

American Indian Evaluation Institute

Offered in partnership with
Indigenous Education Institute

What is the purpose of the Institute?

The Institute is designed to provide hands-on training in program planning and evaluation. Participants will learn culturally appropriate models and will develop procedures to assess the effectiveness of their own programs and services.

Who may participate in the Institute?

The Institute would serve staff members, volunteers, and board members from nonprofit organizations located in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Northwestern Wisconsin.

What is unique about this Institute?

1. Cosmic Model. The Institute will feature the Dine Cosmic Model developed by Dr. Nancy Maryboy and Dr. David Begay from the Indigenous Education Institute, Bluff, Utah. Dr. Maryboy and Dr. Begay will explain the traditional indigenous values that form the foundation of the model. They will then demonstrate how other organizations can develop their own model based on the values and knowledge that guide their work.
2. Active Learning. Participants will create their own criteria and their own models. They will begin to use their models in their work settings and will receive guidance and support they need during the process. The instructors are committed to support the participants, to facilitate their interaction with each other, and to provide personalized consultation. This approach will deepen participants' understanding of culturally appropriate models and procedures, and will, in turn, enhance the quality of programs and services their agencies provide.
3. Indigenous values. In collaboration with Dr. Michael Patton and Dr. Chandra Mehrotra, the instructors will assist the participants as they learn to juxtapose indigenous evaluation values with mainstream tools and techniques.

Who are the instructors?

Nancy Maryboy, Ph.D., Indigenous Education Institute, Bluff, Utah.

David Begay, Ph.D., Indigenous Education Institute, Bluff, Utah.

Michael Quinn Patton, Ph.D., Author and Evaluation Consultant, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Chandra M. Mehrotra, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota.

When will you offer the Institute?

Participants will attend four meetings for intensive two-day sessions. The first meeting will be held on March 9 from 1:30-8:00 p.m. and March 10 from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tentative dates for the remaining meetings include: April 27 and 28, May 18 and 19; and June 8 and 9, 2006.

Where will the sessions be held?

This year, all sessions will be held at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. We are considering other communities that may host the sessions in 2006-07.

What are the application procedures?

Eight pairs of applicants from nonprofit organizations will be selected to participate in the year-long program. Having two participants from each agency will ensure that the new learning will actually be used. Each pair of applicants will identify the specific project on which they plan to focus during the training program. In addition, they will submit a letter from their supervisor(s) indicating how their participation in the training program fits in the strategic plans of the organization and how these efforts will be sustained on a continuing basis. *Please note that prior experience in conducting program evaluation is not a requirement for admission to this program.*

Registration Fee

Registration fee for the year-long program is \$200.00 per person. This includes all instructional materials, one meal at each day of the meeting, and coffee breaks. A limited number of need-based scholarships will be made available. Participants will be responsible for making their own arrangements for overnight accommodations.

Application Requirements

1. The applicant must be a staff member, volunteer, or board member of a nonprofit organization from this region.
2. The applicants must provide a letter of support from his/her supervisor(s) indicating (a) what institutional support will be provided to make evaluation activities possible; (b) how the conduct of program evaluation fits with the mission and purposes of the organization; and (c) how evaluation efforts begun at the institute will be sustained. Additional letters of support are also welcome.
3. Preference will be given to applicants who have limited experience in program evaluation but are able to document how they plan to use evaluation knowledge and skills in furthering the mission of their organization.
4. Completed application and support letters must be submitted by February 20, 2006. Application materials may be printed from the program website at www.css.edu/aievaluationinstitute.xml or may be obtained by contacting:
Chandra M. Mehrotra, Ph.D.
Director, Evaluation Training Program
The College of St. Scholastica
1200 Kenwood Avenue
Duluth, Minnesota 55811-4199
5. Representatives from small nonprofits who may have difficulty in forming a team of two applicants are encouraged to contact us to discuss their special circumstances. Please contact Dr. Mehrotra via telephone (218-723-6161) or email (cmehrotr@css.edu). You may also contact Ms. Pamela Standing via e-mail at pjstanding_54@yahoo.com who is serving as a liaison with Native American communities.

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