**Indigenous Early Childhood Educators Program 2023**

**Teacher Application:** [**https://forms.gle/6sfZS3kjNgbeFP9K7**](https://forms.gle/6sfZS3kjNgbeFP9K7)

Annual Showcase & Open House: December 10, 2022 @ NAU

Online Application is Available: December 10, 2022

Applications are Due: February 7, 2023

Applicants are Informed of Acceptance: March 3, 2023

**Indigenous Child Development and Identity: Nesting Our Gifts**

Jennie DeGroat, Associate Teaching Professor, Bilingual and Multicultural Education

"Development is transactional and includes multiple pathways. Interactions shape our identities, and our identities shape our interactions and participation in activities."

For many Indigenous communities, traditional education methods and child-rearing have been altered by *"a long history of government policies designed to disrupt tribal lands, cultural practices, language, and family relationships" (Marin, 2022).* Furthermore, there is a real need to develop early education programs that are community-based and grounded in theories of development and methodologies that arise from Indigenous knowledge systems. It also involves recognizing and caring for our gifts to skillfully contribute to the communities we belong in ways where we feel competent and productive.In this context, we will identify and cultivate our natural gifts as well as the gifts of our students and their family members to inform indigenous interactions that are naturally in place. This exercise aims to identify cultural practices used to socialize children within the home and community to facilitate a healthy space for families to engage with one another. It will also be used as a pathway to support Indigenous identities to understand better families' and children's ways of knowing and doing. The early childhood educators in this seminar will research topics of culturally based interactions among educators and families with the children we serve. Other research areas will include Indigenous child development, identity formation, and the concept of nesting gifts. Lastly, research, design, and implement interaction activities such as routines, language, songs, nature walks, learning games, arts, sharing stories with guests, etc.

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| **Day** | **Date** | **Description** | **Mountain Time (and Navajo Nation time)** | **Arizona time** | **Location** |
| Monday | March 20 | Teacher Fellows will receive syllabus and readings to complete for first Seminar |  |  | Sent via email |
| **Thursday** | **March 23** | **Orientation session led by INE Director** | **6 – 7:00pm** | **5 – 6:00pm** | **online** |
| **Friday** | **April 7** | **Seminar Meeting** | **3:30-6pm** | **2:30-5pm** | **online** |
| **Saturday** | **April 22** | **Saturday Seminar Meeting** | **10am-4pm** | **9am-3pm** | **NAU** |
| Sun - Fri | April 23 – 28 | Seminar Leader-teacher individual meetings to discuss personal reading list | TBD | TBD | Phone or skype |
| Monday | May 8 | Topic and personal reading list due | 10pm | 9pm | Submit via email |
| **Friday** | **May 19** | **Seminar Meeting** | **3:30-6pm** | **2:30-5pm** | **online** |
| Monday | May 22 | Context due | 10pm | 9pm | Submit via email |
| **Friday** | **June 2** | **Seminar Meeting** | **3:30-6pm** | **2:30-5pm** | **online** |
| Monday | June 5 | Rationale due | 10pm | 9pm | Submit via email |
| **Thursday - Sunday** | **June 22 – June 25** | **Residency** | **Thursday morning through Sunday afternoon mid-day (times TBD)** | **Thursday morning through Sunday afternoon mid-day (times TBD)** | **NAU** |
| Monday | June 26 | Topic Summary due  Alignment with standards due  Student learning objectives due | 10pm | 10pm | Submit via email |
| **Friday** | **July 21** | **Seminar Meeting** | **3:30-6pm** | **2:30-5pm** | **online** |
| Monday | July 24 | Teaching strategies due  Student assessment plan due | 10pm | 9pm | Submit via email |
| **Saturday** | **August 19** | **Saturday Seminar Meeting** | **10am-4pm** | **9am-3pm** | **NAU** |
| Monday | August 21 | First full draft of curriculum unit due | 10pm | 9pm | Submit via email |
| **Friday** | **Sept. 8** | **Seminar Meeting** | **3:30-6pm** | **2:30-5pm** | **online** |
| **Friday** | **Sept. 29** | **Seminar Meeting** | **3:30-6pm** | **2:30-5pm** | **online** |
| Monday | Oct. 2 | Final curriculum unit due | 10pm | 9pm | Submit via email |
| Mon - Fri | October - December | Teach curriculum unit in your classroom |  |  |  |
| **Saturday** | **Dec. 2** | **Showcase & Open House** | **9am – 4pm** | **9am – 4pm** | **NAU** |

*Once a teacher is accepted into a seminar and commits to participate, they must attend ALL seminars and online meetings and submit all materials on-time in order to be eligible for the stipend.*