



Dear Colleague:

The Native American Fatherhood & Families Association (NAFFA) has motivated and inspired Native Americans across the country, on reservations and in urban areas, to make permanent and radical changes in their lives. Individuals with long-standing histories of serious involvement in the criminal justice system have become stable, law-abiding, productive and contributing members of their families and communities. NAFFA offers a culturally rich, life-changing approach that has been strongly embraced by over 150 tribes and 12 Urban Indian Centers. Our curricula were developed by Native Americans for Native Americans. We have established ourselves over the past decade as a major resource in Indian Country, and we are now poised to become a strategic resource for non-Native agencies. Most notably, we have been successful in touching the hearts and minds of Native American men, a population widely known to be difficult to reach and engage. We invite and encourage you to learn about the significant role NAFFA has played in improving the lives of Native American men, women and families who are involved in the criminal justice system.

Criminal justice agencies across the country are working hard to develop and implement innovative evidence-based practices and interventions that effectively address unacceptably high recidivism rates among Native American men. All too frequently these men present with an extremely challenging combination of life circumstances including limited education and job skills, chronic unemployment, mental health and/or substance abuse issues, episodic violent behavior, multiple arrests and incarcerations, homelessness, dislocation from families and communities, and limited ability to adapt to the non-Native world. But there is hope and a solution. We have a proven track record of engaging and motivating Native American men who struggle with these complex and challenging life circumstances to transform their lives.

When compared to many other programs and interventions traditionally used in criminal justice systems, NAFFA's approach is distinguished by four critical features:

1. Participants passionately embrace our approach; are highly motivated to attend program sessions without coercion; are more likely to graduate from programs; and are more likely to apply the program's core concepts and principles in their everyday lives.
2. Our approach is based on a culturally rich model that recognizes family as the heart of Native American cultures.

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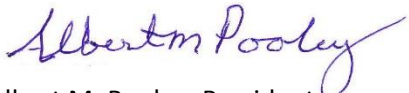
www.nativeamericanfathers.org ♦ info@aznaffa.org

3. Our approach is highly cost-effective and requires minimal time and expense to implement.
4. We have achieved significant outcomes. We have documented improvements in anger management, socially responsible behavior, employment, substance abuse and interactions with law enforcement. Most importantly, we have extensive anecdotal data from participants and NAFFA facilitators indicating substantial reductions in reoffending.

Please take a few minutes to learn about NAFFA and our work in a variety of environments by visiting our website at www.nativeamericanfathers.org. In the near future, our website will contain additional information specific to our work with criminal justice agencies. We are interested in hearing from you, learning about what you're doing in your agency and community to facilitate positive changes in the lives of Native Americans in the criminal justice system and discussing potential partnership opportunities with NAFFA.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything about NAFFA, please feel free to contact NAFFA staff Donn Flores (donnf@aznaffa.org) or Darlene Pelkey (darlenep@aznaffa.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Albert M. Pooley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Albert M. Pooley, President