**DPS Native American Student Support Program**

**Our Mission:**
To ensure American Indian and Alaskan Native students have access to an equitable education by providing support in a culturally responsive manner.

**NEWSLETTER 2017**

Mark your calendars

**School supply distribution**

Students will receive either a gift card to purchase school items or a backpack of school supplies as we have a limited amount of backpacks.

**Wednesday, August 16th from 3:00pm-5:00pm**

Denver Indian Center, Inc.
4407 Morrison Road
Denver, Colorado 80219
303-936-2688

To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled in Denver Public Schools and have a 506 form on file with the NASSP office. **506 forms will be available to complete during the distribution.**

**Welcome back students!**

School starts the week of August 21, 2017. Please contact your school for more information.

**Parent Advisory/Leadership meetings**

Please join us for parent engagement discussions and get involved in your child’s future.

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**Congratulations DPS Graduates Class of 2017!**

This year’s Class of 2017 Honoring Celebration was an event of remembrance! 46 Denver Public Schools Native American Student Support Program graduating seniors were honored on May 18th 2017 at the Denver Indian Center, Inc. Among this amazing group of students, some were military-bound as well as accepted at prestigious institutions across the country. Each of the graduates were presented with a Lakota Star Quilt and American Indian 2017 graduation stole. NASSP staff had the honor to work with and watch these individuals grow into the young men and women they have become. We are very proud of our graduates and their achievements and wish the best for their future.

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**Special guest speaker:** Abigail Pino
Laguna Pueblo
Eastern New Mexico University
Former DPS NASSP student.

**Student talent:** Simako Marshall
Navajo/Nez Perce
Lakota
Poetry

**Student talent:** Diantha McAllister
Lakota
Violin

**Student talent:** Michael Howard
Navajo
Guitar

**Student talent:** Abigail Pino
Laguna Pueblo
Eastern New Mexico University
Former DPS NASSP student.
The Native American STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Institute is held at Colorado State University (CSU). This program is supported by DPS Native American Student Support Program (NASSP), CSU Native American Cultural Center, and the CSU Women and Minorities in Engineering Program. The goals of this week-long summer institute are to get students to engage in math and science through a hands-on approach, expose them to engineering concepts, and to provide collaboration and leadership components. Students are exposed to what roles Native Americans have in STEM careers. Students learn how to navigate a college campus, how to apply to admissions and financial aid, and what it’s like to be a part of a college program and real work experience.

The 2017 Native STEM institute had students work with the CO Forest Service at their wilderness campus, work with the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd, and work with conservation biologists in collaboration with the Denver Zoo. The final day, students presented to their families what they learned and how it may apply to their own tribal communities.

Incoming 8th-11th grades who are interested in attending the 2018 Summer STEM Institute should demonstrate strengths in Math or Science as shown through test scores, grades, and assessments. They should also have a 3.0 GPA or higher. NAASP will be applying for funding this fall and will release more information about 2018 STEM in the spring newsletter.

### Community Resources

**Denver Indian Center, Inc. (DICI)**  
4407 Morrison Rd. | Denver, CO 80219  
303.936.2688 | [www.DenverIndianCenter.org](http://www.DenverIndianCenter.org)

**Denver Indian Health & Family Services (DIHFS)**  
1633 Fillmore St. GL 1 | Denver, CO 80206  
303.953.6600 | [www.DIHFS.info](http://www.DIHFS.info)

**Denver Indian Family Resource Center (DIFRC)**  
7596 W Jewell Ave, Suite 305 | Lakewood, CO 80232  
720.500.1020 | [www.DIFRC.org](http://www.DIFRC.org)

**American Indian College Fund (AICF)**  
8333 Greenwood Blvd | Denver, CO 80221  
303.426.8900 | [www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org)

### 2017 AISES National Conference

September 21-23, 2017  
Colorado Convention Center  
conference.aises.org
2017 College Horizons

STUDENTS EXPAND THEIR COLLEGE HORIZONS

In July, Precious Blackbear, Justice Hollingsworth and Presilino Martinez attended the College Horizon's College admissions workshop at Whitman College located in Walla Walla, WA. The Mission of College Horizons is to "encourage and facilitate the education of Native American young people." Following the trip, Justice Hollingsworth, a senior at East High School, and Presilino Martinez, a senior at Denver Center for International Studies High School, Precious Blackbear, a junior at George Washington High School, reflect on their experience:

Presilino Martinez
“The best part about the experience was meeting all of the other Native American and Hawaiian students because I’ve never got to see so many of my own people my age that had a lot respect like me and at College Horizons every student had a lot of respect.”

Justice Hollingsworth
“College Horizons was a great experience for me and is something that every native student should try and participate in. College Horizons was very helpful for me because of the one on one guidance from admissions officers from a variety of colleges. Our leaders helped us with our essays, common app, as well as advice about college in general. An SAT/ACT specialist came and gave us advice and material to study for the tests. On our final night, Culture night was amazing seeing all the different types of native culture and the kids performing dances, singing, and stories. In the end the program was great, the leaders of the program gave us personal advice on why it's important for natives to go to college and how we can help one another to get there, and it was truly inspiring.”

Precious Blackbear
“At College Horizons, when you first step into the door you have friends even though you might not know anybody. The experience at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington is more than getting ready for college. College Horizons is all Native Americans program and there are students who are Hawaiian, Navajo, Pueblo, and Lakota and we worked together throughout the week.

During the day we had classes which prepped us for college. I was worried about class work but the homework is in small groups and we mostly focused on the SAT/ACT. It was recommended that I study 5-6 weeks, every 3-5 days for 1.5 hours a day before I take the SAT/ACT. During the College Fair, there are fifty colleges willing to talk to you and they want to know if you play sports and they are willing to look at your stats, major, and interests. We also worked on the common application, where you can apply to over ten colleges at once. Ideally students want a full-ride scholarship for their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd priority college.

When the last day of the program came I did not want to leave my new friends but we will stay in touch. I feel that every Native teen should apply to College Horizons which means applying in your sophomore or junior year.”

College Horizons’ success in helping Native students apply to college is reflected by their success rate – 99% of students who attend College Horizons attend a 4-year university and of those, 85% graduate within 4-5 years.
Tips for College Preparation

The NASSP staff are encouraged to see many of our graduates continuing their education this fall. Some factors that were instrumental in making it possible for them to go to college:

- Earned a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 and higher
- Free website resources for practice: Springboard.collegeboard.org, Ttutorpace.com, blog.prescholar.com, and powerscore.com
- Took Honors and Advance Placement (AP) classes in high school (research shows students took these classes, they scored higher on SAT testing)
- Practice taking SAT preparation, especially for grades 10th – 12th. Students can retake the SAT test and use the highest score for college admission
- Apps: Daily Practice SAT, MyPrepPal:SAT, TOEFL and SAT Vocabulary Prep, and Study Timer

Preparation is key!

Ethnicity Code #1

When registering your student for school, the Registration Form ask parents to identify the student’s ethnic background. While your student may have more than one ethnic group, it is important that only one ethnic group is identified. We recommend that if you identify as American Indian, please check ONLY American Indian. Example below:

- X American Indian or Alaskan Native
  A person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

- Asian or Pacific Islander
  A person having origins in any of the original people so the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands or Indian subcontinent.

- African American (Not Hispanic)
  A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

- Hispanic
  A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

- White (Not Hispanic)
  A person having origins in any of the original people of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.

DPS Native American Student Support Program

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