



## Background

The Institute is situated within New Mexico Highlands University, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work, and is the first effort anywhere in the country by a school of social work to establish a program of study and development to address tribal social work needs.

## The Mission

To educate and train social workers to effectively respond to the needs of Native American families and communities

## The Vision

For tribal nations to determine and receive the social services they need and deserve

## The Goals

Increase student enrollment in the field of social work especially among native communities in New Mexico and beyond

## Course Development

Since the Fall semester of 2020, the Institute has developed or enhanced courses that respond to the needs of tribal social work in New Mexico and beyond. This includes two credit courses and CEUs.

## Measures of Success

We have engaged 217 students, social workers, and other helping professionals through the CEU and 2-credit courses. The response to CEU courses has exceeded capacity, a testament to the interest in tribal-specific topics.

## Tribal Leaders Gathering

In November 2021, the Institute held its first Tribal Leaders Gathering. This hybrid session was a discussion on the status of tribal social work in their communities and additional needs to build workforce capacity.

## Roundtables, Workshops, and Outreach

The Institute hosts several learning opportunities for students, social workers, and other helping professionals. The events are offered each semester and range from 1 to 12 hours, depending on topics.

## Research

The Institute has a bibliography of 402 articles, books, and videos. The bibliography increases each semester and is accessible to NMHU social work students, faculty, and staff.

## Partnerships

UNM School of Medicine, National Tribal Trial College, Advocacy Inc., and Southwest Center for Law & Policy

## Increasing Youth Experience

The Institute has researched and assessed the social work profession in New Mexico and is seeking ways to increase youth interest. A 4-day training event will increase secondary grade level interest in social work. The goal of the training event is to provide high school students with a skills-based learning opportunity in social work that could result in increased enrollment in higher education institutions and the workforce.

## Contact

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