Harris  
President and Founder

LDH:mil

*Sorry Jan was out of town  
for your press conferences  
Jan very supportive  
of your efforts*

681 Juniper Hill Road  
Bernalillo, NM 87004  
(505) 867-0278  
Fax: (505) 867-0441



# New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol

Santa Fe

**SENATOR LEONARD TSOSIE**

D-BERNALILLO, LOS ALAMOS, MCKINLEY,  
RIO ARRIBA & SANDOVAL-22

Mailing Address:  
Post Office Box 1003  
Crownpoint, NM 87313  
Office: 986-4311

COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:  
Judiciary  
Conservation

September 8, 1994

Laura Harris

Americans For Indian Opportunity  
681 Juniper Hill Rd.  
Bernalillo, NM 87004

Yáá'at'ééh Ms. Harris:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you for attending the September 6th meeting at UNM concerning Native American networking needs in New Mexico. I apologize for the confusion that occurred in the afternoon session. While I was ready to discuss networking projects looking at the whole state, the scientists and engineers from Los Alamos National Laboratory were ready to begin detailed planning on the Crownpoint pilot project. After hearing some of the audience members, I realized that they understood the meeting to be about networking for all of New Mexico's Native Americans. This understanding came from the letter that you received from Alison Freese of Native American Studies at UNM, which was prepared at my direction. The miscommunication is the fault of my office and I apologize. On the positive side, this was the first time a group of people got together to discuss networking into Native American communities. Contacts are very important and I am quite sure you were able to meet other people that are interested in planning/providing networks into Native American communities. So, let us build on this positive side and be able to continue to confer and collaborate on future projects. I think that the end result, universal access by all Native Americans in New Mexico, is a very important goal and I am willing to represent these interests in the New Mexico State Legislature during the coming year.

Let me give you an overview of the Crownpoint project—background information that was regrettably lacking in the Sept. 6th meeting. The idea for the meeting began when Bill Bostwick and Rick Ulibarri, of Los Alamos National Laboratories, and Alison Freese, of UNM-Native American Studies, met with me in early August to discuss the possibilities of working on a Native American



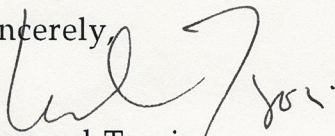
networking project that would combine the efforts and resources of a variety of organizations and agencies to bring computer networking capabilities to Native American communities in New Mexico. During our conversation, I explained the efforts that are underway in Crownpoint to combine resources, particularly tribal libraries and schools, and they requested a meeting in Crownpoint in order to see the facilities in that area. I called a meeting on August 28th at the Crownpoint Institute of Technology (CIT), which was attended by Navajo Nation representatives, CIT, Navajo Community College, New Mexico, Inc., New Mexico State Library, and other interested individuals. As a result of this meeting and the dedicated efforts of the Los Alamos scientists/engineers, plans have quickly developed in recent weeks to begin coordinating connectivity plans for Crownpoint.

It is the intention to still go forward with the Crownpoint pilot project. The team that will implement this project will learn a great deal about how to approach this kind of project and its implications for other Native communities in New Mexico. I expect to learn a great deal from this experiment and want to expand this project to include all of New Mexico. I asked Barbara Grimes, of Los Alamos Labs, to begin some initiatives with the northern pueblos and Jicarilla Apache. I further asked LaDonna Harris to work with the southern Pueblos and Mescalero Apache. Preliminary studies or plans from these efforts will give my office a good indication on any appropriations needed for planning purposes.

Further plans for coordinating these efforts will be forthcoming and I hope that you will continue to work with me to ensure our success in this endeavor. It is important that Native Americans reap the benefits of this new technology as soon as possible--it is wonderful to see a glowing interest in a Native American child's eyes when he/she sees the wonders of computers.

Ahe'hee' (Thank you) for your understanding. Should you have any questions, call me at 505-264-7055.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonard Tsosie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leonard Tsosie  
Senator

November 11, 1994

Board of Regents  
The University of New Mexico

Dear Regents Member:

Recently, the University of New Mexico held a series of community partnership meetings in Gallup, Taos and Tucumcari. The intent of these meetings was to solicit community participation and obtain an institutional "needs assessment" from the citizenry.

I had an opportunity to observe the proposed agenda and dialogue at the Gallup campus where the most significant issue is the selection of a new Director, hopefully with "Dean level" status. While the aforementioned is certainly crucial for UNM-G's "community college" needs, an attendant issue is being overlooked.

UNM should consider making the Gallup campus a Native American Center for Technical Excellence. The reasons are many and represent the possibility of National accomplishment and prestige for UNM. Consider the enclosed profile:

1) Gallup is the psychological and geographical focal point for all Native American tribes....since the National Inter-Tribal Ceremonies are held here annually.

2) UNM-G is the largest Native American College in the USA, but receives almost no recognition as such, and historically very little creative support from the Main Campus. UNM is in the "Community College business", but has failed to live up to its responsibility. (Does not UNM-Main benefit greatly from the "multicultural capital" and minority data at UNM-G?)

3) UNM-G has recently gone on INTERNET, could enlist the logistical support and partnership of UNM-Main, and Los Alamos, to become the "High-Tech, High-Touch" Center for our country's Native communities (and their economic/educational infrastructures). It is interesting to note that only one of 500 American Tribes is linked to INTERNET, and only one of the Nation's 28 Indian Colleges is connected to INTERNET.

4) Americans For Indian Opportunity (AIO), with Ms. LaDonna Harris as President and based at 681 Juniper Road in Bernalillo, N.M. is trying to "link" all the Native American Colleges and communities together via INTERNET. They desperately need technical and monetary assistance to do this. Could this not be done by UNM, with the logistical and technical headquarters at UNM-Gallup? Would this not create economic development for Gallup and the Nation's other Native communities?

To reiterate: A Native American Center for Technical Excellence

5) UNM's definition of a Center for Technical Excellence is the following: "these centers have as their primary purpose to generate new knowledge in critical areas for application in economic development."

I submit that this definition is analogous with the development of the UNM-Gallup campus.

6) The Navajo Nation has asked Dr. Peck for a Center of American Indian Economic Development. I suggest that establishing UNM-G as a logistical headquarters for AIO and Native American "INTERNET" activities, would be an excellent foundation.

7) Last, and perhaps not least, Dr. Peck has made a documented commitment via the UNM American Indian Council....that he will make UNM the best U.S. institution for Native American education. Certainly a very significant commitment. What better way than a Native American Center for Technical Excellence at UNM-G....the Nation's largest Indian College.

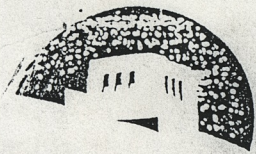
Rhetoric is a necessity, but the only thing that counts is action. A Center for Native American Technical Excellence at UNM-G, is "a window of opportunity"....if only the University will have the vision to see it.



Thomas Nesbitt  
A Concerned Citizen from Gallup

xc: Rep. Richardson, U.S. Congress  
Honorable Cisneros, Educational Legislative Study Committee  
Gloria Howes, N.M. State Senator  
LaDonna Harris, President, AIO  
Ann Fallis, Dakota Bulletin Board  
Kris Davenport, UNM Daily LOBO  
Rose Mary Blanchard, UNM-G Native American Studies

Enclosures



Copies to: 2-01  
all His. Affairs  
all H.S. Standards

Ramon Vogel

The University of New Mexico

Vice President for Student Affairs  
Scholes Hall 123  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-2001  
(505) 277-0952

"CENTER FOR  
TECHNICAL  
EXCELLENCE" &  
NATIVE AM. STUDENT  
SUCCESS

February 1, 1994

Dear Colleague,

Enclosed please find a Summary of Proceedings of the Conference on Native American Recruitment and Retention at UNM in December.

I am also happy to report to you that since the conference, we have been making progress on several fronts to deal with issues raised at the conference and to implement President Peck's commitment to make UNM the best U.S. institution for Native American education.

President Peck has chosen a number of members for the UNM American Indian Council and has asked the deans of several of UNM's colleges to select representatives. The Council's first meeting is planned for February when it can begin developing specific strategies to accomplish the goals we discussed at the conference. The President is also working on ways to strengthen the links between the University and Indian communities.

Provost Coleman has begun asking the academic departments to look into such matters as credit transfers and advising. She also is anticipating course reviews to make sure the university's instructional programs are sensitive to cultural differences among students.

On the student services side, I have directed UNM's admissions and financial-aid offices to prepare plans for speeding up their procedures and making them less complicated. In the coming year, UNM will strengthen ties to the scholarship agencies and enhance the on-site admissions process to schools serving American Indians.

The University appreciates that you made the effort to attend the conference last month. We will keep you informed of progress with occasional mailings and hope you will participate in future conferences as well.

Sincerely,

Orcilia Zuniga Forbes  
Vice President for Student Affairs

OZF/npf  
encl.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION LINKAGES TO THE STATE ECONOMY

CENTERS FOR TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

New Mexico has six center of technical excellence operated by the University of New Mexico (UNM), and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (TECH), and New Mexico State University (NMSU). These centers have as their primary purpose to generate new knowledge in critical areas for application in economic development.

The Center for High Technology Materials at UNM conducts research on lasers, modern optics, microelectronics and thin film applications. a major focus of these research efforts is the production of quality thin film coating for optical and electronic applications through the interaction of light and high power lasers.

The Center for Non-Invasive Diagnosis also at UNM is part of the medical research efforts investigating nuclear magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy to detect diseases in their early stages. Using techniques of nuclear magnetic resonance, doctors may identify the location and biochemical makeup of lesions through non-invasive techniques.

The Center for Explosives Technology Research at TECH is investigating creation of new material through high pressure explosives to cut raw materials. Additionally, the creation of high temperature alloys and ceramics for use in auto and machine industries are being explored. Finally, this center is also researching efficient rock fragmentation which will assist development in the mining industry.

The Plant Genetic Engineering Laboratory at NMSU is studying a modification of genetic information and plant structures to produce healthy, strong plants with increased crop production. Strains of drought and pest resistant plants are being developed through the use of molecular biology, cellular genetics, stress physiology, and biochemistry. New marketable plant varieties are being produced and methods for saving endangered plant life are also being explored.

The Computing Research Laboratory also at NMSU focuses on artificial intelligence research. Areas of investigation in robotics includes vision, speech, hearing, mobility, and tactile senses in artificial intelligence.

SPECIALIZED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

In addition to the centers for technical excellence, the state's universities also engage in a variety of other programs and activities which promote economic development.

# Navajos ask UNM to develop Indian economic center

By Ted Rushton  
Staff Writer

GALLUP — In the midst of endless pleas for more funding, four year courses, new programs and new buildings, one person asked University of New Mexico officials to share what already exists.

"Establish a Center for American Indian Economic Develop-

*See photos below*

ment, much like what Northern Arizona University has with their College of Business Administration," said Sharlene Begay-Platero, an Industrial Development Representative from the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development. See Navajos, Page 2

## Navajos

"UNM already has these resources, and they are excellent," said Begay-Platero, a 1986 UNM Business School graduate. "Instead of new buildings and new programs, you need to do outreach using your existing resources. She said the NAU program "was established in 1985 and provides technical assistance, training seminars and workshops, provides an electronic newspaper and a resource library to Arizona's 21 tribes and their members.

"The mission for a New Mexico Center would be to assist New Mexico's American Indian people in strengthening this business-related knowledge, skills and economic base," Begay-Platero said.

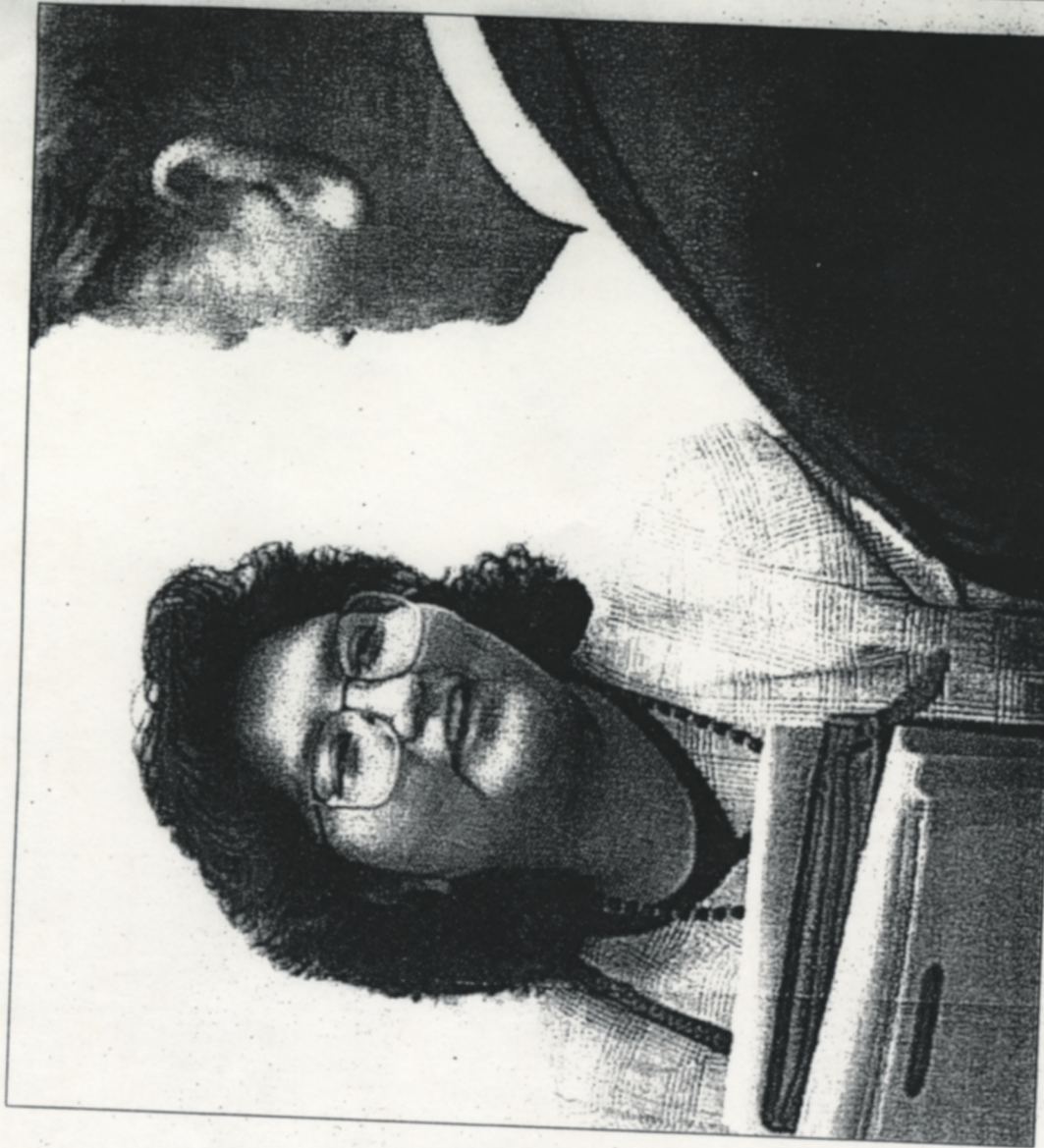
"There is a tremendous need for technical assistance from a university in the State of New Mexico to assist tribes in enhancing economies which in turn creates economic activity in the state," she added. "We hope that you will consider this concept of an American Indian Center for Economic Development for the tribes and pueblos in the state."

Begay-Platero was one of 1

*“Establish a Center for American Indian Economic Development, much like what Northern Arizona University has with their College of Business Administration,” said Sharlene Begay-Platero, an Industrial Development Representative from the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development.*



Tamara Viles/Independent  
University of New Mexico President Richard Peck listens to concerns expressed by a ten-person panel during a Gallup town meeting Monday night on the partnership with UNM and the community.



Tamara Viles/Independent  
Sharlene Begay-Platero from the Navajo Nation Office of Economic Development speaks with Gallup resident Jim Hurlbut following a Gallup town meeting on the partnership of the University of New Mexico and the community. Both Begay-Platero and Hurlbut sat on the ten-member panel.

probably will be allowed in court evidence. The fact that the bones were untouched doesn't mean he wasn't shot, Sanchez said.

"It could just mean it (bullet) missed all the bones," he said.

No toxicology report hinders evidence-gathering a bit, but it isn't much to be worried about, he said.

"If he was drugged, it would hurt not to have it," he said of the report.

carry that much jewelry with them, Jawad said. Traders also let someone know where they will be at all times.

"More than anything else, I'm hoping they'll have a resolution to this mystery," he said.

Gallup police detectives and FBI agents are investigating whether or not Ali was killed in Mexican Springs or whether the murderer

was killed in a planned robbery. Indian jewelry and kachinas worth \$250,000 were missing from Ali's abandoned jeep, which was found unlocked April 29 with keys in the ignition.

Ali had come to Gallup to sell the jewelry and had met with a local businessman, whose name police have withheld, at 10:30 p.m. that night. The family never saw him

Irregular stains on the right cuff are consistent with blood.

A few fine, light-colored hairs were found over the back of the blue slacks legs and at the left rear pajama bottoms, worn under the slacks, the report said. Ali had black hair.

The only remains of Ali's body Aug. 9 were scattered bones, which were unblemished by gunshot, the

front-end loader about 7 a.m. Saturday to begin clearing the roads.

By Monday, much of the snow had already melted and tree limbs had been either cut up or pushed to the side of the roads and highway. The village, looking like a somewhat isleveled winter wonderland, was sitting back to normal.

One of the few consolations, in the words of any area rancher, is that "we needed the moisture."

# Ask UNM to develop Indian economic center

succeeded, it would be a lot better than what is now happening," Galanis said. "I'm sure the legislature would be more than willing to fund such an innovative program."

Rather than problems with city services or administration, Galanis said "There are more parents that you can imagine who are coming to see me about problems that have to deal with education."

Ramon Vigil, superintendent of the Gallup-McKinley County School District, asked Peck for more effort "in recruiting students to UNM, and sharper students leaving the state."

"New Mexico State University does a very good job at recruiting Gallup," Vigil said. "I hope UNM can do as good a job here."

Vigil also supported the creation of four-year teaching programs at UNM-G, saying "It will help stabilize our teaching staff, if people from here can get their degree in their more likely to stay in community."

schools that are offering university programs.

"We want to use these adult education facilities on the North Side as springboards to the UNM-G campus," added. "Part of the goal of UNM needs to be the promotion of Hispanic pride, culture and education."

The vital role of a university in Gallup was cited by Dr. Tim Fleming, chief executive officer of the Gallup Indian Medical Center, who has been in Gallup since 1971.

"The university is one of the main attractions in this area when we recruit staff for the hospital," said Fleming, who added that a major drawback is the overcrowding and other problems at the local high school.

Mayor George Galanis was even more blunt when it came to education, pointing out the numbers of young dropouts "who want to be in school" and asking if UNM-Gallup could develop programs to reach these students.

"Even if only 50 percent of them

lished here because of the unique character of Gallup," DiGregorio said. "But, in looking for a new director for the local branch, the chairperson of the selection committee isn't even from Gallup."

DiGregorio also cited students who drive for two hours each way to attend classes at UNM-G, and made the suggestion that it may be time for UNM to consider building dormitories or rental apartments for area students.

Some of the strongest pleas were for UNM to establish four-year undergraduate programs at UNM-G, so that local students could complete their education in Gallup and be persuaded to remain in this area.

City Council member Rosemary Sandoval praised UNM-G for its innovative response after complaints were lodged that only a few Hispanic students were enrolling in the school.

"Our request was to take university education to the North Side of Gallup," Sandoval said. "UNM-G responded, and now we have two

said "Gallup can become a major arts center in the Southwest, and we hope UNM can help point the direction for that to happen."

"Arts are the infrastructure of this community," Groger said. "We don't just sell arts in Gallup, this is where they are created."

"But we need to nurture and develop this talent from a very young age," she added. "We must create a shared vision in the community to make Gallup a future arts center of the Southwest."

To help accomplish this, she challenged UNM "to set a standard of excellence for young adults in the community, we need to be able to point to UNM Gallup as a symbol of excellence."

Pat DiGregorio, president of the Gallup-McKinley County Chamber of Commerce, drew applause when he criticized UNM officials for the delay in hiring a new director for the Gallup Small Business Development Center.

"Local autonomy must be estab-

speakers on a panel selected to discuss the needs of the Gallup area in the Partnership with the University of New Mexico and Your Community" town meeting held at the JNM-Gallup Branch Monday afternoon.

The forum, first of a series to be held throughout the state, had the dual purpose of telling UNM officials about Gallup's needs and of establishing a continuing dialogue in Gallup to address local issues.

"We're here as a catalyst, we hope this dialogue continues after we leave," said Dr. Richard Peck, president of UNM. "Our second goal is to take programs we now have and expand them to the Gallup campus."

"Our goal was for this panel to start a conversation and partnership among the people who are here," Peck added. Topics covered included education, housing, economic development and the arts.

Roseann Groger, executive director of the Gallup Area Arts Council,



# FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS FORUM

FINAL REPORT

*Prepared for:*

National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230

Grant No. RED-9354116

FEBRUARY 1994



***Americans for Indian Opportunity***

681 JUNIPER HILL ROAD  
BERNALILLO, NM 87004

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### SPONSORING AGENCIES:

Americans for Indian Opportunity  
681 Juniper Hill Road  
Bernalillo, NM 87004

National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230

### PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

- \* To facilitate collaboration among all Native American interest groups in the development of a coordinated Native American Telecommunications System
- \* To establish a vehicle for nurturing the development of the institutional support required to support and empower a Native American Telecommunications System

### CONCRETE RESULTS:

- \* 18 Native American telecommunication-related organizations and 12 supporting organizations set a precedent as the most comprehensive group of specialists ever to have addressed the broad spectrum of Native American telecommunication needs
- \* The group developed a specific work plan that can lead to the development of a coordinated Native American Telecommunications System.

### MAJOR FINDINGS:

- \* The majority of American Indians do not have equal opportunities to be a part of the nation's emerging "Information Highway" infrastructure
- \* There is currently no means of protecting the rights of Native American intellectual property owners who distribute their work through existing telecommunication systems.
- \* Lack of telecommunications opportunities affect both access to information and education opportunity for Indian child, youth, and adults.
- \* American Indian-owned telecommunications systems that *are* emerging are developing in a parallel rather than collaborative way.
- \* Existing American Indian telecommunications service providers are committed to the development of a coordinated Native American Telecommunications System, but lack resources to assure quality development and the collaboration necessary.

### ACTION PLAN:

That AIO should immediately seek resources from a multitude of sources to:

- \* Bring the participants together again so that they can formally organize into a national organization out of which will develop a "Think Tank" or working group to deal with a number of issues.
- \* This organization will be expanded to include additional stakeholders, which now represent the telecommunications arena in a multi-media approach.
- \* The organization will:
  - \* Develop specific strategies to refine, coordinate, and implement the Group Work Plan outlined in Table IV.
  - \* Develop a multi-faceted infrastructure that will result in the development of a Native American Telecommunications System
  - \* Empower American Indian children, youth, and adults to utilize the new technologies for educational advancement, preservation of Native cultures, and equal opportunity for information

# Will the information superhighway bypass tribes?

By Marjane Ambler

Various powers in the nation's capital are taking steps to assure that the information superhighway won't bypass tribes and institutions.

Most recently, the Office of Technology Assessment agreed in April to initiate a study of Native Americans. Based upon reservation pilot studies, OTA, an arm of Congress, stated telecommunication technologies can help revitalize Native American communities. The study will examine reservation schools and colleges, libraries, community centers, social service agencies, entrepreneurs, and telephone, cable and computer companies. Indian people will be directly involved in the study, according to OTA.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said that if properly planned the new technology could spur economic development and create jobs on reservations. He suggested that OTA conduct the study and identify what the federal government could do to ensure that happens.

Vice President Al Gore and others use the term "information superhighway" because of the speed with which visual images, sound and data can travel. The infrastructure for this highway depends upon wires, cables, antennas and satellites. Indian advocates believe a Native-friendly telecommunication system could break reservations out of their crippling isolation, help Indian students excel in a bicultural world, and keep Indian cultures and languages alive.

Madonna Peltier Yawakie, Turtle Mountain Chippewa, directs the Tribal Technologies Initiative for U.S. West Communications, a Baby Bell that serves 50 reservations in 14 states. Ms. Yawakie says that tele-medicine exemplifies one of the most valuable new uses for telephone lines. Through x-ray imaging, for example, a doctor on the reservation could put an x-ray on the screen and send the image to a specialist in a distant city. Data from other diagnostic equipment could be transmitted similarly, often saving the patients long, expensive trips.

Dr. George Baldwin, an Osage-Kaw, serves as one of the handful of Indian pathfinders in cyberspace. To increase the numbers, he and two other Indian telecom-

munications professionals, Dr. James May and Randy Ross, created American Indian Telecommunications "to promote Indian people's use of computers and telecommunications in a culturally appropriate manner." Mr. Ross lives in Rapid City, and Dr. May in Chico, Calif.

If they don't participate fully in the information age, reservations will fall even farther behind, warns Howard Valandra, a Lakota computer businessman. Because of modern, compact computers and data transmission technology, Mr. Valandra can headquarter his \$2 million-a-year computer software and data business in the remote reservation town of Rosebud. Mr. Valandra believes the new technology could revolutionize reservation economies and save tribal governments hundreds of thousands of dollars just on travel. "We're using 1950s and 1960s mentality of networking when we could be tele-conferencing," he said, referring to utilizing video cameras to link people meeting in different places.

Sen. Inouye also has inserted amendments to the information superhighway legislation specifying that the program will benefit rural areas and include minorities, Native Americans, disabled, and other underserved populations. Several federal agencies provide grants for telecommunication projects, including the Rural Electrification Administration, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Rural Health Policy.

Tribal colleges are well on the way to establishing a model for Indian country, as a result of support from Sen. Inouye and from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. By next fall, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium hopes to have the first-phase equipment installed for a sophisticated, two-way video satellite system, interconnecting all 29 tribal colleges. The system could serve other reservations directly by sharing satel-

lite time with them or indirectly by providing the benefits of their technology research. The colleges themselves plan to produce video classes for use at other tribal colleges and eventually, perhaps, at non-Indian institutions.

In addition, other Indian groups — including Indian artists and Indian radio producers — and individuals have started taking active roles in the information revolution. On various fronts, they are organizing and raising money for satellite and fiber optic

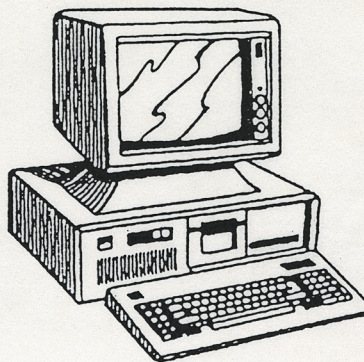
hookups. Americans for Indian Opportunity has taken a lead role. AIO started calling meetings to discuss telecommunications five years ago.

AIO also raised money and started INDIANnet, a bulletin board service available for only the cost of the long distance phone call to Rapid City. INDIANnet provides users with free job announcements, information from the Federal Register and research services, and announcements of meetings and pow wows. When fully developed, it will include information from several federal agencies. Eventually, INDIANnet will also provide free access to Indian people to Internet, the international service funded by the National Science Foundation which is now accessible primarily only at colleges and universities.

To keep the momentum going in the right direction, the Indian pathfinders in cyberspace say Indian people must set telecommunications high on their agenda. They must share their thoughts, using INDIANnet or more primitive technologies, such as U.S. mail or telephones. To protect their sovereign rights, tribal institutions must seriously consider various policy issues and make sure the nation's telecommunication policies reflect their concerns.

The INDIANnet bulletin board computer can be reached at (605) 393-0468 via computer and modem.

Marjane Ambler is a freelance writer and editor in Colorado and a frequent contributor to *Indian Country Today*.



# Indian Country TODAY

B4 ♦ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994

INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

INDIAN COUNTRY ECONOMY

SPECIAL SECTION  
Page B4

## Business

Indian Country  
TODAY  
JUNE 15, 1994

# Native American computer network launched

By Pamela Stillman  
*Indian Country Today*

**RAPID CITY** — "Indian people missed out on the industrial age and can't afford to lose out on the information age."

These words by LaDonna Harris sum up why she and her organization, Americans for Indian Opportunity, started the first national computer network with the goal of providing civic information useful to Native Americans.

INDIANNet, the name given to the network, provides information to anyone with a computer, modem, telecommunications software and telephone.

Ms. Harris, a Comanche and president of the group, said INDIANNet was conceived about

three years ago, and has been in operation for one year. She said it is a non-profit organization that, when fully developed, will act as a clearinghouse for federal information and opportunities that pertain to Indians. It will also create a setting for tribes to develop profiles about themselves.

"We hope to have enough information that will be useful to tribes in decision making," Laura Harris, LaDonna's daughter and Americans for Indian Opportunity project director, said. "We sent out a survey to tribes and had a 75-percent return rate. We found out the tribes already had equipment, they just need to (purchase) a modem, system and lock onto the information highway."

— Laura said tribes need very little

'We hope to have enough information that will be useful to tribes in decision making. We sent out a survey to tribes and had a 75-percent return rate. We found out the tribes already had equipment'

— Laura Harris  
Americans for Indian Opportunity  
project director

training to accompany the new equipment. She added that is working to provide modems and other equipment free to tribes.

INDIANNet objectives are:  
■ To work with tribal governments and all Indian communities, both urban and rural, to establish

tribes can develop electronic information about themselves

■ To work with tribes to avoid electronic colonialism and empower tribes and all Native peoples to be active participants in the information age

■ To help coordinate the many Indian, multi-media telecommunications activities currently taking place

■ To establish an "Indian on- and off-ramp" to the national information highway

■ To encourage the use of technology for cultural preservation and education

The cost for INDIANNet is only that of a long distance telephone call to Rapid City. Ann Fallis, a Crow Creek Dakota, is the system

operator located in Rapid City.

INDIANNet services include: computer conference areas, private electronic mail, access to the Federal Register index, listing of employment opportunities, access to U.S. Census data products, specialized collection of Indian research reports from the Education Research Information Clearinghouse, access to publish domain software programs that can be down-loaded for free, and the listing of current events in Indian country.

"This is the first time Indian people have the chance to develop information about themselves," LaDonna said. "This is a big job, so we need everybody to contribute to it."

605 - 394-6858

# How to use INDIANnet computer system

RAPID CITY— The INDIANnet bulletin board service is a free, national computer network that provides private electronic mail services, public announcements, such as conferences and pow wows, job announcements and information from federal agencies and research services. The so-called computer bulletin board or BBS can be used by anyone with a computer, modem, telecommunications software, and telephone. One of several Indian computer networks in the country, access to the INDIANnet BBS is free.

The only cost is the long distance phone call to Rapid City, which can be made during non-business hours to reduce costs. Users can copy any of the INDIANnet files into their own computer.

When fully developed, the INDIANnet BBS will act as a clearinghouse for several federal agencies' information and opportunities that pertain to Native Americans. Currently, the INDIANnet BBS files include a synopsis of pertinent announcements in the Federal Register, excerpted on a regular basis by Anne Fallis, the systems operator, a few U.S. Census files and excerpts from the Educational Research Information Clearinghouse.

Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture are listed on the menu, those agencies have not provided information yet.

Americans for Indian Opportunity has invited users to suggest new forum-files to the systems operator either by addressing an e-mail message to her via INDIANnet BBS or by writing Anne Fallis, systems operator, 22571 Smokey Ridge Road, Rapid City, S.D. 57702-6317, or by calling (605) 348-7293 from 2 to 5 p.m., Mountain Daylight Time, daily.

INDIANnet specializes in information from the federal government, in contrast to other Indian computer networks that offer information about other subjects such as Indian small business development, educational services, and federal government policies. To receive a list of other Indian net-

works, send an electronic mail message to George Baldwin through INDIANnet BBS.

To use INDIANnet, dial (605) ~~393-0768~~ via computer and modem. First-time users log-on type "new" when asked for a user number. Users should type their name when asked for "handle" and then be assigned a user number and asked to create a password.

(Users should keep their password easy and handy so you can use it next time.)

The main menu includes:

- (M) mail (private)
- (F) forum-files
- (S) shareware (a wide variety of soft-

ware available for free)

- (A) Americans for Indian Opportunity
- (N) news (jobs, conferences, pow wows)
- (U) utilities
- (L) log-out ( to exit INDIANnet)

If users cannot connect with INDIANnet BBS, check communications software settings. They should be: 8 data bits, no parity, and 1 stop bits. The baud rate or speed should match the modem's capacity. INDIANnet can handle up to 14,400 baud.

—First Nation's Business Alert



# Americans for Indian Opportunity

## OFFICERS

May 10, 1994

**LaDonna Harris**  
Comanche  
Founder and President

**Eddie Tullis**  
Poarch Creek  
Vice President

**Elma Patterson**  
Tuscarora  
Secretary

**Mary Jo Butterfield**  
Makah  
Treasurer

Mr. Charles M. Rush  
Acting Director  
Office of Telecommunications  
and Information Applications  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC 202301

Dear Mr. Rush:

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Edgar Bowen**  
Coos

**Michael Chapman**  
Menominee

**Phyllis Old Dog Cross**  
Mandan-Hidatsa

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Navajo

**Jerry Muskrat**  
Cherokee

**Faith Roessel**  
Navajo

**Joe S. Sando**  
Jemez Pueblo

Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) is proud to send you this letter of endorsement for the University of New Mexico's Native American Studies proposal for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration planning grant. AIO strongly supports the proposal and the efforts of UNM's Native American Studies.

Americans for Indian Opportunity recognizes the need for tribes to be part of the national telecommunications infrastructure. For the past several years, AIO has worked with federal agencies and tribal governments to ensure that tribes participate in this very important initiative. AIO has established *IndianNet*, an Indian owned and operated civic computer network that is dedicated to developing free public access to electronic information and communication services for Native Americans. AIO and *IndianNet* work with tribes to avoid electronic colonialism and empower tribes and all native peoples to be active participants in the information age.

The AIO Board of Directors joins me in supporting the Native American Studies proposal because we believe that our goals and objectives are compatible. We anticipate that the work they will carry out in New Mexico will serve as a national model that can be used by other tribes to ensure access to the information highway.

Attached is information about AIO and IndianNet. We look forward to working with UNM's Native American Studies and NTIA on this very important work.

Warmest regards,

LaDonna Harris  
President and Founder

681 Juniper Hill Road  
Bernalillo, NM 87004  
(505) 867-0278  
Fax: (505) 867-0441

*make new file in Navajo*

From DLHank@aol.com Mon Oct 3 12:55:51 1994  
To: lharris@carina.unm.edu  
Date: Mon, 03 Oct 94 14:54:37 EDT  
Subject: Crownpoint Net Proj. Meeting 1

*NM model*

To: All,

There were two meetings on Thursday the 29'th. of September. The meetings were for a) The Technical Committee and b) The Steering Committee. and were both well attended with some minor movement of people back and forth when expertise was needed from people attending the other meeting.

The Technical Committee decided that the best way to implement the Crownpoint The Technical Committee decided that the best way to implement the Crownpoint Network was for a T-1 line to be delivered to CIT and then a Fiber Optic Network (probably in a star arrangement) delivered to each participant in Crownpoint. The actual equipment to be purchased has not been decided at this time, but with assistance from LANL and other knowledgeable people we will start the process soon.

The Steering Committee news, which I did not attend and so deliver to you second hand, was that the concerns with funding souces had been amicably resolved. More importantly, the Navajo Nation will initially pay for a T-1 line into CIT, and from that beginning we can continue quite quickly.

I would like anyone with information concerning high quality, reasonable cost hardware sources to advise the committee about possible vendors. We will need cable, conduit, routers, power supplies, and all the other stuff that allows us to bridge the gap from the telephone line to the network.

Thanks,

dh (Dan Hankison)

From: DLHank@aol.com

To: lharris@carina.unm.edu

Date: Sat, 24 Sep 94 03:09:48 EDT

Subject: The Crownpoint Network Project

*NM model*

All who are interested,

Today I was informed that I was to become the Chairman of the group of people who are in the Technology Group that was formed at UNM two weeks ago. Since I was not at the Tech meeting I have no idea who the members are, nor what is happening at this point. Is anything happening??

Yes. This is happening. I would like any/all of you who are members, are interested in the project in a technical way, can lend assistance by a way that you are aware of and I am not, etc. to contact me ASAP. I don't want to set a pushy tone, but if the preliminary target date of Jan. 1, 1995 is to be met we have to begin to organize both our thoughts and our resources. (Once the snow begins in Crownpoint it will be no fun to pull cable)

Anyone who is not a tech person, but would like to eavesdrop on the progress via e-mail need only respond that wish to me and I will keep you on the list.

Tech people, please respond with haste. I have had a request by Senator Tsosie relayed to me by the CIT President (Jim Tutt), to have a preliminary meeting as soon as Tuesday, Sept. 27'th. and prepare a general outline of our endeavors in time for a Press Conference at CIT on Wednesday, Sept. 28'th.

The Tuesday meeting will be at a place that make sense, depending on who will attend. I know that some of us will do a bit of traveling, but I will try to schedule meetings with a) more notice and b) in different places, in the future.

Please send me e-mail responses, or leave a message for me at CIT 505-786-5851 or on my cellular voice mail 505-979-1161.



I have tried to send this to everyone who put an e-mail address on the UNM sign-in sheet, but may have made some errors. Address addition/corrections are gratefully accepted. I will be on the phone to other people on the list and may contact you twice.

This will turn out to be a very educational and rewarding experience for all of us, but most projects are rocky in the beginning.

Thanks,  
dh

~~2:~~  
Ted To To/ta  
1812 LAS LOMAS, NE  
A1B 87131

- Model  
- Cooperation  
- service  
- Indian Net

**FAX**

TO: Laura or Sue, AIO  
Fax: 867-0441

FROM: Alison Freese, Native American Studies, UNM  
Phone: 277-3917; Fax: 277-1818

*Alison*

Dear Laura or Sue,

Here is a draft of the narrative I have written to apply for a planning grant with the Dept of Commerce for the National Information Infrastructure, which is due May 12. If you think it sounds OK, would you be able to write a letter of support by next Tuesday? I could pick it up on the way to Santa Fe, where I will have to collect some more letters of support.

→ limit  
4 pages

I really appreciate your help. Let me know if you have any suggestions for the narrative. I still need to write a timetable and estimate a budget, and I will be working on that this weekend. Feel free to call me either at home (242-8424) or at the office on Saturday during the day (277-3917).

Hope to see you soon. Michael and Jimmy met with both Anne Fallis and George Baldwin at the California conference. They keep e-mailing me messages from wireless powerbooks and all this other good stuff. They are having a great time!

Best wishes,

Alison

**PROPOSAL FOR TIAP PLANNING GRANT**

**NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87131  
MAY 1994**

One of the primary roles for the NII initiative is to promote equity of access so that the information age does not create information "haves" and "have nots." In New Mexico, however, the majority of Native Americans living in rural and reservation areas are at risk of being totally excluded from current NII initiatives unless there is a coordinated effort to include them in the statewide planning that will be conducted during the next twelve to sixteen months. It is imperative that these Native American communities be included because the advantages the NII can offer them in the realm of education, health, government and social services can directly affect the problems specific to these communities: low literacy rates, high drop out rates, inadequate health care and high unemployment. Native American Studies at the University of New Mexico (NAS/UNM) submits this proposal for a planning grant with the goal of providing this critical coordinating role in order to ensure that state networking plans meet the needs of the Native American population in New Mexico. Native American Studies, with its charter to provide community service in order to improve Native American retention rates in higher education, proposes to work in close conjunction with New Mexico tribes and the following organizations that are in the forefront of statewide NII planning: the State Office of Communications, the New Mexico State Library, New Mexico Technet, the State Office of Indian Affairs, New Mexico Library Association, the Legislative Committee on Indian Affairs, the State Commission on Information and Communication Management, Americans for Indian Opportunity, Los Alamos National Labs, U.S. West Communications, and commercial vendors interested in offering services needed in these remote communities.

New Mexico tribes are showing a great interest in NII networking but lack resources to pursue comprehensive plans for the future. During the last six months, NAS/UNM has been consulting with tribal leaders, tribal librarians, BIA- public-, and private school librarians and teachers about the potential Native American end-users who will not gain access to the NII if their interests are not heard. A series of meetings and hearings in early 1994 led to a bill introduced by State Senator Leonard Tsosie (Navajo-State Senate District 22), which resulted in the appropriation of \$500,000 from the 1994 State Legislature to upgrade library and information services to New Mexico tribal, community, and school libraries serving Native American constituents (see "Synopsis of Native American Library Needs in New Mexico" and copies of relevant

legislation in *Additional Materials*). It was found that these libraries and resource centers are generally and consistently out-of-date, understaffed and underfunded. Only through the dedication of the existing staff do they provide what services are available.

While libraries which are a part of the state library system in New Mexico will soon be connected to the information superhighway as a result of legislative appropriations this year, there is no provision for creating a plan that takes the vast majority of the Native American population into consideration. For example, at present, 23,000 of the total 55,000 Native American elementary and secondary school students in New Mexico attend BIA-funded day- or boarding schools or private schools. With increasing cuts in BIA and private school budgets, not to mention IHS and other Indian program budget reductions, Internet connectivity remains a low priority, although the vast NII resources could begin to alleviate some deficiencies almost overnight. For example, access to current and culturally-relevant information for educational institutions, long-distance learning opportunities, telemedicine innovations, tribal, state and federal governmental communications, and increased efficiency in the provision of social services could rekindle young people's interest in learning, assist a doctor in making a more accurate diagnosis, promote communications between tribal, state, and federal offices, and help find social assistance for elderly people living in remote areas.

The soon-to-be-formed State Commission on Information and Communication Management, mandated by the 1994 State Legislature to study the state's current computer, technology and network capabilities and needs, is expected to present a plan for the future to the legislature at its session in January 1995. The New Mexico State Library, mandated to assist tribal and community librarians with the upgrading of their facilities, will also be reporting to the legislature in January 1995 about their progress. Unfortunately, neither the State Commission nor the State Library will have the staff or funds necessary to comprehensively assess all Native American NII needs throughout the state. If we are not careful to include *from the beginning* those areas and populations with the most urgent NII connectivity needs because of their isolated and impoverished conditions—the have-nots of New Mexico—then plans will almost inevitably call for a phased introduction of NII services. This would entail hookups for urban, easily-accessible sites first, while the more difficult, less technologically-sophisticated areas will be left for an unspecified time in the future. A glance at the planning map for the expansion of New Mexico Technet to state libraries (attached) indicates that Indian reservations will be passed by. However, if the planning is appropriately coordinated now, during the next year, there is greater opportunity for

ensuring interconnectivity and interoperability throughout the state in the future. For example, the core nodes and secondary nodes planned for this statewide library network could be used as the infrastructure for a further branching of networks reaching into the remote areas of the Navajo and Apache reservations and into the Pueblo communities along the Rio Grande corridor. This would ensure access for the highest quality service at the lowest cost possible.

Under this planning grant, Native American Studies will conduct the following activities during the next twelve to sixteen months:

1. With the technical assistance of the State Office of Communications, NAS/UNM will 1) conduct a comprehensive survey of technological needs in Native American communities of New Mexico, including tribal offices, schools serving Native American students, hospitals, libraries, and social service organizations; 2) also research information needs of Native American end-users; 3) research potential technologies for connectivity in remote sites, including phone lines, microwave, and satellite feeds; and 4) as soon as they are available, present these findings and recommendations to the state-level planning commission for inclusion in the statewide plan to ensure the widest connectivity at the earliest possible date.

2. NAS/UNM will coordinate between the state planning commission, state library, legislative committees, service providers and Native American end-users so that relevant and timely information concerning planning efforts can be relayed from the state to the local level and vice versa. NAS/UNM is serving this function presently on an informal basis using funds and personnel available through the Native American Intervention and Retention Project, a legislatively-funded special project housed within NAS/UNM. We are currently planning Internet hookups for tribal scholarship officers through the UNM Computing Center so that students can be better served by both campus and tribal educational advisers. NAS/UNM currently issues a monthly newsletter for a wide student and community readership (see sample in *Additional Materials*) and this format could easily be adapted for dissemination among project participants.

3. NAS/UNM will convene one major meeting in early Fall 1994, in conjunction with state and local organizations, to bring together Native American end-users with NII service providers and network planners to initiate a dialogue and determine common goals. This meeting would specifically be to 1) clearly define the potential usefulness of NII connectivity to Native American end-users and 2) to clearly define for

the service providers and network planners the needs and concerns of the Native American end-users so that they will be included in future plans.

4. NAS/UNM will conduct a series of local meetings and site visits in Navajo, Pueblo, Jicarilla Apache, and Mescalero Apache communities during late Fall 1994 and early Spring 1995 to continue more detailed planning sessions, determine the most appropriate technology for NII hookups at local sites, and demonstrate Internet capabilities to local groups in order to increase grassroots and tribal support of the project. Input from all meetings will be compiled and made available to the state planning commission.

5. In our discussions so far, Native American librarians and school teachers have made it clear that training is an essential part of this endeavor. NAS/UNM, therefore, proposes to conduct an assessment of training needs for Native American end-users and the most efficient means to undertake training activities.

6. In order to ensure that continued funding will be available in the future, NAS/UNM will compile sources of funding and conduct application workshops for Native American end-users, make presentations to tribal officials to encourage tribal financial support of NII projects, advocate for further funding from the state legislature, and pursue any other funding avenues that arise, including joint applications for further federal funding.

7. NAS/UNM will continue discussions that began in March 1994 with Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), a non-profit organization headquartered in Bernalillo, NM, to create and test the capabilities in New Mexico for the AIO-initiated INDIANnet, an Internet project for nationwide tribal networking (see attached letter of support).

8. NAS/UNM will prepare and present an interim report to the New Mexico State Legislature in January 1995 and a final report for the interim Indian Affairs Committee in mid-1995 and will maintain close contact with NIIA representatives regarding the progress of this project.

#### **Conclusion:**

We do not yet know the impact that NII connectivity will have on the remote Indian communities in New Mexico. However, at Native American Studies we meet many bright and talented students every day who come from these communities and who are burdened with educational handicaps because of the long-term lack of adequate resources at home on the reservations. They arrive at the university already far behind mainstream students and struggle in an environment that neither

understands their cultural values nor their dilemma of having to live in two worlds. While fifty percent do not make it through the first two semesters here at UNM, many persevere and graduate because they have been told by their tribal leaders that they are needed at home to serve their own people. Future graduates need to return to a reservation environment that allows equal access to the educational advantages they have in Albuquerque and elsewhere so that they can become tribal leaders themselves and encourage the next generation to follow their path of learning.

From DLHank@aol.com Tue Sep 27 10:10:21 1994  
Date: Tue, 27 Sep 94 12:10:00 EDT  
Subject: Fwd: Re: Fwd: Re: Crownpoint ...

All,

The note from Allison Freese clarifies the meeting times and date. I will be contacting as many people in Crownpoint as possible. See you at 9:00 am

dan

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Forwarded message:

Subj: Re: Fwd: Re: Crownpoint Network P...  
Date: 94-09-26 19:21:56 EDT  
From: afreese@unm.edu  
To: DLHank

On Mon, 26 Sep 1994 DLHank@aol.com wrote:

> All,  
>  
> I got this this and would like to share it with you.  
>  
> I hope you can all attend.  
>  
> dh  
> -----  
> Forwarded message:  
> Subj: Re: Crownpoint Network Project  
> Date: 94-09-26 11:53:56 EDT  
> From: JMTutt  
> To: DLHank  
>  
> Senator Tsosie called on 9-23-94, 9:45 a.m. and left the following  
message:  
> 1. Press conference is scheduled on 9-29-94 at 1:00 p.m. at CIT.  
> 2. > Technical Steering Committee is scheduled to meet a 9:00 a.m.,  
9-29-94 at CIT.  
>  
> If you have any questions please let me know.  
>  
> jmtutt  
>



Hi Dan,

To clarify, there will be two meetings going on at the same time on Thursday morning, both from 9 to 12 am. One is the Technical Committee, which you will be the chair of, and the other is the Steering Committee, which is supposed to look at the funding, political, and administrative end of the project. Does Dr. Tutt plan to attend the steering committee meeting or will he send a representative? I will call his office in the meantime to check with him directly.

From my notes after the Albuquerque meeting, the list of people to be on the Steering Committee include Bill Bostwick (LANL), Leonard Tsosie, Peterson Zah, a BIA rep, Tom Fisher (IHS), Jody Wallace (CP High School), Karen Watkins (State Library), Theresa Hopkins or Tom Gonzales (NN), Joseph Scaletti (UNM Medical School), James Tutt or rep (CIT), Dr. Lewis or rep (NCC), Irving Nelson (NNLS), and a chapter leader (Harry Hubbard). I don't have a clear list of the technical committee members. Has Leonard or Bill Bostwick transmitted one to you? If not and you need help in identifying the technical people, give me a call. Leonard called a large number of people last Friday to let them know about the technical meeting. As far as I can tell, that includes Theresa Hopkins, yourself, Tim Merrigan, Benjamin Lee, Al Kuslikis(NCC), Hal Bogart (NMSL), Ken Russell (BIA), Tom Gonzales, and Tom Fisher (IHS). Do you know of anyone else who should be included? > Let me know if I should call anyone for you for the technical side of things. Best to you, Alison Freese (phone 505-277-3917, fax 505-277-1818)