

## Commission on Native Children Project Venture Overview

The National Indian Youth Leadership Project is a Native nonprofit, with a 30+ year track record. NIYLP operates offices in Gallup and Albuquerque, New Mexico and Kyle, South Dakota.

- NIYLP is the Developer of **Project Venture**.
- NIYLP received one of the **National High Risk Youth grants** in 1990. There were twelve Native grantees.
- Project Venture is the only program still in operation, uninterrupted for over 30 years.
- Project Venture was the only Native program to contain all **Five Characteristics of the Most Effective** programs, identified by Dr. Fred Springer, Director of the **National High Risk Youth** study.
- Project Venture was recognized as the **Most Effective** program for Native youth in the study.
- Positive program effects were found at pre, post, 6 months, 12 months and 18 months follow up.
- Project Venture contains four components: **Outdoor Adventure, Service Learning, Cultural emphasis, Unique group development process.**
- Project Venture was serving and collaborating with Indigenous communities across the US, Canada and Hawaii, with over 60 program sites, when the pandemic arrived.
- Project Venture programs are funded by numerous funding sources, including SAMHSA, OJJDP and other federal agencies, foundation grants, including Kellogg, Robert Wood Johnson and many others, state funding, Public Safety Canada, and others.
- Project Venture has received numerous awards and recognitions in the past twenty -five years, including **Promising, Effective and Model Program awards, from SAMHSA**, multiple recognitions from **First Nations Behavioral Health Ass'n., Indian Health Service, Association for Experiential Education, State of New Mexico, Black Hills Institute, National Service Learning Conference**, to name a few.

Project Venture has over 25 years of evaluation data that clearly shows results in healing aspects of **Adverse Childhood Experiences**. PV has outstanding results in reducing and delaying onset of substance abuse, reducing suicide, reducing teen pregnancy and other challenges that face Native adolescents. A recent five year grant project in an isolated Native community in Ontario, Canada had amazing evaluation results, in terms of improved attendance and school achievement, but also showed significant results in improved relationships between the community and the police and dramatic decrease in juvenile crime, as well as zero suicides. Project Venture has been working in multiple schools on the Pine Ridge reservation

for five years. In that time, the program that started in one school, has expanded to six. There have been zero suicides in the five years in the programs in these schools.

NIYLP, through our Founnder/CEO, is a consultant to the **Center for Native Child and Family Resilience**, working on assisting multiple tribes to develop organically, home grown programs that are individually tailored to the unique cultural realities in the communities. We are also working closely with **Tribal Tech** to deliver webinars on the **Characteristics of the Most Effective Programs** in the **National High Risk Youth Study**, as identified by the Director of the study, Dr. Fred Springer. NIYLP also is a trainer for the **SAMHSA NNED** program.

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