Recruiting and Supporting Indigenous Students

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Native Americans continue to be severely underrepresented in STEM fields

The number of PhD degrees granted to Native Americans from 2004 to 2014 increased much less than for other URM and non-URM students.

The number of MS degrees in STEM declined from 2004 to 2014 but doubled for other URM students.
Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership

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Evaluation: Dr. Jack Mills
Location of SIGP programs relative to tribal lands. Areas in red are reservations and black circles indicate land under tribal government authority, including Alaskan Native villages.

How does it work?

- Students are nominated by SIGP PDs
  - Member of a tribe or Alaska Native Village or Native Hawaiian registry
  - Can document connection to an indigenous community
  - U.S. citizen
- Institutions provide tuition and fees, usually in the form of assistantships, scholarships, or fellowships
- The Foundation provides additional funds directly to the students
- NACME (National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering) administers funds and admission process.
Key program components

• Recruitment and retention activities
  • Universities use existing networks to recruit; some coordination at national level
  • Regular meetings and access to SIGP personnel
• Institutional champions
• National American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) meeting
• External evaluation (Dr. Jack Mills – Indep. Eval)
What have we accomplished?
National overview:

173 alumni. We fluctuate between 80 and 100 current students. Retention/graduation rates are above 80% nationally and greater for some programs. Median time to degree for Ph.D students is 4.9 years.
Purdue components

• Originated with and still led by faculty and staff

• Campus-wide connections

• Native American Educational and Cultural Center (NAECC) is the heart of the program.

• Recruitment primarily focused outside Purdue
<table>
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<th>Computer lab</th>
<th>Conference and Meeting Room</th>
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<td>Study rooms</td>
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Kitchen area for food demonstrations
Purdue University has 34 SIGP alumni and 19 current students.
93% of all Purdue Scholars have graduated or are still enrolled.
Indiana – “The Land of Indians”

Ancestral Homelands
- Bodewadmi (Potawatomi)
- Myaamiaki (Miami)
- Shawnee
- Lenape (Delaware)

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