

National Native HIV/AIDS CBA Network



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CONTACT: Warren Jimenez, (720) 382-2244

Native Network Announces National Community Event, Interactive Activities Map

National Community Event/Press Conference will take place in Washington D.C.

February 27, 2008 - Denver, CO - Today, the National Native Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Network; National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC), Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity (CASAE) and Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA), announce the National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NNHAAD) Community Event/Press Conference and interactive community activities map.

The National Community Event/Press Conference will be held on March 20, 2008, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Senate Indian Affairs Committee Room in the South Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

A special thanks goes to U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, for sponsoring the use of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee Room to hold this event.

“This National Awareness Day event and press conference will educate attendees about this issue of HIV in our Native communities,” stated Warren Jimenez (Chumash, Coastal Band), Executive Director of NNAAPC. “Throughout the nation, many Native communities will be holding local Awareness Day events and activities to elevate this issue.”

“This day brings out the strength of Native communities. It’s heartwarming to see how many Native communities kick off event all the way from New York to Hawaii! With this kind of enthusiasm, we can definitely make our communities healthier!” added Dr. Pamela Jumper Thurman, Director of the CASAE: Advancing HIV/AIDS Prevention In Native Communities Project (Western Cherokee).

“March 20, 2008 will be an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on our communities,” said John Lewis, Executive Director of Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. “Prevention is our best means to reduce and eliminate HIV/AIDS throughout Indian Country and beyond.”

In order to promote local Awareness Day activities, an interactive community events and activities map has been created. This map allows users to view information about upcoming NNHAAD community activities across Indian Country by simply scrolling over a red ribbon in their area and clicking on it. The map is available at the following link:

<http://www.nnaapc.org/news/nnhaadmap.htm>

About NNHAAD

The four seasons are highly respected in many cultures because they so closely represent the cycle of life. Spring represents a time of equality and balance. It is a time of profound change, new beginnings and birth. For these reasons, spring was chosen as the time to hold the National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Every ethnic and racial group in America has been affected by HIV/AIDS, but individual experiences, impacts, responses, and the legacy of the disease are distinctively different. This day is a day that brings national attention to the plight of Native communities and their struggles against the epidemic. We hope this date will raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among Native people—Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians. Protect our future! Protect our people! Celebrate life!

About NNAAPC

The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center(NNAAPC), located in Denver, CO, is a non-profit organization founded in 1987 to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through culturally appropriate advocacy, research, education, and policy development in support of healthy Indigenous people. NNAAPC provides capacity building assistance to tribal and urban health organizations and communities, community-based organizations serving Native people, and agencies that administer federal HIV/AIDS policy. Over the last 20 years, NNAAPC has conducted work in community mobilization, training and technical assistance in HIV/AIDS prevention, intervention and case management, communications and media development, outreach and recruitment, developing technologies with HIV applications, and forging a policy agenda that ensures the inclusion of Native people. NNAAPC is the only national HIV/AIDS-specific Native organization in the United States.

About CASAE

CASAE: Advancing HIV/AIDS Prevention in Native Communities is located on the Campus of Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado. With NNAAPC and ITCA, we comprise the National Native Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Network. CASAE provides support to mobilize Native communities in the development of effective prevention efforts and to increase testing and early detection of HIV/AIDS. CASAE utilizes the Community Readiness Model to assist communities with assessment and development of a Readiness Action Plan that is both culturally and community specific. CASAE staff developed the Community Readiness Model and has been providing TA/CBA services to Native communities on a variety of topics for over twenty years.

About ITCA

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.'s National STD/HIV/AIDS Prevention Program provides tailored Capacity Building Assistance to Tribes, Community-based organizations, State health departments, community planning groups (CPGs), tribal health consortia and coalitions, and individual planning group members to achieve and ensure parity, inclusion and representation (PIR) of American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiians (AI/AN/NH's) in HIV community planning through orientation, skills building for active participation, leadership development and consensus building.

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