



# NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY

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**Native American  
Community Academy**

*Where Education, Community, and  
Culture Come Together*



# NACA MISSION AND HISTORY

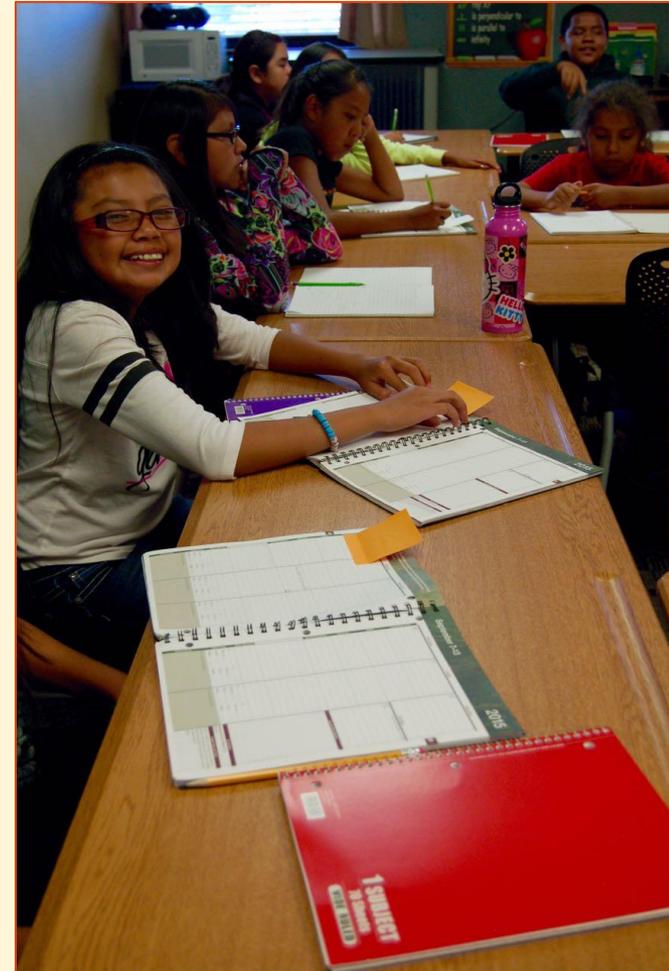
To engage students, educators, families, and community in creating a school that will prepare our students to grow from early learning to adulthood and begin strengthening communities by developing strong leaders who are academically prepared, secure in their identity and healthy.

# NACA



## TIMELINE

- 2005 - Community-led planning period (Tides Foundation)
- 2006 - NACA opened, grades 6-8 (growing to 6-12)
- 2011 - Received support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and housed first class of teaching fellows
- 2011 - Formed NACA Foundation to support school growth
- 2012 - Graduated first senior class; 100% college accepted
- 2012 - Recognized as a National Association for Secondary School Principals “Breakthrough School”
- 2014 - Permanent campus secured in the facilities of a former Indian School
- 2016 - NACA Elementary opened, serving grades K-1 and growing one grade annually
- 2019 – NACA opens High School on Campus at CNM





# How NACA differs from many other schools

## What it looks like

### Integration of Academic Excellence & Cultural Relevance

- Curriculum, pedagogy, and assessments satisfy Common Core standards and practices, with data-backed evaluation of outcomes
- Education is done in whole or part using Indigenous Languages, or through Indigenous teaching practices (e.g. integrating geology curriculum with Native creation stories, impact of policy on tribes, impact of Ind.Ed)

### Focus on Holistic Wellness

- Holistic Wellness Wheel used as a framework for students, families and staff to assess growth and set goals
- Services, supports, and programs oriented around Intellectual, Spiritual, Physical, and Emotional Health for students and families
- Respectful interaction between teachers, students and families sensitive to impact of boarding schools in Native communities due to colonization

### Community Transformation

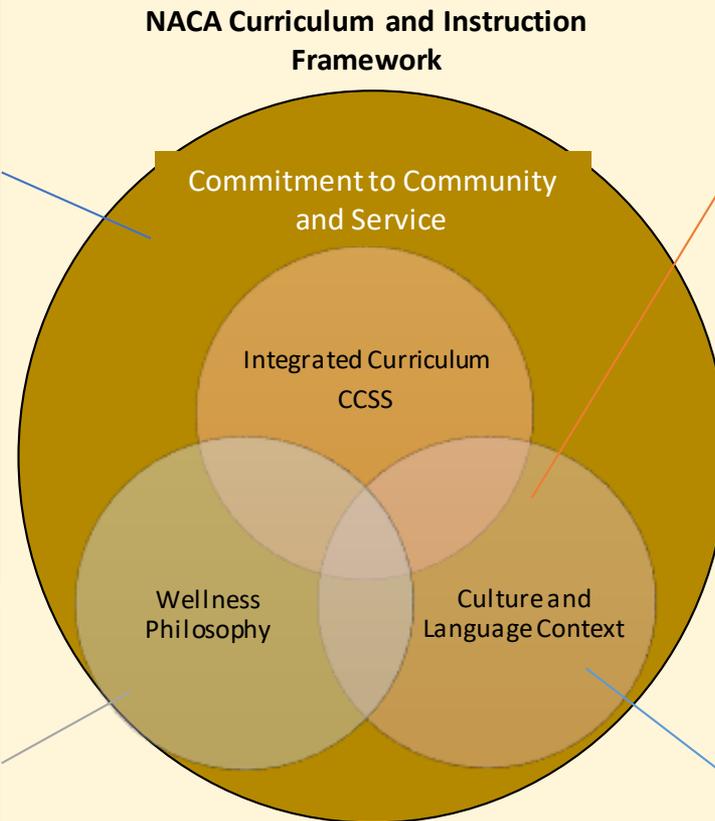
- NACA is a key facilitator of connections within the community, creating and leading partnerships with organizations like the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, UNM's NAS, NAVA, SYS, Inc., AIO
- NACA hosts community events such as the NACA Feast day, Pow-wow and Family led initiatives that bring people together in a meaningful way.
- NACA engages with groups, from across the world, interested in Indigenous Ed

# NACA GOALS

- ❖ Integrated curriculum
- ❖ Cultural relevancy
- ❖ Community relations
- ❖ Wellness philosophy
- ❖ Language revitalization
- ❖ Enrichment & college-preparatory focus

- Year round, community-based **Out of School Time program**
- **Community presentations, open houses, guest speakers, family engagement, cultural events, and mentoring**
- **Key community partnerships** include: Americans for Indian Opportunity, NM Forum for Youth & Community, CNM, Southwest Youth Services, UNM School Based Health, UNM Tribal Service Corps, Institute of American Indian Arts, sister schools ...

- **Student Support Services** providing free, school-based, culturally-sensitive, high quality mental health services open to all students and families
- **Experiential Education Program** focused on students' overall wellness; part of required Personal Wellness class for all students
- Supporting families with healthcare, nutrition, and social services at the **on-site school based health center**



- **Integrated Curriculum** -culturally based education, holistic wellness philosophy, and community/ based education – to guide the development of school programs, wellness, and academic curriculum
- **Rigorous college prep curriculum and vigorous testing** (all students complete at least 6 hours of dual enrollment credit prior to graduation)

- Using **Native literature, language, and culture as the framework for rigorous, college-prep curriculum**
- Specific studies include storytelling, oral traditions, cultural history, Native languages, community presentations, and Native American literature

# Community Transformation



The NACA education model increases academic achievement through rigorous college preparatory curriculum, but it doesn't stop there.

- NACA prepares students to succeed at college and at life by:
  - decreasing language barriers;
  - **supporting families with healthcare, nutrition, and social services at the on-site school-based health center; access to information for college transition and success.**
  - teaching **successful goal setting**; student led conferences with families throughout the years as early as elementary school
  - providing positive role models; engaging families and community;
  - hosting a Center for Working Families early which assists with **financial literacy** and in accessing **key support services from initial years as an integrated service approach.**
  - **“Pathways Navigator” to connect students and families to community resources such as housing, food, college preparation**



# Strategic Collaborations and Community Engagement

- Collaborate and engage community **organizations to achieve common goals and bring technical expertise needed for programming.**
- Engage students, families, and community in designing school mission, programs, and setting overall direction and goals.
- Develop strategic partnerships that are aligned in mission, draw upon resources of the community, and help strengthen the school's capacity.
- **Engage the local Native community as well as reservations/tribes "at home" (for example, Lakota tribes in the Northern Plains) and families who design learning**

# Student Success and Support



- **Ensure every student and family has an Advisor** on campus who he/she has a positive relationship with and who acts as an advocate for the student's emotional, social, and academic success.
- Utilize **student-led conferences** and self-reflective preparation processes that allows students to take responsibility for their holistic wellness, set personal goals, and share aims with their parents/families/guardians.
- Offer **strength-based coaching** focused with families to identify the best possible solution to the challenges they face or new ideas they have for school improvement.
- Offer **free, school-based, culturally-sensitive, high quality, and comprehensive mental health services** to all students and families

# NACA



## FAQs

- NACA launched in 2006 in Albuquerque
- NACA Elementary opened 2016
- Culturally integrated
- Holistic wellness
- 400 families served
- Grades K-5 and 6-12
- Represent 60+ tribes and 18 different ethnicities and languages
- First class of seniors graduated 2012





Thank You!

Questions

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