LEARNING LEADING CHANGING
A learning exchange series for university-agency partnerships

Collaborating to Enhance ICWA Knowledge and Practice

KEY TAKEAWAYS
To what degree is your partnership intentionally focusing on practices related to implementation of ICWA?

- Fully (20%)
- Significantly (36%)
- Somewhat (26%)
- Slightly (15%)
- Not at all (3%)

Deepening Understanding and Appreciating Experiences
- Find opportunities for self-directed learning (e.g., listening to This Land podcast)
- Sign up for educational experiences to learn more
- Understand dual citizenship and sovereignty rather than thinking of Native Americans as a race
- Become interculturally competent

SESSION 1 OF 3
Event Date:
03/21/2022

Recording:
https://vimeo.com/691555898

PowerPoint Deck With Resources:
Developing Heart and Mind Connection Around ICWA

- Utilize information and support from NICWA and incorporate them into trainings (some of which may require NICWA membership).
- Use ICWA as the “gold standard” of social work and child welfare practices
- Get tribes involved at intake level, inquiring at first contact
- Assign staff to collaborate with tribes
- Attend ICWA meetings and trainings
- Support and encourage traditional practices during visitations
- Complete a genealogy of the family
- Continue ICWA inquiry throughout process, starting at first contact with child/family
- Have an ICWA specialist who will act as the first contact for ICWA-related concerns
- Emphasize Indigeneity as opposed to race or ethnicity
- Work with the Capacity Building Center for Tribes to better collaborate and build relationships
- Connect with local ICWA and tribal liaisons to identify current practices within the state and provide direction on needed changes
- Understand the dual relationships between the tribe and the child welfare agencies/state
- Increase Native American representation in child welfare as workers and trainers
- Network between agencies and programs to build a deeper understanding and commitment to ICWA

Advocating for Change

- Have courage and willingness to question current practice and think critically together
- Be prepared to navigate difficult conversations in a good way
- Be intentional about holding space for change to occur
- Practice ongoing self-reflection and an understanding of the difference between leadership and authority
- Remind providers to ask about tribal membership and/or ask questions around eligibility for membership (not just checking boxes)

Training

- Establish annual ICWA trainings
- Train tribal members to be experts in court
- Update ICWA training curriculum
- Provide ICWA trainings for judges, court and parent attorneys, State Advisory Groups (SAG), and guardian ad litems (GAL) to better advocate on behalf of children and families
- Develop ICWA interpretation and implementation trainings
- Build Native American history into the curriculum and training for MSW Title IV-E students