

**NAES**

**Native American Educational Services College**

Digital Library Project

**Melanie Cloud**

Leech Lake Ojibwe, Band of Pillager  
Director of Educational Development, American Indian Association of Illinois

**Allison Conner**

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Independent Researcher

**Josh Honn**

English & Digital Humanities Librarian, Northwestern University Libraries

**Dorene Wiese**

White Earth Ojibwe, Mississippi Band  
President, American Indian Association of Illinois

**Kelly Wisecup**

Associate Professor, Department of English, Northwestern University

**John Dorr**

Head, Research Services, Northwestern University Libraries

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.



**LEFT**  
Robert Dumont Jr.  
Fort Peck (MT) Study Site

**RIGHT**  
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

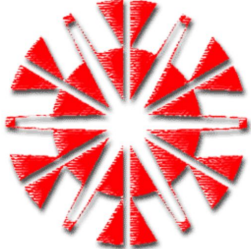
NAES College

https://web.archive.org/web/20011

# 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

NAES College - American Indian Co

https://web.archive.org/web/200502091544



**NAES COLLEGE**  
NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

HOME

---

- Home
- Admissions
- Financial Aid
- Initiatives
- Faculty
- Library
- Catalog
- Links
- FEAT Program
- Chicago Campus
- Menominee Campus
- Twin Cities Campus

### THE COLLEGE

NAES College was established in Chicago in 1974 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's 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 70%. 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 1974, 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

2,298

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.

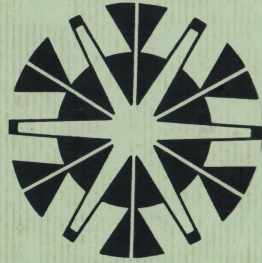




- Storage space
- University of Chicago
- AIAI
- University of New Mexico
- Community
- Library collection
- Card catalog
- Meeting notes & emails
- Course materials
- School records
- Student field projects
- Photographs
- Original books, signs & art
- A/V & digital
- Language materials

NAES GRADUATES

Robert Archiquette	'79	Oneida
Nurna Azure	'82	Sioux
Iyola Bearcub	'81	Assiniboine
Mona Bearskin	'80	Winnebago
Hazel Beartusk	'82	Northern Cheyenne
Joel Beck	'81	
George Bennett	'82	Ottawa
Lucille Bennett	'82	Sisseton/Wahpeton Sioux
Don Bishop	'80	Little Shell Chippewa
Harold Dean Blount	'82	Sioux
Vernita Buckles	'82	Sioux
Beatrice Chevalier	'82	Menominee
Roberta Clincher	'82	
Clovia Cosson	'80	Sioux
Florence Dunham	'81	Mohawk
Beverly Flying	'78	Oneida
Rosemary Garcia	'79	Santo Domingo Pueblo
Vonda Gluck	'82	Chippewa/Sioux
Vivian Jones	'81	Sioux
Georgiana Keahna	'78	Oneida
Willard LaMere	'77	Winnebago
Don Littlewolf	'80	Northern Cheyenne
Wayne Martell	'81	Assiniboine
Doreen Pond	'80	Northern Cheyenne
James Roberts	'80	
Jennie Shoulderblade	'81	Northern Cheyenne
Joanette Starr Takehara	'80	Sioux
Dolores Underwood	'80	Northern Cheyenne
Leroy Wesaw	'78	Potawatomi
Larry Wetsit	'81	Assiniboine
Viola Wood	'80	Assiniboine



COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

American Indian Chapel  
1941 W. Belmont  
Chicago, Illinois



NAES first graduate Willard LaMere with Paul Gibson  
American Indian Day in Illinois Proclamation Sept 13, 1982

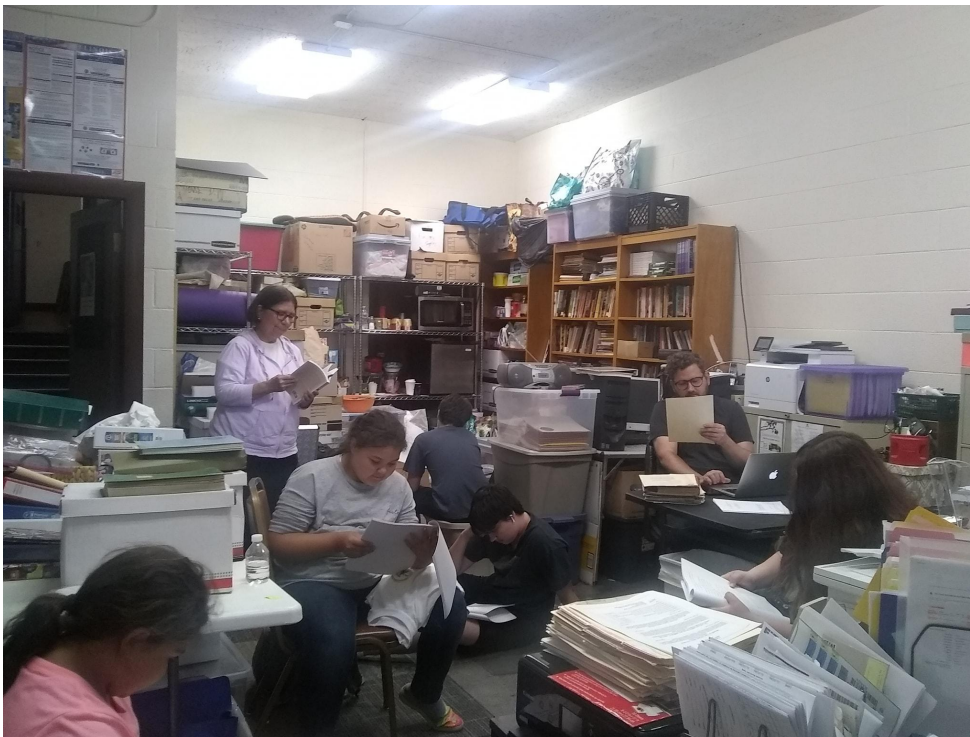
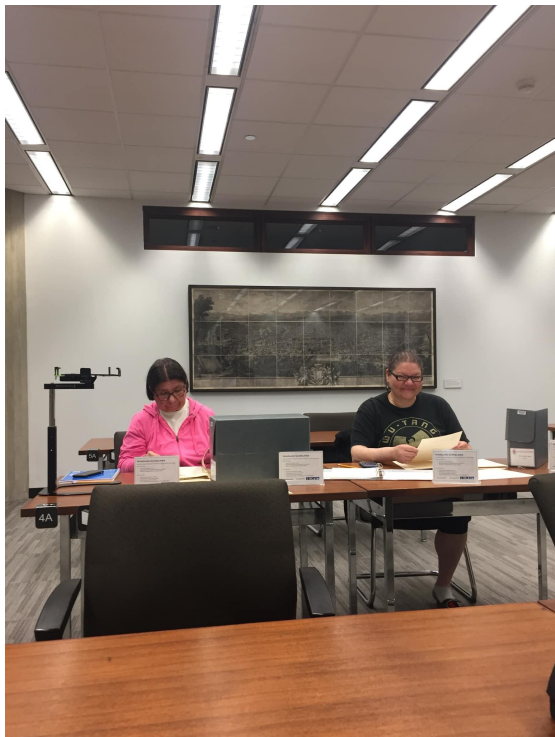
## **Deliverables**

- 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

e 1. = Indian  
 a. Tribal #

NAES COLLEGE  
 LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTER  
 SUBJECT INDEX

SUBJECT

CATEGORIES

Arts & Crafts

ART

Architecture

e 1. = Indian  
 a. Tribal #

- 01 - Basketry
- 02 - Beadwork
- 03 - Blankets & Quilts
- 04 - Carving & Sculpture
- 05 - Cooking
- 06 - Design/examples/instruction
- 07 - History
- 08 - ~~(Archives)~~ Architecture
- 09 - Leatherwork
- 10 - Music/Dance (see also RP)
- 11 - Needlework/Appique
- 12 - Painting
- 13 - ~~Porcupine Quill/Feathers~~ Quillwork
- 14 - Pottery
- 15 - ~~(Quilting)~~ Featherwork
- 16 - ~~(Sandwiching)~~ Metalwork & Silverwork
- 17 - ~~(Sandwiching)~~
- 18 - Rugmaking
- 19 - Photography
- 20 - General
- 21 - Native Dress clothing
- 22 - Dolls, including kachinas
- 23 - ~~Utilitarian items (including architecture)~~
- 24 - Folkways ("back to nature")

Sandwiching RP

Biography

BIO

Autobiography  
 e 1. = Indian  
 a. Tribal #

Bio  
 e 2.1  
 a. Tribal #

Children's Literature

C. Niche  
 e 2.1 CL

- 01 - Autobiography - Indian
- 02 - Biography - Indian
- 03 - Autobiography - Non-Indian
- 04 - Biography - Non-Indian
- 05 - Collective Bio/Auto - Indian
- 06 - Collective Bio/Auto - Non-Indian
- 07 - Gen. Criticism/Commentary Biography/Autobiography

- 01 - Indian
- 02 - Non-Indian

e 1.1  
 a. Tribal #



LEFT

NAES College Library Classification System (ca. 1980s)

RIGHT

NAES College Menominee Study Site (Wisconsin)



## **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](https://sites.northwestern.edu/naes)