



Dear Nonprofit Colleagues:

We would like to invite you and a board member to apply to participate in *Strengthening the Circle, a Native Nonprofit Leadership Program*. This is a yearlong nonprofit training program designed specifically for leaders of Native American nonprofit organizations. This program offers training in organizational development plus the tools, skills, and technical support to successfully develop and strengthen nonprofit organizations working in Indian Country. Hopa Mountain, Seventh Generation Fund, the Artemisia Associates, Indian Nonprofit Alliance, Wolfstar PR, and the Foundation for Community Vitality are cooperatively organizing Strengthening the Circle with support from the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation and the Northern Environmental Support Trust.

*Strengthening the Circle – A Native Nonprofit Leadership Program* aims to strengthen the capacities of experienced and emerging nonprofit organizations that respond to the needs of American Indian communities, especially those organizations serving youth and families or that involve youth in their programs on or near Indian reservations.

### **Program Goals**

- Build the capacity of Native non-profit organizations' staff, boards, and youth so that there are more resources, networks, and services for impoverished youth in tribal communities
- Reinforce knowledge among organizations about traditional ways of leading and governing
- Develop culturally appropriate training materials and support Native nonprofit training programs within Tribal Colleges to build the base of support available to Native nonprofit organizations
- Encourage more private foundations to support this vital work.

### **Program Description**

*Strengthening the Circle - a Native Nonprofit Leadership Program* will consist of a four-day workshop for twenty executive directors and a board member with follow up support between sessions. The workshop will take place in Bozeman, MT, April 20-23, 2010.

Each session will include four days of learning from seasoned practitioners and your fellow classmates. Participants will gain valuable tools, new ideas, and skills to:

- strengthen your organization to realize its full potential to serve others;
- develop your competence and capacity to lead an organization;
- further develop the capacity of your staff and volunteers;

- enhance your ability to work with a board of directors;
- enhance your fundraising skills and access to resources for your organization;
- improve your financial management skills; and
- build stronger, cooperative relationships among other tribal leaders and youth-serving organizations.

#### Who should attend?

- Native American nonprofit executive directors and a board member from this organization
- Tribal college program directors
- Tribal enterprise directors
- Tribal community organizers

It is important that a board member participate with each executive director.

#### Program cost

The program is fully sponsored so there is no direct cost to participate in the program. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the attached application and email it to [marissa.spang@hopamountain.org](mailto:marissa.spang@hopamountain.org).

Travel, lodging, instruction, and materials will be covered for applicants that are accepted into the program and are committed to attending both training sessions.

#### Follow-up Resources, Input, and Support

In addition to the four-day training session, each participant will receive:

- A Program Guidebook
- Resources for board development and tribal youth service program planning
- Eight hours of consulting or coaching
- Ongoing support through your peers

#### For more information

For more information about the upcoming program, please contact Hopa Mountain at (406) 586-2455. We look forward to talking with you. Thank you in advance for your interest in *Strengthening the Circle - A Native Nonprofit Leadership Program*.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer  
Executive Director

Marissa Spang  
Program Coordinator