



2021 Annual Report



**INDIANA NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN
AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

317-234-4887 | www.in.gov/inaiac | 100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis

CONTENTS

MISSION & ORGANIZATION	04
A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN	05
DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	06
PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES	07
PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH	11
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS & 2021 COMMISSIONERS	15
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	16

OUR MISSION

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC) was established to study issues common to Native American residents of Indiana in the areas of employment, education, civil rights, health, and housing. Based on this effort, the INAIAC makes recommendations to appropriate federal, state, and local governmental agencies in these areas of concern to our state's Native and non-Native people. The vision of the commission is to bring the Native community together, support a diverse and thriving Native culture, and help identify opportunities to enhance social, educational, and economic development for Native American and Indigenous people in Indiana.

ORGANIZATION

The INAIAC consists of fifteen (15) voting members appointed by the governor and/or representing designated state agencies, and four (4) nonvoting members, each appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the minority leaders of each legislative body.

A staff director working within the Indiana Civil Rights Commission provides support and facilitation for INAIAC meetings, programs, events and initiatives.

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission was established by section 3 of Chapter 32 under Indiana Code 4-23.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission experienced growth over this past year, in our program participation, our reach, and even in our commission roster. This growth, particularly during times that continue to hold significant challenges for all of us, is a point of great pride as we reflect on the achievements of the last twelve months.

Our efforts, from participating in COVID vaccine clinics, to educational outreach, to celebrating diverse Native American cultures and building community across Indiana, would not be possible without our partners.

As we build on our strategies to advance our mission to serve and support Native American Hoosiers, we will continue to maintain our vital relationships with the tribal, non-profit, and government organizations who collaborate with us.

As we look to 2022 we see a bright future for Native American families and communities in Indiana, and remain committed to the highest quality service and mission-centered work.



SCOTT BREWER
CHAIR
INDIANA NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION
ENROLLED CITIZEN, POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI OF
MICHIGAN AND INDIANA

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is a privilege to support the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission, a diverse, dedicated group of leaders, educators, agency representatives and legislators, and to present this report highlighting the commission's accomplishments during 2021. We have continued to shift our focus as circumstances and priorities changed in order to celebrate and serve Native Americans in Indiana and provide opportunities for learning and community-building for all Hoosiers. As a result of these efforts, and those of our valued partners, we have been able to grow our impact across the state. None of this would be possible without a committed, creative, engaged group of commissioners, and the State of Indiana is fortunate to benefit from their talent and dedicated efforts.

Lisa L. Welch, MS
Director, Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC) prioritized programming supporting Native Americans in Indiana which addressed the commission areas of study, with the continually changing circumstances caused by the pandemic in the backdrop. These programs include the ongoing grant opportunities for educators and nonprofits, scholarship programs, and additionally, vaccination clinics for Native Americans to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Capitalizing on the additional reach from virtual programs produced in 2020, the INAIAC incorporated a blend of in-person and virtual events and awareness campaigns during Native American Heritage Month.

Despite the challenges that still exist for public outreach efforts, the INAIAC was able to increase engagement and grow its follower base at a rate surpassing year-over-year benchmarks for two years in a row.

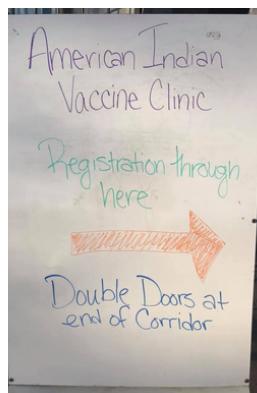
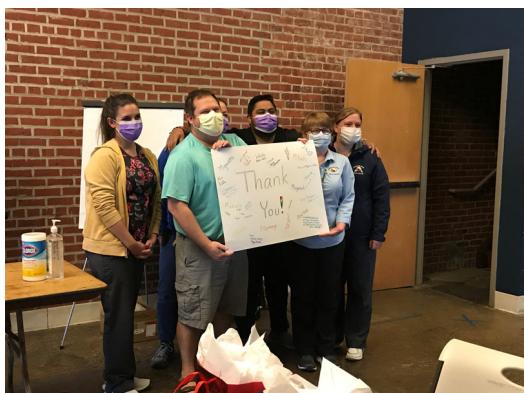
The INAIAC has been able to maintain a record of well-attended and productive meetings, and continues to boast a diverse roster of engaged, hardworking commissioners representing several Native American tribes, legislators, and state agencies. In 2021, Senate Bill 183 passed, clarifying the roles and tribal affiliation requirements for Native American appointees, and adding two additional non-voting members from the Indiana General Assembly.

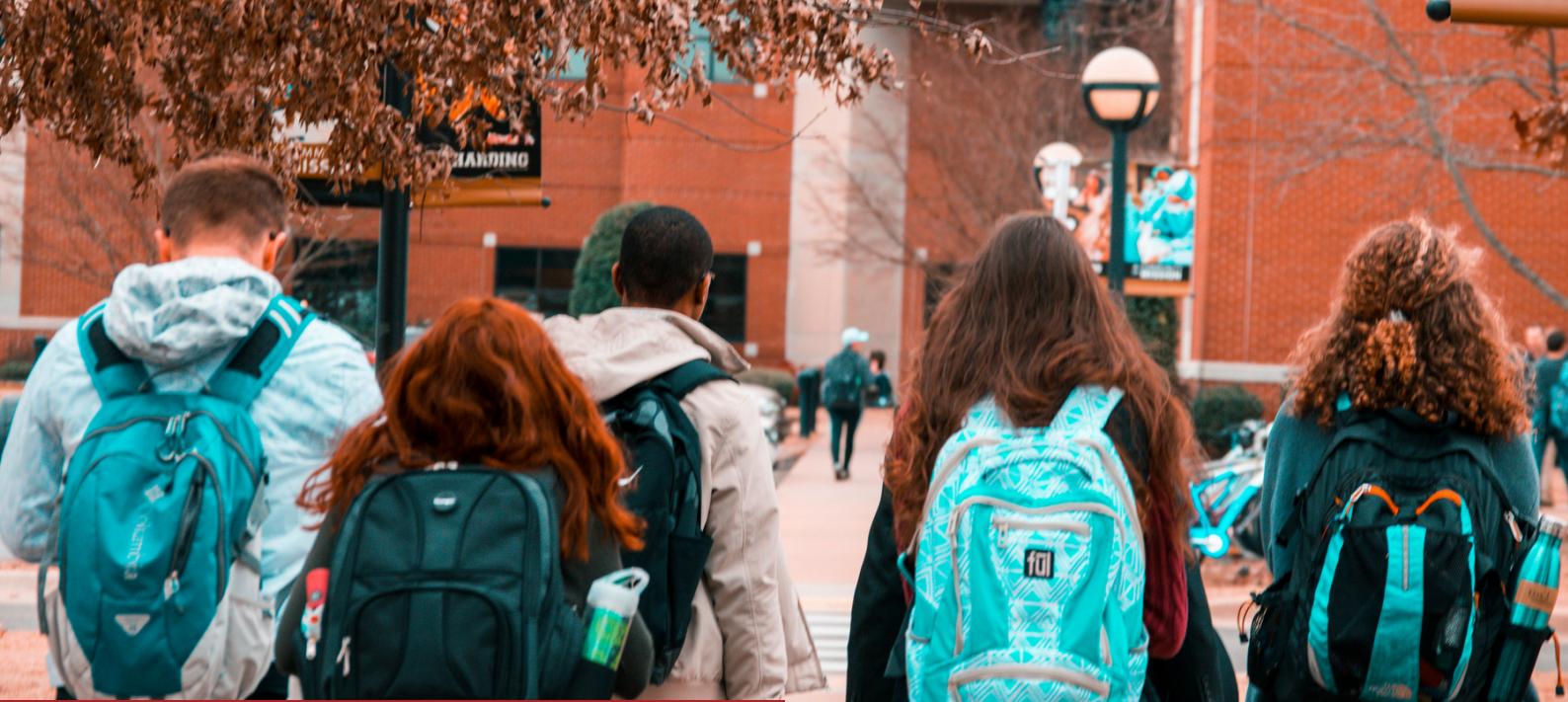
PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

During the past two years, the INAIAC became aware that the disparities previously identified for Native Americans in health and health care widened as the pandemic progressed, and the commission was committed to providing resources to address this need. On March 27 and April 24, 2021, the INAIAC provided volunteer and financial support for a series of COVID-19 vaccination clinics, providing vaccines to Native Americans ages 18 and over from across the region. Approximately 200 Moderna vaccines were administered by medical staff from Pokagon Health Services, in partnership with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi of Indiana and Michigan.

In addition to the Pokagon, the clinics were provided in collaboration with the American Indian Center of Indiana, Inc., the Indiana State Department of Health, the Native American Educational and Cultural Center of Purdue University, the Indiana Minority Health Coalition, the U.S. Indian Health Service, the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center of Indiana University, and the Indiana Civil Rights Commission.





PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

THE INAIAC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The commission remains committed to supporting education and economic development opportunities for Native American Hoosiers, with the goal of making Indiana a great place for all individuals and families to live, learn, work, and thrive. The INAIAC offers the Daryl Baldwin scholarship to Native American students residing in-state and attending an institution of higher learning in Indiana. Students are able to apply for awards in the amount of \$3,000.00 for spring and fall semesters. The John Daughtery, Jr. Scholarship offers \$1,000.00 for summer semesters. Students attending an Indiana vocational or technical school are able to apply for the Marcus Winchester Scholarship, with awards of up to \$2,500.00 per semester.

In 2021, the INAIAC awarded three (3) summer semester scholarships, and seven (7) scholarships for the 2021-22 fall/spring academic year. Awardees are attending the following schools:

- Indiana University Bloomington
- Indiana State University
- Ivy Tech Community College
- Ball State University
- Purdue University
- Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

\$24,000.00 in scholarship funds were awarded in 2021. Awardees representing seven Native American tribes participated in undergraduate and graduate programs including post-secondary education leadership, science, general studies, public health, marketing, media arts and sciences, and hospitality and tourism management. The INAIAC is poised to continue growing this scholarship program through strategic promotional efforts, streamlining processes, and collaboration with partner agencies and organizations.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

MICHAEL PACE EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

A key component of the INAIAC's mission is the support of organizations and programs which provide engaging educational opportunities focusing on Native American history and heritage in Indiana. The commission offers grants in the amount of up to \$250.00 to any licensed educator in the State of Indiana to support visits to designated sites which have a significant focus on Native American culture and history.

Additionally, the INAIAC sees these grants as an opportunity to build bridges of mutual respect and understanding, and to create greater cultural awareness and competency between communities today.

The program was not utilized in 2020, as the pandemic prevented most in-person learning and field trips. In 2021, the INAIAC is pleased to have resumed receiving applications as students have returned to classrooms.

The following sites are eligible for funding through the Michael Pace Educational Grant Program:

- Angel Mounds State Historic Site - Newburgh, IN
- Fort Wayne Historical Society, Chief Jean Baptiste de Richardville House - Fort Wayne, IN
- Mounds State Park - Anderson, IN
- Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art - Indianapolis, IN
- Conner Prairie - Fishers, IN
- Prophetstown State Park - West Lafayette, IN
- Historic New Harmony presented by the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum - New Harmony, IN
- Terre Haute Native American Museum - Terre Haute, IN



PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In 2019, analysis of qualitative and survey data taken from a statewide series of listening sessions indicated that Native Americans/American Indians in Indiana faced a number of challenges in the areas of health and nutrition, education, and professional development(1). These disparities were further exacerbated by the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to the serious health risks presented by the virus, isolation efforts to flatten the curve in the spread of COVID-19, and the slowing of economic activity in response to the pandemic resulted in disruption and difficulty for individuals and communities across the country. In Indiana, all Hoosiers were affected by the temporary closing of schools and businesses, job losses, and other economic, social, and emotional hardships. Native Americans have also experienced disparities in infection rates. While comprising only 2.6% of the population, Native Americans, Native Alaskans, Pacific Islanders and Individuals identifying as more than one race currently account for 9.1% of cases in the state(2).

The complex disruptions in social, health, educational and economic systems have led to an increased need for resources for Native American Indians in several key areas, including food security, employment services, mental health services and housing aid(3).

In response to this complex crisis, the INAIAC developed and implemented the Coronavirus American Indian Response Network Support (CAIRNS) grant. The commission provides quarterly grants of up to \$2,000.00 for organizations, tribes, non-profits and other institutions which manage programs to provide assistance and relief to Native Americans in Indiana. Eligible programs address pandemic-related issues involving food insecurity, mortgage and rent assistance, health and mental health care, and employment and placement assistance. The CAIRNS program will be available through 2022,



PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Each November, the INAIAC always looks forward to a celebration of historic and contemporary Native American culture and heritage, and 2021 was no exception. Following Governor Eric J. Holcomb's proclamation officially announcing Native American Heritage Month on November 1, the commission participated in a month-long social media campaign created to share some familiar historical figures, but also current Native American leaders, culture bearers, creators, and innovators here in Indiana and across the nation.

INAIAC commissioners and the commission director also appeared on local media broadcasts and programs to share information about the commission, its mission, and the diverse and vibrant Native American cultures that exist in Indiana today.

Did you know?

Jim Thorpe (Sac and Fox), the first Native American to win an Olympic gold medal, also coached football at Indiana University & is thought to be one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Source: Indiana University Archives

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



Did you know?

20% of American Indian & Alaska Native servicemembers are women, compared to 15.6% of all other servicemembers who are women.

Source: National Indian Council on Aging, Inc.

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



Did you know?

The first Native American to go into space was astronaut John Herrington on November 23, 2002. A member of the Chickasaw Tribe, he carried that nation's flag with him on the 13-day mission.

Source: NASA.gov

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



Did you know?

Katrina Mitten, an enrolled member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma from Huntington, IN, is an award-winning Great Lakes style beadwork artist featured in major metropolitan museums.

Source: Wikipedia/KatrinaMitten.com

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



Did you know?

Dr. Carlos Montezuma (birth name Wassaja), was a Yavapai-Apache physician and early civil rights activist who founded the first Native American rights organization created by and for Native Americans in 1900.

Source: Wikipedia

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



Did you know?

Deb Haaland (Pueblo of Laguna), currently serving as the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, is the first Native American to be appointed to a cabinet position.

Source: U.S. Department of the Interior

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



Did you know?

Bethany Yellowtail, whose Indigenous heritage comes from the Northern Cheyenne & Crow tribes, is a fashion designer based in Los Angeles, California & is CEO for her line, B. Yellowtail.

Source: Wikipedia

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



Did you know?

David Anderson, founder of Famous Dave's & Old Southern BBQ Smokehouse restaurant companies, is of Choctaw and Ojibwe heritage.

Source: Wikipedia

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



Did you know?

*Sean Sherman is an Oglala Lakota Sioux chef whose cookbook, *The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen*, won the 2018 James Beard Awards for Best American Cookbook*

Source: Wikipedia

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

While still adhering to CDC recommendations to keep the public healthy and safe, the INAIAC was able to join with its partners to present and participate in limited-capacity, in-person events, including the following:

- 11/04/22 - Proclamation of Native American Heritage Month, City of Kokomo
- 11/09/22 - 23rd Annual Holocaust Remembrance Program presented by the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council, Indiana Statehouse
- 11/09/22 - Truthsgiving: Using Food to Dismantle a Colonial Myth, presented with the Spirit and Place Festival, and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art
- 11/17/22 - Presentation by Diane Hunter, THPO, Miami Nation of Oklahoma, part of Shelby County Bicentennial Celebration

The INAIAC will continue planning programming for outreach events while maintaining increased presence in the virtual space. Making content available online and across social media has led to increased overall engagement and greater impact in reaching target audiences.



PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



1386

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES & VIEWERS AS OF 12/05/21

Includes WebEx presentation attendees and video views on social media



931

WEB VIDEOS

- 11/01 - Announcement of Native American Heritage Month - Governor Holcomb - 886
- 11/15 - Dorene Red Cloud interview w/Artist-in-Residence Margaret Jacobs - 25
- 11/17 - Veterans Day Panel Encore Presentation - 20



455

LIVE/HYBRID EVENTS

- 11/09 - 23rd Annual Holocaust Remembrance Program - 300
- 11/09 - Truthsgiving: Using Food to Dismantle a Colonial Myth - 75
- 11/17 - Diane Hunter, presentation at Strand Theatre, Shelbyville, IN - 80



4

DIRECTOR/PARTNER MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 10/12 - Lisa Welch & Sally Tuttle, All IN on WFYI
- 11/3 - Vice Chair Sally Tuttle, WWKI Kokomo
- 11/5 - Diane Hunter, WTHI Terre Haute
- 11/9 - Interview on Fox 59

Engagement & Audience Growth

+1600%

Increase in number of people reached via Facebook.
Total reach - 5264

+83%

Increase in Instagram engagement vs. 44% in 2020



+40%

Increase in engagement - likes, shares and clickthroughs to INAIAC website.
Total engagement - 866



+10%

Increase in Twitter followers
Total reach - 802

Overall long-term follower increase for the month of November was 10%.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission wishes to thank the organizations, groups and institutions with which we partner in order to advance our mission and serve Native Americans as well as all individuals and communities in Indiana:

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
Pokagon Health Services
The American Indian Center of Indiana, Inc.
Native American Educational and Cultural Center, Purdue University
Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art
Spirit and Place Festival

Indiana State Department of Health
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Indiana Minority Health Coalition
First Nations Educational and Cultural Center of Indiana University
Indian Health Service
Office of Minority Health, Indiana State Department of Health
Department of Veterans Affairs

2021 COMMISSION

Governor's Appointees

- Chairman Scott Brewer, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
- Vice Chair Sally Tuttle, Oklahoma Choctaw
- Secretary Peter Magnant, Keweenaw Bay Native Indian Community
- Paul Strack, Miami of Oklahoma
- John L. Adams, Shawnee Tribe
- Felicia Ahasteen Bryant, Dine (Navajo) Nation
- Dorene Red Cloud, Oglala Sioux Tribe

State Agency Representatives

- David Liebel, Department of Correction
- Tatiana Alvarez, Department of Children's Services
- Antoniette Holt, Department of Health
- Rebecca McClain, Department of Natural Resources
- Madison May-Gruthusen, Family and Social Services Administration
- Anthony Jones, Department of Workforce Development

General Assembly Appointees

- Senator Greg Walker, 41st District
- Representative Daniel Leonard, 50th District
- Senator Shelli Yoder, 40th District
- Representative Chris Campbell, 26th District

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

REFERENCES

- 1) Welch, L. (2019). 2019 Annual Report - Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (pp. 1-15, Rep.). Indianapolis, IN: State of Indiana.
- 2) Indiana COVID-19 Dashboard, Indiana State Department of Health. Retrieved February 04, 2022, from <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>
- 3) Hobot, J., Sherman, E., & Crevier, F. (2020). Resiliency in Crisis: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the urban American Indian nonprofit sector urban on the (pp. 1-16, Rep.). Seattle, WA: National Urban Indian Family Coalition.

PHOTO CREDITS

"The Seven Pillars of Peru: by Tom Gill is licensed under CC by 2.0

"Formations Near Water" by 26.3andBeyond is licensed under CC by 2.0

