Native American Educational Services College
Digital Library Project
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Melanie Cloud</strong></td>
<td>Leech Lake Ojibwe, Band of Pillager</td>
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Opening its doors in 1974 in Chicago, Native American Educational Services College was the first urban American Indian institution of its kind, a college run by and serving a Native population in a major US city. Before ceasing to offer college courses in 2005, NAES expanded to satellite campuses in Minneapolis, as well as reservations in Montana, Wisconsin, and New Mexico.

NAES College served hundreds of students of diverse tribal affiliations, ages, and backgrounds, providing a community-based education grounded in public policy, tribal knowledge, community development and leadership, and more. While the college no longer offers accredited courses, NAES is still alive, still here, as an organization and across generations, territories, and communities.
Robert Dumont Jr.
Fort Peck (MT) Study Site

Board of Directors
September 24, 1982
- Open from 1974-2005
- 280+ graduates
- Bachelor's degree
- Native faculty
- Community-based
- Tribal, urban, academic
- Student-directed
- Self-determination
- Indigenous languages
- Student field projects
- Library, bookstore, press
- Annual pow-wow
NAES College
Native American Educational Services

About NAES College
Programs and Projects
Admissions
Financial Aid
President's Message
NAES Publications
Libraries and Archives
Links

NAES is an American Indian College with four campuses located on two reservations and in two urban Indian communities. NAES offers a bachelor of arts degree in public policy.

Chicago Campus  Twin Cities Campus  Menominee Campus  Fort Peck Campus

THE COLLEGE
NAES College was established in Chicago in 1874 to strengthen the leadership of Native communities and to ensure that tribal knowledge, traditions and values play a major role in the higher education of Native students. NAES College is the only independent, American Indian owned and controlled college in the country. The college offers a single degree, a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy, with an emphasis on tribal knowledge, community service, community development and leadership. The primary educational goal at NAES is to teach public policy principles, processes and issues within the framework of a liberal arts education. The teaching program allows the students to remain in his or her community, fulfilling family, work and community responsibilities while completing a baccalaureate degree.

Most mainstream colleges and universities have been unable to meet the needs of Native students and seldom graduate more than 10% of the Native students enrolled in their undergraduate programs. Through NAES College’s community and culture-based curriculum, the student retention rate through graduation of NAES students is 79%. Twenty eight percent of our graduates have gone on to graduate or professional schools where they have completed advanced degree programs or are working towards that goal.

Since 1874, Native community interest in the NAES higher education program has led to the establishment of branch campuses in both reservation and urban locations. Currently, in addition to the Chicago campus where our central administration is located, there are campuses in the Twin Cities in Minnesota and the Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin.

NAES College Central Offices
2838 West Peterson
Chicago, Illinois 60659

NAES College - American Indian College
https://web.archive.org/web/200502091544/c
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PEAK Program
Chicago Campus
Menominee Campus
Twin Cities Campus

JANUARY 2005
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The NAES College Digital Library Project is a collaboration between NAES, the American Indian Association of Illinois, Northwestern University Libraries, and Northwestern’s Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. Institution-led and community-engaged, the project explores the NAES College library and archives, shares the stories of those who used and shaped the collection, and centers the experiences and creations that continue to emanate from this important and impactful urban American Indian institution.
● Storage space
● University of Chicago
● AIAI
● University of New Mexico
● Community

● Library collection
● Card catalog
● Meeting notes & emails
● Course materials
● School records

● Student field projects
● Photographs
● Original books, signs & art
● A/V & digital
● Language materials
NAES first graduate Willard LaMere with Paul Gibson
American Indian Day in Illinois Proclamation Sept 13, 1982
Deliverables

- Data
- Classification System
- Website
- White Paper
- Community Events & Engagement
- New Futures
Process

- Relationship building
- Team meals & meetings
- Archival research outings
- Facebook page & group chat
- Contacts with community
- Events, conversations, stories
Challenges

- Collaboration across institutions
- Access to collection
- Scope & focus
- Community engagement
NAES College Menominee Study Site (Wisconsin)

NAES College Library Classification System (ca. 1980s)
Successes

- Archival research trips
- Knowledge & story sharing
- Classification system
- Community events & engagement
NAES Powwow at Mather High School, Chicago, IL

NAES College Bookstore at Powwow
Future(s)

- Collection storage & stewardship
- Alumni association
- Presentations & publications
- Data visualizations
- Collaborations with tribal libraries
- New roles at Northwestern
Thanks! Questions?  ● sites.northwestern.edu/naes