



## Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies

Brown School

### Past Research Projects

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#### **Financial Capability and Asset Building (FCAB) Initiative**

In collaboration with the Center for Social Development (CSD), the Buder Center contributed to the FCAB Initiative, which aimed to develop a curriculum on financial capability and asset building to be implemented at undergraduate social work and human service programs. Several Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) have utilized this curriculum.

#### **Two Spirits Interdisciplinary LGBT Workshop (2014)**

Scholars from the Buder Center collaborated with WUSTL student organizations to host a Two Spirits professional development workshop that focused on LGBT issues in Native communities and AI/AN cultural perspectives. This workshop aimed to increase awareness of the Two Spirits Movement among WUSTL faculty, staff, and students, and to encourage faculty to incorporate information on the movement and Native perspectives into existing curricula regarding LGBT issues.

#### **Graphic Cigarette Warning Labels (2012)**

Conducted in collaboration with the Brown School's Health Communication Research Lab, this project sought to understand the impact new graphic health warning labels on cigarette packages had among diverse populations of smokers, including American Indians. Findings informed the development of more effective anti-smoking media campaigns.

#### **Obesity Prevention**

In collaboration with the Brown School's Prevention Research Center, the Buder Center work to research federal and tribal obesity prevention strategies used in Native communities across the United States.

#### **Tobacco Cessation for AI/AN in the St. Louis Community (2011)**

The Buder Center worked in collaboration with the University of Kansas Medical Center and the Washington University in St. Louis Medical Center to implement the All Nations Breath of Life tobacco cessation program with St. Louis area AI/ANs. Designed specifically for an AI/AN population, the program advocates tobacco cessation, while respecting the sacred nature of tobacco to many AI/AN.

#### **Social Systems Design (2010)**

The Buder Center, in collaboration with the Social Systems Design Lab, hosted two facilitated dialogues regarding social work practice in Indian Country intended to help stakeholders identify future targets of change for alumni. Over 55 alumni, faculty, staff, students, Buder family and constituents participated in the dialogues, which highlighted ways in which Buder alumni are currently influencing citizen wellness in Indian Country and areas where outcomes could be strengthened.

#### **Asset-Building Coalitions in Indian Country (2005-2007)**

This project consisted of six two-day meetings held in Arizona and Oklahoma for the purpose of facilitating the establishment of Native-led state-level assets coalitions. Funding was provided by the Administration for Native Americans, with travel support for Buder Scholars provided by FNDI. FNDI organized and facilitated the meetings. Meeting agendas, meeting sessions, and presentations were developed by the Buder Center and CSD. This project

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was successful in creating financial education, IDA, EITC, and Community Development Financial Institution initiatives in Native communities.

#### **Investor Opportunities: Strengthening Native Asset-Building Strategies (2005)**

The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") hosted this meeting held at the Native affiliated Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. Over sixty five leaders from Native communities, business and financial sectors and non-profit intermediary organizations attended this event. The primary purpose of the meeting was to showcase existing innovative asset-building initiatives both inside and outside of Indian Country. The Buder Center, CSD, and Buder Scholars planned and organized the event. Additional collaborators for this event included the Native Financial Education Coalition (NFEC), First Nations Oweesta Corp., First Nations Development Institute (FNDI), and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Funding was provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the IRS, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

#### **Oregon Tribes IDA Policy: A Case Study (2004)**

In-depth interviews were conducted in 2004 with representatives of three Oregon Tribes. Interviews were designed to identify successes and challenges faced by tribes when considering or instituting IDA and financial education programs in their communities. Based on findings from these interviews, a case study report was created. The "Exploration and Use of Individual Development Accounts by Three American Indian Tribes in Oregon" included recommendations for creating programs and policies that support IDAs in tribal communities. This report has been widely disseminated in tribal communities with over four hundred distributed to date. Funding for this project was provided by the Charles Stewart Mott and Heron Foundations.

#### **Second Native Expert Advisory Council Meeting (2004)**

This meeting was a collaborative effort between the Buder Center/CSD and FNDI, and was held at the Brown School in August, 2004. The meeting was designed to discuss specific asset-building initiatives to address wealth-building challenges in Native communities. This meeting resulted in a report titled "Building Tribal Economies: Linking Asset-Building Strategies" which was published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

#### **Native Involvement in State and Federal Assets Policy (2003-2004)**

The Buder Center/CSD & FNDI held two meetings to discuss ways for tribes to increase involvement in asset-building policy development at State & Federal levels. These meetings were held in Alaska & Oklahoma. Presentations on State IDA policies, tribal involvement in IDA policy development, & asset-building initiatives in tribal communities were made by the Buder Center & CSD. Funding for this project was provided by the Ford Foundation.

#### **Native Expert Advisory Council on the Importance of Asset-Building in Native Communities (2003)**

This advisory council was comprised of seventeen Native experts in economic development and national-level tribal intermediary organizations such as the Buder Center, CSD, and FNDI, and the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. This council met at the Native-owned Mystic Lake Resort in Minneapolis, MN in November, 2003. The meeting resulted in a report titled "Asset-Building in Tribal Communities: Generating Native Discussion and Practical Approaches" and two presentations at key national meetings. This project was funded by the Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

#### **Individual Development Accounts ("IDA") Policy Analysis: Inclusion of American Indians in State IDA Policy (2002)**

The Buder Center/CSD and FNDI created a survey to examine the extent to which tribal leaders and tribal communities have been included in state-level IDA policy development and implementation. This project resulted in a report titled "American Indian Tribal Communities and Individual Development Account (IDA) Policy" produced by the Buder Center/CSD and FNDI. Funding was provided by the Ford Foundation.

#### **IDA Resolution Carried by Affiliated Tribes of Northwestern Indians ("ATNI") (2002)**

ATNI is a nonprofit organization representing fifty four Northwestern tribal governments from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Southeast Alaska, Northern California and Western Montana. The Buder Center and CSD assisted ATNI in drafting a resolution in support of IDAs which presented at the February, 2002 ATNI conference held in Portland, OR. This resolution was used as the basis for a resolution that was presented and carried at the 2005 National Congress of American Indians annual conference.