

Proposal for:
Minnesota American Indian Curriculum Alignment, Development and Dissemination Project
Tribal Nations Education Council Curriculum Subcommittee and Friends
August 10, 2018

Vision Statement

Develop a sustainable system support to connect Minnesota students to the contributions of Minnesota American Indian Tribes and Communities. The goal is for Minnesota students to understand indigenous world views and values to create a respectful, balanced Minnesota culture and future.

Need

Minnesota currently has nearly seventy (70) state required academic standards with American Indian content and knowledge for across all grade levels K-12 in four subjects: Arts, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. This number is expected to increase as Minnesota statutes require that all standards writing efforts include consideration of contributions of American Indians to the subject area.

For the most part, Minnesota teachers do not have access to materials and lessons to teach these standards nor a deeper understanding of the importance of this learning. The MN Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC) and the MN Rural Education Association (MREA) American Indian Advisory Committee independently identified a critical need to develop and distribute accurate MN Tribal history and cultural curriculum and lessons for the state of MN.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is prohibited by law from developing or promoting specific curriculum. It is tasked with developing standards. The scope of this project is beyond the resources of any one school district or tribe to accomplish and yet too small a market to attract a commercial publisher.

Action Steps

1. Year 1: Make curriculum previously written aligned to Minnesota Standards and available to Minnesota school districts and teachers. Estimated Budget for Year 1: \$128,000
 - a. Assemble previously written MN curriculum resources, units and lessons
 - b. Assemble relevant curriculum and lessons from other states and sources
 - c. Vet these materials for continued accuracy
 - d. Secure copyright releases
 - e. Align with standards
 - f. Digitize the materials
 - g. Format for distribution through the Minnesota Partnership for Collaborative Curriculum (MPCC)
 - h. Communicate to MN School Districts that these materials are available

2. Year 2 and Subsequent Years: On-going curriculum and teacher development
 - a. Identify gaps and overlaps in previously written curriculum as compared to MN Standards and grade level appropriateness
 - b. Assemble previously un-gathered resources and primary source material to address gaps
 - c. Design a professional development institute for teachers which combines experiential adult learning of Minnesota American Indian History and Culture with collaborative curriculum writing and lesson development
 - d. Invite teachers from across Minnesota to this institute and conduct the Institute
 - e. Format curriculum and lessons developed in institute for distribution through MPCC
 - f. Network teacher participants with Tribal Nations representatives to continue the adult learning, relationships and to gather feedback on the effectiveness of the lesson designed
 - g. Repeat the Institute with modifications based on participant feedback