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Culturally Relevant Resources to Meet the Changing Priorities of Tribal Communities

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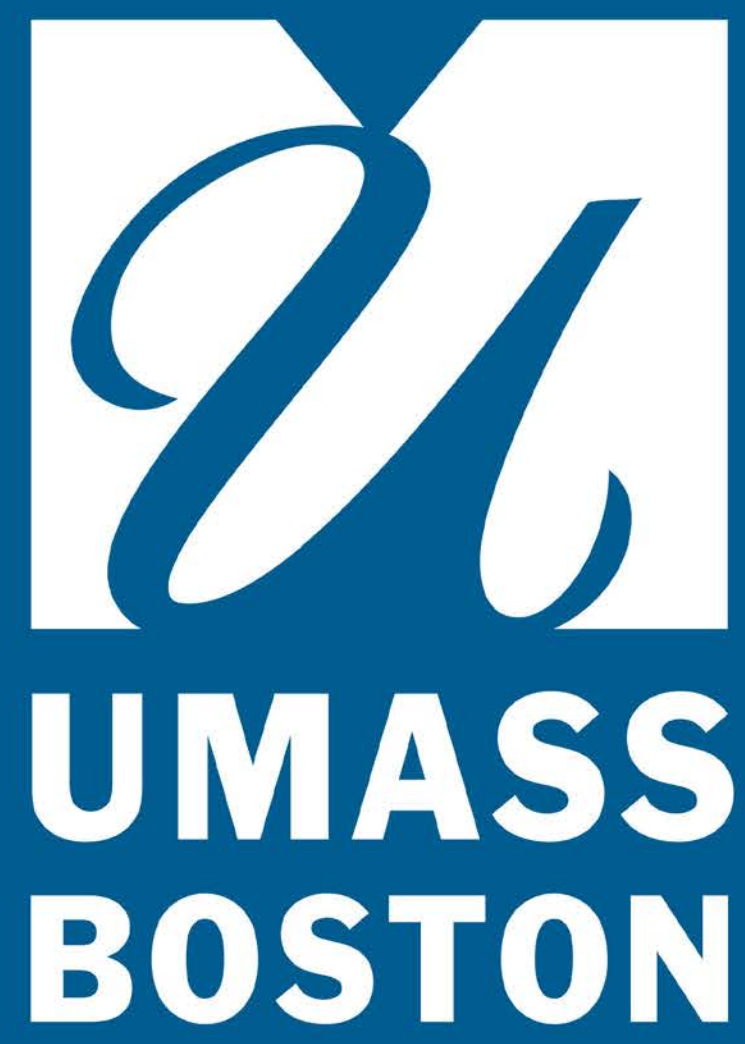
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Culturally Relevant Resources to Meet the Changing Priorities of Tribal Communities

Cedric Woods, Institute for New England Native American Studies, UMass Boston

Background

The mission of INENAS is to develop collaborative relationships, projects, and programs between Native American tribes of the New England region and all of the UMass campuses so that the tribes may participate in and benefit from university research, innovation, scholarship, and education. As the interests, needs, and demographics of Native New England shift, these changing priorities will be reflected in its programming, grant submissions, and outreach efforts.

Approaches and Methods

- ✓ Assess changing priorities of tribal communities on an ongoing basis through surveys and direct consultations.
- ✓ Identify a need and establish a culturally relevant approach: research, resource or program.



Grandparents' Raising Grandchildren

The rate of grandparents raising families is significantly higher in the American Indian community.

Program Goals:

1. To provide on-going sustainable support services and resources to grandparents in the Greater Boston Native American Community who are sole caregivers of their grandchildren.
2. To empower grand-parenting elders to meet the housing, education, healthcare and cultural needs of their grandchildren while strengthening intergenerational ties.

Recent Outcome: The Grandparents' Resource Guide

"The role of grandparents as caregivers for our children has long been a sacred part of who we are as a People. Today, more than ever, we continue to rely on the goodness and selflessness of our grandparents. They are Mother Earth and Father Sky, they are the Ancestors, and they are our relatives. They represent warmth when it is cold, guidance when we are lost, and love always, unconditionally...They are our grandparents."



- ✓ Designed to help ease burdens and enhance quality of relationships.
- ✓ Enabling grandparents to "enjoy the gifts, find balance, complete the circle."



New Projects

- ✓ The Bureau of Substance Abuse Project is developing a culturally appropriate resource booklet to assist Native American caregivers in supporting teenage children.
- ✓ An undergraduate minority Health Equity Scholars Program to train, support and mentor students interested in health disparities—A project of UMass Center for Health Equity Intervention Research (CHEIR), in collaboration with UMass Medical School and UMass Boston (CNHS, the Gastón and Trotter Institutes, and INENAS)

References and Resources

Website: www.umb.edu/inenas
Cedric Woods, Director: Cedric.Woods@umb.edu

Grandparents' Resource Guide:
<http://www.naicobfamilyresources.org/>

Additional Partnerships, Interests, Information and/or Contacts

North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB)
617-232-0343 or www.naicob.org
(Grandparents' Raising Grandchildren Program)

Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS),
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
(A Parent's Guide)