
The Native American Fraternal Values Movement: Past, Present, & Future

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Brief History of Native Education

- Education historically viewed as assimilation and cultural genocide
 - Not until late 1960's was there self-determination
 - 1972 Indian Education Act
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Profile of Native American's in Higher Education

- .9% Native American Students enrolled as undergraduates in Fall 2006 (4-year) 61% Female and 39% male
- 15% retention rates and 0.7% of all associate's, bachelor's, and advanced degrees conferred in that year to Native American's
- 82% on full financial aid (myth-don't get college paid for)
- AI/AN faculty made up 0.3% whereas students were 1.1% (2 and 4 year)

Demographics

- In 2003, the federal government recognized 562 American Indian/Alaska Native tribes (U.S. Department of the Interior 2004a); In 2008, there were about 64 state-recognized tribes in 16 states (500 Nations 2008).
 - In 2006, the American Indian/Alaska Native population was younger, on average, than the general population
 - Family dynamics, married/single with children both single mothers and fathers
 - Highest poverty rate both on and off-reservation but especially on-reservation
 - Vary from assimilated to traditional, reservation/urban
 - Obligations away from campus and impact of the community on students (work, family, ceremonies)
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Developmental Needs

- No other single factor has been identified for poor academic achievement among American Indians than cultural conflict
 - Culturally grounded-use their culture as an anchor. Retention of the students traditions serve as a positive force
 - Cooperation/competition
 - Discrepancy between values and behavior
 - Acknowledge culture as more than a hobby (not a costume)
 - Experiential learners, holistic, cyclical versus linear
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History of HNAFS

Fraternities

Phi Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. – February 13, 1996 at University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Epsilon Chi Nu -January 1, 1996 at East Carolina University

*Never been recognized by Greek Life

Beta Sigma Epsilon-January 2001 at University of Arizona

Sigma Nu Alpha Gamma* (Society of Native American Gentleman) – No Date

University of Oklahoma

*Operates as a student organization but started out as a fraternity.

Sororities

Alpha Pi Omega Sorority, Inc. - September 1, 1994 at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sigma Omicron Epsilon- March 30, 1997 at East Carolina University

*Never been recognized by Greek Life

Gamma Delta Pi- August 27, 2001 at University of Oklahoma

Omega Delta Psi- University of Northern Colorado-2006

Present Culture of HNAFS

- Cultural/traditional aspects included in everything (ceremony vs ritual)
 - Diversity of “Native American”
 - Development of oldest are still in infant stages
 - Policies are still being updated with major changes
 - Role of elders and graduate chapters (reverse legacies)
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Present Culture of HNAFS

- Influence of other organizations (hand signs)
 - Calls
 - Membership of non-natives and distinction between Native American organization and organization with Native American pre-dominance
 - Just now being represented on national level (i.e. AFA, IFI, UIFI, etc)
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Challenges

- No umbrella organization
 - Access (for national conferences, on campus for awards, etc.)
 - Lumping us in with NPHC/NALFO
 - Knowledge of policies and trends in Higher Education
 - Finances/Insurance
 - Challenge and Support (Sanford)
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Challenges

- Misconception about quantity=quality
 - Expansion challenges (university based and organization based)
 - Involvement of Founders (both a strength and a challenge)
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The Effects on Engagement on Fraternity and Sorority Life at a HAICU

- CSCF Findings
 - Compared HAICU Data to Normative Data
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Methods

- Fall 2007 Survey
 - Compared data sets
 - Identified areas of significance and similarity
 - Primarily Quantitative
 - Some Qualitative themes emerged
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Ethnic/Racial Identity

■ African American/Black	25%	6%
■ American Indian	21%	1%
■ Asian/Pacific Islander	4%	3%
■ Latino/Hispanic	5%	4%
■ White/Caucasian	49%	84%
■ Middle Eastern	0%	1%
■ Other	2%	1%

Living Arrangements

- House 22.4% 15.2%
- Apartment 61.5% 16%
- Residence Hall 11.9% 29.5%
- Greek Chapter House 0% 38.1%

Age

Younger than 19	3.6%	9.4%
■ 19	15.9%	27.4%
■ 20	17.4%	27.8%
■ 21	26.8%	21.5%
■ 22-23	27.5%	11.6%
■ 24 or older	8.7%	2.1%

Hours per Week Worked

None	30.3%	50.6%
■ Less than 10 hours	14%	16.1%
■ 10-20 Hours	25.4%	22.3%
■ 21-39 Hours	26.8%	8.9%
■ 40 or more Hours	3.5%	2.1%

Financial Support Provided by Parents/Family

■ None	28%	8.8%
■ Little	23.1%	10.8%
■ Some	14.7%	15.1%
■ Most	17.5%	30.5%
■ All	16.8%	34.9%

Parents Graduating from College

■ No	45.8%	25.7%
■ Mother Only	21.1%	12.1%
■ Father Only	14.1%	14%
■ Yes, Both	19%	48.3%

Limitations

- Literature
 - Ethnic/Racial Background
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Recommendations

- Further Research
 - Time/Resource constraints
 - Better methods for retention
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Our Obligation

- What is our obligation as campus-based professionals?
 - As fraternity/sorority executives or staff?
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