



Professional Development Seminar Description

**Institute for Native-serving Educators
Track 3**

2026 SEMINAR TITLE:

***Native American History and Ethnoecology: The Cultural
Relevance of Sustaining Indigenous Food Systems***

Description

This seminar will focus on Native American communities, starting with a historical approach to build awareness of the Southwest region of tribal communities. A key goal is to provide teachers with foundational knowledge of Native American history, especially on important topics like boarding schools. After establishing this foundation, the seminar will transition into discussions about Indigenous food systems, food sovereignty, and ecology. Activities may explore how food and ceremonies historically intersect and how these traditions have evolved over time. The content will be adaptable across subjects such as social studies, English, and science, while aligning with educational standards. This seminar will include selected reading materials, presentations to create a meaningful learning experience for teachers to create a curriculum unit unique to the students they serve.

Meet the INE Seminar Leaders, Marcus Macktima and Armando Medinaceli!



I am a member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Eastern Arizona. A majority of my research consists of utilizing various historical, indigenous, and theoretical applications to uncover the history of both the Apachean and Indigenous peoples within the Southwestern United States, beginning in the nineteenth century. Primarily, my work centers around bringing the history of the San Carlos Apachean peoples into the twentieth and twenty first centuries and beyond the "Apache Wars" of the nineteenth century. My most recent essay, published in "The North American West in the Twenty-First Century," analyzes the issues between

traditional and colonial forms of Apachean identity and its underlying consequences in the contemporary land disputes at both Dził Nchaa Si'ann (Mount Graham) and Chi'chil Bildagoteel (Oak Flat). My dissertation titled "Issues of Identity: The San Carlos Apachean Peoples", explores the federal government's manipulation and undermining of traditional Apachean identity from the nineteenth to the twenty first century to form the "San Carlos Apache" identity.



Armando Medinaceli is a Bolivian ethnobiologist/ anthropologist with experience collaborating with Indigenous peoples in Bolivia, Mexico, Guatemala, and the US. His work ranges from community conservation, research ethics, ethnozoology, ethnobotany, Indigenous food systems and food sovereignty, biocultural diversity, sustainability, climate change, collaborative video, and more. Through his collaborative research approach and teaching experience, he has led research projects and educational

programs highlighting local perspectives and supporting Indigenous communities' self-determination. His current research documents current and traditional food systems in the Lagunas de Montebello region in Chiapas, Mexico. He also expects to continue his collaboration in Bolivia focusing on traditional music and biocultural conservation processes. As part of his commitment to collaborate ethically with Indigenous peoples, he is a charter member and current president (2025-2027) of the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Etnobiología (Latin American Society of Ethnobiology) and serves as co-coordinator of its ethics committee. He is also a member of the ethics and advocacy committee of the Society of Ethnobiology (North America).

Program Information

Eligibility	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.
Commitment	Accepted educators must commit to: 1) Attend: each online seminars, each in-person Saturday sessions, a 5-day in-person residency on NAU campus, 2) Complete a written/publishable curriculum unit, and 3) Attend and present at the one day on campus INE Showcase & Open House.
Incentives	1) Certificate of Completion (calculated hours of PD) 2) Published Curriculum Unit 3) Accepted Teachers will receive a program scholarship covering most participation costs such as some travel, meals, etc. 4) \$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 3

TOTAL PD SEAT HOURS: 69.5 (time is deducted for absences)

****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 16	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
Wednesday	June 24th	INE RESIDENCY AM Participant Travel to Flagstaff/	8:00- 12:00pm Travel to NAU 1:00-5:00PM Seminar Session	8:00- 5:00PM	NAU
Thursday	June 25	INE Residency- All Day	8:00- 5:00PM	8:00- 5:00PM	NAU
Fri-Sat	June 26- June 27	**AIITEC Conference, NAU Campus	8:00- 5:00PM	8:00- 5:00PM	NAU
Sunday	June 28	INE Residency Full Day	8:00- 5:00PM	8:00- 5:00PM	NAU
Monday	June 29	INE Residency Full Day	8:00- 5:00PM	8:00- 5:00PM	NAU
Tuesday	June 30	INE Residency AM Session/PM Check-out	8:00- 5:00PM	8:00- 5:00PM	NAU
Wednesday	July 8	Seminar Meeting	6-7:30pm	5-6:30pm	online
Saturday	July 18	In-Person Saturday Session #2	10am-4pm	9am-3pm	NAU
Wednesday	July 29	Seminar Meeting	6-7:30pm	5-6:30pm	online
Saturday	Aug 8	In-Person Saturday Session #3	10am-4pm	9am-3pm	On Tribal Homelands
Saturday	November 7 or 14 (TBD)	Showcase & Open House	9am-6pm	8am-5pm	NAU

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, February 20th

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

Learn more at [https://in.nau.edu/ine/apply/!](https://in.nau.edu/ine/apply/)

