



The Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Education Agency is looking for multiple independent contractors interested in the following:

Contract Opportunity 1:

- Cultural Advisors for culturally responsive program and curriculum advisement and development.

Cultural Advisors

Cultural advisors provide guidance to Tribal Education Agency staff on program and curriculum development, ensuring that activities undertaken by TEA programs are in alignment with the Board of Education's mission and vision. Activities and programs are designed to be culturally responsive to the cultures of our region's Native Americans. Ways in which programs and curriculum can be used in a culturally responsive manner include but are not limited to:

- Incorporating Native American languages (*specifically Yurok, Hupa, Karuk, Wiyot, and Tolowa*);
- Inviting participation of the Native community in the classroom;
- Incorporating traditional culture and spirituality;
- Combining traditional stories with activities to drive natural curiosity;
- Making sure Native peoples are discussed in the present tense: show the continuity of cultures represented with values, religions, morals, as an outgrowth of the past that is connected to the present;
- Not distorting history;
- Using positive role models with whom Native youth can identify;
- Trapping into students' prior knowledge, experiences, and community values to "hook" them and act as a bridge between the academic world and home life.

Lessons adapted by Cultural Advisors will be taught in local school classrooms by: 1) reflecting on the knowledge and cultures of tribal communities, 2) demonstrating, observing, and practicing skills, and 3) experiential learning challenges worked on with teachers, expert makers, parents, elders, and other tribal members. Activities and curriculum will run the gamut from traditional making to 21st Century technologies.

Contract Opportunity 1: Submission

Persons having questions about the contracting opportunity 1 shall submit their questions in writing via email to: TribalEd@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov . All questions will be responded to in writing. Emails should use the following description in the subject line: *RE: Contract Opportunity 1 Cultural Advising*

Submissions shall include:

- Resume or CV of independent contractor with references
- Availability of hours available for 2021

- Areas of expertise and interest in Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Native Languages

More Information about our Tribal Education Agency

The Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Education Agency is a member of the Center for Tribal Innovation and Entrepreneurship (C-TIE), a consortium of the Blue Lake Rancheria, Northern Humboldt Union High School District, Humboldt County Office of Education and College of the Redwoods. Programs created under the guidance of C-TIE provide culturally responsive makerspace programming for Native and non-Native youth in grades K-12.

Traditional Learning

Traditionally, indigenous people tended to be taught how to be or how to do something by going with elders and doing those things, learning by demonstration, observation, practice, and reflection. Youth learned by doing, failing, trying again, and ultimately succeeding. This is the same type of learning that can and does happen in makerspaces.

Focus on Student Interests

Following the philosophy of Big Picture Learning, which prioritizes relationship and real-work relevance in learning, letting students drive their academics based on individual interests. Contextualizing classroom lessons and building on students' prior knowledge and interests positively affects students' engagement and persistence toward achieving their goals.

In C-TIE programs, students will have opportunities to explore their interests, where they can set individualized learning goals, and incorporate learning about their native identities into their goals and into what they make. The idea is to give students voice to express their identities, to let them take greater ownership over the curriculum, and to allow them to bring their diverse individual experiences and interests into the makerspaces.

Connection to Tribal Communities

When school is connected and relevant to tribal communities, students are more likely to enjoy learning, to persist in their studies, and to graduate, after which they can find a job or move on to further educational opportunities. They graduate in part because they are more prepared and confident, more active members of their community(ies), and more knowledgeable about what it takes to achieve "success in both worlds".

Guiding Principles

C-TIE programs are guided by the belief that students do better when:

- Teachers and students work together,
- Lessons are connected to students' lives,
- Students are engaged in their work, and
- Dialogue and collaboration with peers is emphasized over lectures.

Trusting Relationships

Makerspace teachers and guest maker experts will make a big difference if they can create trusting relationships with students so they feel more comfortable sharing themselves and their creative ideas. The project-based, real-world learning provides promising avenues to engage and motivate Native youth for whom conventional education may not be working as well as desired.