



Building Partnerships

IAC Pacific Region

Over the last three years, IAC Pacific Region has worked with the Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI) at University of California, Davis to build student-led projects that contribute to active agriculture/natural resource based initiatives within Tribal communities. Past projects involve working with a team of Native youth to build a Native youth resource hub website and wiki, designing a native plant management plan and holding community work days and educational programming, and most recently, co-designing a Native student mentor program framework and tool kit that will be administered as part of emerging IAC professional development pipeline programming in the near future.



Team of UC Davis students with ASI and IAC Representation

Over the last 6 months, IAC Pacific Region met with UC Davis 4th year students in the Agriculture and Food Systems major, along with a cohort of Native students and young professionals, to build higher education components of a mentor program tool kit that covers four foundational areas of support to students interested in agriculture and natural resources degree and career pathways. The areas include: Cultural and Emotional Support, College Preparation, Navigating College/University, and The Professional World. Each area will encompass continued exposure to opportunities in agriculture and natural resources.



UC Davis student team presenting on their findings

IAC identified a need to build support mechanisms for students who partake in youth in food and agriculture leadership development programming at our regional and national summits who wish to remain engaged. Following an innovative and responsive course of development, IAC continues to consult directly with the youth the organization seeks to support in the development of our youth programming. Organizationally, IAC seeks to positively impact the fields of agriculture and natural resources through robust and transformative programming that enables emerging leaders in the Native agriculture movement to be exposed to experiences that cultivate competitive candidates for careers in the Tribal, federal, state, and private sectors.



Outreach Presentation at Native Food Systems Event

The IAC student mentor program will address the enthusiastic "what's next?" that many youth ask upon attending their first Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summit. Partnering with leading universities to gain cutting edge insights into our program designs enables our young people access to resources that will positively impact their future goals associated with being the change in Native agriculture.