

The Educational Experience of Native Americans at Iowa State: Past, Present, and Looking into the Future

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PAST

(1879 - 2016)

Education ≠ Assimilation



Indian Termination Policy

“If you can’t change them, absorb them until they simply disappear into the mainstream culture. ...In Washington’s infinite wisdom, it was decided that tribes should no longer be tribes, never mind that they had been tribes for thousands of years.”

-Ben Nighthorse Campbell

Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

“Federal law that prohibits employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, and religion.”

Indian Education Act of 1972

“landmark legislation establishing a comprehensive approach to meeting the unique needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students”

Education Assistance Act of 1975

Tribal Colleges & Universities

The first TCUs opened during the civil rights movement due to the activism of that time.

TCUs enroll approximately **10%** of the **127,000** American Indian and Alaska Native students who pursue higher education.

Serve their communities by promote academic mobility, invigorate reservation economies, train new generations of tribal leaders, and revitalize tribal languages, cultures, and traditions



Minority Student Affairs (Multicultural Student Affairs
Indian Studies Program (American Indian Studies Program)
United Native American Student Association
American Indian Education Association
Indian Symposium and Pow-Wow
Indian Residence
Native American Cultural Center

PRESENT

Iowa State Enrollment

2015

Undergrad: 63

Professional: 2

Graduate: 12

Total: 77

2016

Undergrad: 70

Professional: 2

Graduate: 10

Total: 82

Hispanic or Latino of Any Race	17	1.9%	19	2.1%	17	2.2%	27	3.2%	29	3.3%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Two or More Races	5	0.6%	3	0.3%	6	0.8%	4	0.5%	9	1.0%
<i>Total Minority</i>	63	7.2%	75	8.1%	52	6.6%	69	8.2%	83	9.5%
White	571	65.4%	586	63.3%	501	64.0%	523	62.5%	504	57.4%
International	202	23.1%	225	24.3%	191	24.4%	219	24.9%	257	29.3%
Prefer Not to Respond	37	4.2%	40	4.3%	39	5.0%	26	3.0%	34	3.9%
Doctorate	358		376		349		347		321	
Black or African American	6	1.7%	9	2.4%	10	2.9%	11	3.2%	7	2.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Asian	3	0.8%	6	1.6%	5	1.4%	6	1.7%	7	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino of Any Race	10	2.8%	1	0.3%	4	1.1%	5	1.4%	9	2.8%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Two or More Races	0	0.0%	3	0.8%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	3	0.9%
<i>Total Minority</i>	19	5.3%	19	5.1%	21	6.0%	22	6.3%	27	8.4%
White	132	36.9%	165	43.9%	145	41.5%	125	36.0%	119	37.1%
International	182	50.8%	174	46.3%	162	46.4%	185	57.6%	161	50.2%
Prefer Not to Respond	25	7.0%	18	4.8%	21	6.0%	15	4.7%	14	4.4%
Veterinary Medicine	144		144		142		147		147	
Black or African American	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%
Asian	1	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	2.0%	2	1.4%
Hispanic or Latino of Any Race	6	4.2%	1	0.7%	2	1.4%	1	0.7%	4	2.7%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Two or More Races	1	0.7%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<i>Total Minority</i>	8	5.6%	3	2.1%	2	1.4%	5	3.4%	7	4.8%
White	123	85.4%	112	77.8%	129	90.8%	124	84.4%	128	87.1%
International	0	0.0%	2	1.4%	2	1.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%
Prefer Not to Respond	13	9.0%	27	18.8%	9	6.3%	18	12.2%	11	7.5%
Total	5,915		6,327		6,321		6,716		7,028	
Black or African American	120	2.0%	126	2.0%	128	2.0%	142	2.1%	145	2.1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	7	0.1%	8	0.1%	20	0.3%	6	0.1%	8	0.1%
Asian	176	3.0%	163	2.6%	141	2.2%	150	2.2%	183	2.6%
Hispanic or Latino of Any Race	164	2.8%	148	2.3%	171	2.7%	187	2.8%	245	3.5%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.0%	4	0.1%	5	0.1%
Two or More Races	23	0.4%	32	0.5%	48	0.8%	62	0.9%	112	1.6%
<i>Total Minority</i>	490	8.3%	477	7.5%	511	8.1%	551	8.2%	698	9.9%
White	4,593	77.7%	4,891	77.3%	4,809	76.1%	5,063	75.4%	5,222	74.3%
International	596	10.1%	698	11.0%	775	12.3%	843	12.0%	878	12.5%
Prefer Not to Respond	226	4.0%	261	4.1%	226	3.6%	259	3.7%	220	3.2%

Bachelors: 6, .1%

Masters: 0, 0%

Doctorate: 1, .3%

What factors contribute to low success rate of Native American students at ISU?

“There are no safe spaces”

“No inclusion”

“Even multicultural students orgs leave us out”

Native American students tend to feel isolated

Impacts performance significantly

Out of over **850** student organizations
on campus only **1** recognizes
Native Americans.

5 Faculty and Staff Diversity Networks

Newest addition:

American Indian Faculty and Staff Council

What are some misconceptions about Native Americans?

“That we all have full rides”

“All tribes are put into a mono-ethnicity”

“We’re all seen as the same”

Is Native American Culture well represented on campus?

“No representation”

“Not seen as equals”

“Voices are not heard”

FUTURE

1. Connect the university to the family and tribal community
2. Address financial needs
3. Provide students with mentors and counselors
4. Hire more Native American faculty and staff
5. (Re)Establish student organizations

“We have a responsibility to our Native students, to constantly learn and not let our ignorance paralyze us.”

-Adrienne Keene, NCORE 2015

QUESTIONS?

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