



The Teacher Leaders for Native Futures: National Native-serving Educator Fellowship (TLNF Fellowship) is a 12-month, hybrid professional learning experience offered by the **National Indian Education Association** (NIEA) in partnership with the **Institute for Native-serving Educators** (INE) at Northern Arizona University.

Designed for K-12 educators, the Fellowship supports teachers in deepening their leadership grounded in Indigenous knowledge systems, strengthening their culturally responsive practice, and building relationships within a national cohort of Native-serving educators. TLNF extends and builds upon learning from prior teacher preparation (pre-service) or professional development (in-service) programs emphasizing Native American/Indigenous contexts. Throughout the Fellowship, participants engage in collaborative learning, mentorship, and leadership development that culminates in a classroom- or community-based impact project. These projects are shared publicly to support and inspire other educators working with Native students and communities.

Program Information

Eligibility	<p>1) Must have previously participated in a teacher preparation (pre-service) or professional development (in-service) program that emphasized Native American/Indigenous contexts in the preparation and training of teachers. 2) Must be a full-time, fully certified K -12 teacher in a grant, BIE, or public school within the United States. 3) Must be willing to pair your educator experience and expertise with new content knowledge and leadership skills to develop and write a culturally sustaining and responsive impact project to implement your specific context. 4) Must have the ability to attend ALL in-person and online meetings.</p>
Commitment	Accepted educators must commit to: 1) Attend: virtual orientation and participation in NAU's 2026 AIITEC, 10 online national community-of-practice (NCOP) sessions, 10 monthly fellow meetings, 2 in-person conferences (NIEA 2026 Educator Day & Convention and NAU's 2027 AIITEC), 2) Complete a written impact project, and 3) Present on impact project during NAU's 2027 AIITEC at conclusion of fellowship.
Incentives	1) Certificate of Completion (up to 65 hours of PD) 2) Accepted Teachers will receive a program scholarship covering the majority of in-person participation costs such as airfare, meal per diem, lodging, conference registrations, and one annual NIEA membership. 3) \$1,500 Stipend paid to educator at the end of the fellowship. The stipend is to help offset any remaining expenses not covered by the program scholarship.

2026-2027 Schedule

TOTAL PD SEAT HOURS: 65.5 (time is deducted for absences)

***Optional: Up to an additional 10 PD Hours will be received by attending the full NIEA Convention & Trade Show*

Deadlines and due dates are FIRM. Once a Fellow is accepted into the program 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.

Date	Description	Time	Location
May 4, 2026	Selected Fellows Notified		
May 22 2026	Welcome Packets delivered to selected fellows		
June 26-27, 2026	Virtual Kick Off Orientation and NAU's AIITEC	2 days	Virtual
July 2026	NCOP session 1	1 hour	Virtual
July 2026	Monthly Fellow Meeting 1	90 minutes	Virtual
August 2026	NCOP session 2	1 hour	Virtual
August 2026	Monthly Fellow Meeting 2	90 minutes	Virtual
September 2026	NCOP session 3	1 hour	Virtual
September 2026	Monthly Fellow Meeting 3	90 minutes	Virtual
October 7-9	NIEA Educator Day and Convention & Tradeshow (**Full Convention Optional)	2 days plus travel	Buffalo, New York
November 2026	NCOP session 4	1 hour	Virtual
November 2026	Monthly Fellow Meeting 4	90 minutes	Virtual
December 2026	NCOP session 5	1 hour	Virtual
December 2026	Monthly Fellow Meeting 5	90 minutes	Virtual
January 2027	NCOP session 6	1 hour	Virtual
January 2027	Monthly Fellow Meeting 6	90 minutes	Virtual
February 2027	NCOP session 7	1 hour	Virtual

February 2027	Monthly Fellow Meeting 7	90 minutes	Virtual
March 2027	NCOP session 8	1 hour	Virtual
March 2027	Monthly Fellow Meeting 8	90 minutes	Virtual
April 2027	NCOP session 9	1 hour	Virtual
April 2027	Monthly Fellow Meeting 9	90 minutes	Virtual
May 2027	NCOP session 10	1 hour	Virtual
May 2027	Monthly Fellow Meeting 10	90 minutes	Virtual
June 25-26, 2027	NAU's AIITEC	2 days plus travel	Flagstaff, Arizona
July 30th	Impact Project Due	Online submission	Virtual

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 6th, 2026

Application Link: <https://forms.gle/F9BREEAXzthCJsJR9>