

NACA Inspired Schools Network Abstract

Title: Indigenous Opportunity through Academically Excellent & Culturally Relevant Education

Project Description and Goals: The Native American Community Academy (NACA)-Inspired Schools Network (NISN), headquartered in Albuquerque, NM seeks to replicate and expand best practices recognized at the state and national levels for culturally-relevant, rigorous academics, and sharing of Indigenous values and perspectives in education. The NISN is modeled on NACA, a 6-12 grade public charter school in Albuquerque, NM that has significantly improved academic proficiency and college entrance among a largely low-income Native American student population. NACA is 94% Native American, representing 60 federally recognized tribes; 82% free and reduced price lunch, and 75% will be the first in their families to go to college.

The NISN emerged in 2014 in response to demand for replication of the successful NACA model. Its mission is to transform Indigenous education by engaging communities, building networked schools of academic excellence and cultural relevance, and serving Native American students so that they are secure in their identity, healthy, and holistically prepared for college and life. Using CSP funding, NISN will support the creation of schools in three states, serving 2,690 students by 2021-2022. Goals include: 1) Over five years, create seven new “Proof Points” for integrated Indigenous education that meet Common Core and other standards across New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arizona and that outperform peer schools and student groups. 2) Increase high quality options for community-determined schools across the southwest that are both culturally responsive to community needs and desires and reflective of state and federal mandates by adding 1,080 new seats network-wide by Year 5. If funded, the NISN commits to undergoing a quasi-experimental evaluation, carried out by a third party evaluator.

Contact: Kara Bobroff, Executive Director at kbobroff@nacaschool.org or (505)266-0992.