

New Institute Seeks to Empower Native American Communities

The Native American Budget and Policy Institute (NABPI) was launched in New Mexico, in February 2018. It aims to empower Native American communities to improve their health, education, and economic wellbeing. The NABPI will conduct research, budget and policy analysis, social justice advocacy, litigation, and community lawyering to encourage Native American communities to create self-determined and systematic change.

Cheryl Fairbanks, Esq., Institute Interim Executive Director (Tlingit/Tsimpshian), said, “We have the opportunity at this institute to develop indigenous policies which will have a positive effect to justify and access the much needed funding for our tribes. This institute is solution-oriented and will provide the basis for bringing constructive change to our children, families, and communities here in New Mexico.”

The institute is a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Center for Health Policy of the University of New Mexico, and the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. It is funded, in part, by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF). The institute is an outgrowth of the work and ideas of the Leadership Institute at the Santa Fe Indian School.

More information can be found on the University of New Mexico University website.