



Professional Development Seminar Description

## Institute for Native-serving Educators Track 1

### 2026 SEMINAR TITLE: *Amplifying Student Voice, Choice & Cultural Identity through Technology*

**Description**

*Discover how digital tools can support and honor Indigenous students' voice, cultural knowledge, and ways of knowing. This seminar will explore practical strategies for using technology to create learning experiences where students can share their stories, connect their cultural identities to academic content, and experience agency in learning. Participants will examine digital platforms and multimedia tools that enable students to express their learning in a variety of ways, from digital storytelling that incorporates tradition and self-expression to collaborative spaces that center Indigenous perspectives.*



**Meet the INE Seminar Leader, Ashley Esparza!**

Ashley Esparza is a Lecturer at Northern Arizona University's College of Education where she teaches courses about Educational Technology. Previously, she worked as the Technology & Innovation Specialist in Flagstaff Unified School District where she supported teachers and staff with technology integration in K-12 classrooms. She has experience as a middle school and elementary school teacher with a focus on STEM and inquiry-based learning. Ashley is passionate about innovative, effective applications of technology in the classroom that promote equity and creativity.

#### Program Information

<b>Eligibility</b>	Full-time, fully certified K-12 teacher in a tribal grant, Bureau of Indian Education, or public-school settings and teaching Native American students on or bordering the Apache, Navajo, and Hopi Nations. The application will request that applicants submit documentation of support from a school administrator.
<b>Commitment</b>	Accepted educators must commit to: <b>1)</b> Attend: orientation, each online seminar sessions, each in-person Saturday sessions, a 3-day in-person residency on NAU campus, <b>2)</b> Complete a written/publishable curriculum unit, and <b>3)</b> Attend and present at the one day on campus INE Showcase & Open House.
<b>Incentives</b>	<b>1)</b> Certificate of Completion (58.5 calculated hours of PD) <b>2)</b> Published Curriculum Unit <b>3)</b> Accepted Teachers will receive a program scholarship covering most participation costs such as some travel, meals, etc. <b>4)</b> \$1,500 Stipend paid to educator at the end of the seminar. The stipend is to help offset any remaining expenses not covered by the INE (such as some travel costs).



## 2026 SCHEDULE – TRACK 1

**TOTAL PD SEAT HOURS: 58.5 (time is deducted for absences)**

**\*\*Optional: Up to an additional 16 PD Hours will be received by attending the AIITEC Conference**

*Deadlines and due dates are FIRM. Once a Fellow is accepted into a seminar and commits to participate, they must attend ALL online and in-person meetings and submit all materials on-time to be eligible for the stipend.*

Day	Date	Description	Mountain Time & Navajo Nation time	Arizona time	Location
Wednesday	April 22	Orientation session led by Director	6-7:30pm	5-6:30pm	online
Wednesday	April 29	Seminar Meeting	6-7:30pm	5-6:30pm	online
Saturday	May 9	In-Person Saturday Session #1	10am-4pm	9am-3pm	On Tribal Homelands
Wednesday	June 3	Seminar Meeting	6-7:30pm	5-6:30pm	online
Wednesday	June 17	Seminar Meeting	6-7:30pm	5-6:30pm	online
Fri-Sat	June 26- June 27	AIITEC Conference, NAU Campus (**Optional)	8:00- 5:00PM	8:00- 5:00PM	NAU
Wednesday	July 8	Seminar Meeting	6-7:30pm	5-6:30pm	online
Friday-Sunday	July 17-19	In-Person Saturday Session #2	17 <sup>th</sup> : 10am-6pm 18 <sup>th</sup> : 10am-6pm 19 <sup>th</sup> : 10am-4pm	17 <sup>th</sup> : 9am-5pm 18 <sup>th</sup> : 9am-5pm 19 <sup>th</sup> : 9am-3pm	NAU
Wednesday	July 29	Seminar Meeting	6-7:30pm	5-6:30pm	online
Saturday	Aug 15	In-Person Saturday Session #3	10am-4pm	9am-3pm	On Tribal Homelands
Saturday	Aug 29	Seminar Meeting	11am-3pm	10am-2pm	online
Wednesday	Sept 2	Seminar Meeting	5-7:30pm	5-6:30pm	online
Saturday	November 7 or 14 (TBD)	Showcase & Open House	9am-6pm	8am-5pm	NAU

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, February 20th**

**Application Link: <https://forms.gle/anoMCFYRhZPsG7nM9>**

Learn more at <https://in.nau.edu/ine/apply/>!

