



The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



STAFF*

Deborah Parker (*Tulalip Tribes*)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Samuel Torres, Ed.D. (*Mexica/Nahua*)
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Stephen Curley, M.A. (*Navajo/Diné*)
DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL ARCHIVES

Lora Horgen (*Pawnee/Choctaw*)
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Iko'tsimiskimaki "Ekoo" Beck
(*Blackfeet/Red River Métis*)
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Jennifer Blevins, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

*As of December 31, 2021

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*for fiscal year 2020-2021

Letter from the Incoming President

Dear Relatives,

Sharing warm greetings and a blessed new year to you all. On behalf of the Board of Directors for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS), I am extremely thrilled to announce the appointment of Deborah Parker (Tulalip Tribes) to the position of Chief Executive Officer and Samuel Torres, Ed.D. (Mexica/Nahua) to the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer. These accomplished Indigenous leaders are key members of the NABS staff and are uniquely positioned and qualified to advance NABS's mission on a national scale. This is a truly exciting time to reaffirm our commitment to boarding school survivors and descendants for truth, justice, and healing.

Deborah Parker joined NABS as the Director of Policy and Advocacy in May of 2021 and had previously served to coordinate our 2019 2nd Annual Conference and help organize the "We Love You" Elders care packages for U.S. boarding school survivors and descendants. Deborah holds over 25 years of national and international legislative, policy, and advocacy experience. She served as the Vice Chair of the Tulalip Tribes and was the Executive Director of Residential School Healing in British Columbia, Canada. Deborah has also served as Government Affairs Senior Policy Analyst for the Tulalip Tribes and was the Director of Equity, Diversity, and Indigenous education in the Marysville school district in Washington. Deborah has been instrumental in passing state and federal legislation, including the Violence Against Women Act in 2013. She has been leading NABS's work in collaboration with the Department of the Interior's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative and advocating for a federal bill for a Congressional Commission on U.S. Indian boarding schools—introduced as H.R. 5444 and S.2907 in September 2021. With her years of experience in uplifting Native people, we know that Deborah will provide crucial leadership in the movement for boarding school healing.

Dr. Samuel Torres has been a fundamental part of NABS's team since 2019, when he joined our organization as the Director of Research and Programs. Samuel has a doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice from Loyola Marymount University and his work encompasses the impacts of colonization on historical and contemporary education methods, particularly the legacy of boarding schools. With his extensive experience as a researcher, writer, educator, and leader, Samuel holds a deep passion for decolonizing knowledge systems and centering ancestral knowledge and histories. Dr. Torres is making significant contributions to the boarding school healing movement leading teams of researchers to ensure the telling of the true history of boarding schools in the U.S. and uplifting the voices of survivors and descendants. Dr. Torres' leadership will be critical as we continue to educate and raise awareness.

Moving forward, I see this as a truly transformative time in the healing movement for boarding school survivors and descendants. We are inspired by our new executive leadership and incredible staff to bring about truth, justice, and healing, and look forward to engaging and being in community with you on this journey.

Warmly,

Sandra White Hawk
Incoming President, NABS Board of Directors

To learn more about the 2021-2022 Board of Directors, visit boardingschoolhealing.org/about-us



Programs and Accomplishments

Education

Educational resources about Indian boarding schools were more sought after this year than ever before. It was critical that we increased remote programming and virtual accessibility to NABS's resources to meet the increased demand for boarding school truth. For the first time, a digital version of our Healing Voices Vol. 1 publication, "A Primer on American Indian and Alaska Native Boarding Schools in the U.S." was made available on our website. Our other digital resources—the list of U.S. Indian boarding schools, recordings of NABS's webinars and presentations, and our Truth and Healing education curriculum—were downloaded or viewed thousands of times due to the increased interest in this research.

Our annual webinar series consisted of a four-part program with the theme of "Boarding School Healing: Mind, Body, Heart, and Spirit." Our guests explored emergent issues, such as:

- The grassroots Truth and Healing Movement and call for a Truth and Healing Commission,
- The repatriations that occurred at Carlisle Indian School Cemetery in summer 2021,
- The research involving unmarked graves and cemeteries at Indian boarding school sites in the U.S., and
- Indigenous mindfulness, traditions, and neurodecolonization methods for resilience and healing historical trauma.

Healing Through Indigenous Mindfulness and Neurodecolonization



An event for the 2021 NABS webinar series: Mind, Body, Heart, and Spirit

**Wednesday
June 15, 2021
6pm central**



Register for free at:
event.boardingschoolhealing.org



NABS staff members attended the Reservation Economic Summit in July to inform attendees of our programs and research.

The research team at NABS, consisting of staff members Samuel Torres and Stephen Curley, aided by summer interns as well as a team of seven contract researchers, have been diligently advancing the ongoing research efforts into U.S. Indian boarding schools. The development of these research projects will culminate in the release of the forthcoming Digital Map of Indian Boarding Schools in the U.S. and Canada with our partners at the National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation, as well as the first of its kind National Indian Boarding School Digital Archive (NIBSDA). NABS has also been working with the Department of the Interior on their boarding school investigation, sharing the research we've done over the last 10 years.

Advocacy

NABS's advocacy work reached a new level this year, with the addition of Director of Policy and Advocacy, Deborah Parker, coming on staff. NABS was in Washington D.C. when the Secretary of the Interior announced the Indian Boarding School Investigation in June 2021. NABS applauded Secretary Haaland for launching this long-overdue initiative.

NABS also worked with the National Indian Health Board to advocate for greater mental health supports for Indian Country. This resulted in a letter signed by 21 members of Congress in August to the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of the Interior calling for protections to be put in place for those who will experience trauma as further revelations emerge during the Department of the Interior's Federal Indian Boarding School Truth Initiative.

Over the summer, NABS consulted with tribal leaders, coalition members, survivors, and former TRC commissioners to inform the drafting of a bill for congress. We worked with U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D), Representative Sharice Davids (D), and Representative Tom Cole (R) to re-introduce the bill for The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies on September 30, 2021. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R) also introduced a resolution on that day for an official National Day of Remembrance in the U.S.

This bipartisan legislation would establish a formal five-year commission to investigate and document U.S. Indian boarding school policies and their impacts. This includes the federal government's attempted termination of cultures, religions, and languages of Indigenous peoples, assimilation practices, and human rights violations that occurred through the Indian boarding school policies. Most importantly, the commission would also collect testimony from boarding school survivors and descendants, and provide recommendations for healing from the historical trauma of the boarding school era.

**The Time for Healing is Now.
We Need a Truth & Healing Commission
on U.S. Indian Boarding Schools.**



Find out how to support the commission
boardingschoolhealing.org/truthcommission



Programs and Accomplishments (continued)

Healing



NABS staff traveled to Pine Ridge reservation in October 2021 for a demonstration led by the Oglala Lakota Youth Council at Red Cloud Indian School, formerly Holy Rosary Mission. The truth-telling efforts at Red Cloud are just one of many initiatives across the country to confront the truth about U.S. Indian boarding schools.

The events of this year showed us that there is still much unresolved grief around the historical loss and trauma of the Indian boarding school experiences. The need for healing and mental health support for boarding school survivors and their descendants has never been clearer nor more urgent. NABS has urged the federal government and Tribal Nations to act quickly to provide additional resources to our communities to foster healing from historical trauma, particularly as we grieve the announcements from our First Nations relatives in Canada and process our own experiences in the U.S.

We continue to uphold community-led and culturally-relevant healing and remain committed to providing and sharing healing resources as well as holding space to uplift the voices of those who suffered during their time in Indian boarding schools. We urge everyone to center the voices of survivors and descendants while being respectful of their wishes to share—or not—and to consider the mental health toll that comes with recounting these experiences.

As healing often comes with education and awareness, NABS was proud to launch the Boarding School Descendant Scholarship program in partnership with the American Indian College Fund. We raised over \$52,000 to fund 20 scholarships for boarding school descendants and received over 600 applications in the inaugural year.

This summer, NABS had the privilege and honor to provide support for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Unangan Alaskan Natives in the repatriation of their children buried at Carlisle Indian School Cemetery. We know that there is great healing in finally welcoming these children home.

Finally, NABS hosted our 2nd Annual Virtual Summit, Healing in a Time of Truth and Justice, in November. We expanded to two days this year and brought communities together virtually to hear from boarding school survivors, Indigenous researchers, advocates, and Native youth who are leading the movement for boarding school healing into the future. We will continue to work for boarding school truth, justice, and healing on behalf of survivors and descendants across the U.S.



HEALING IN A TIME OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE

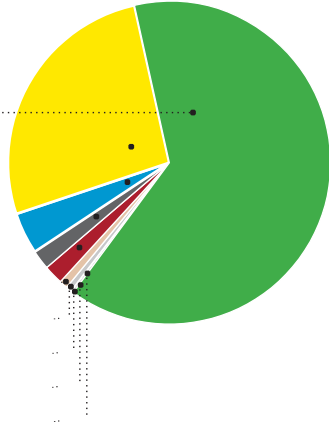
BOARDING SCHOOL HEALING VIRTUAL SUMMIT
NOVEMBER 19-20, 2021

Financials as of September 30*

2020

Source of Funds

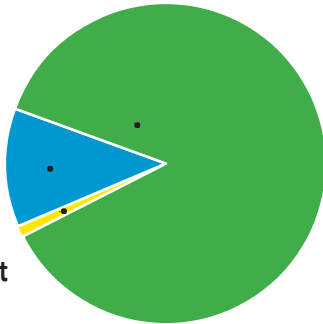
- \$1,230,198 Foundation Grants
- 514,643 Nonprofit Giving
- 84,700 Tribal Giving
- 37,981 Special Events
- 34,996 Religious/Civic
- 14,313 Individual Contributions
- 10,808 Earned Revenue
- 2,638 Interest Income
- 1,798 Merchandise Sales
- 275 Corporations



\$1,932,320 Total Funds

Use of Funds

- 87% Programs
- 12% Administrative
- 1% Fundraising

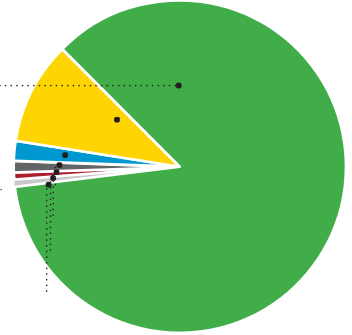


\$1,403,396 Total Spent

2021

Source of Funds

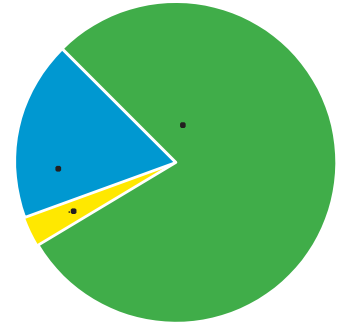
- \$1,525,780 Foundation Grants
- 177,159 Individual Contributions
- 33,002 Corporations
- 19,739 Religious/Civic Giving
- 12,258 Merchandise Sales
- 7,420 Earned Revenue
- 3,692 Interest/Other Income



\$1,779,050 Total Funds

Use of Funds

- 79% Programs
- 18% Administrative
- 3% Fundraising



\$1,379,306 Total Spent

2021 Funders and Contributors

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| American Endowment Foundation | NoVo Foundation |
| Better Way Foundation | Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church |
| Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends | Red Cedar Friends Meeting |
| Chapa-de Indian Health Program | Rochester Friends Meeting |
| Christ Church Cathedral | Sinsinawa Dominicans |
| Council on Library and Information Resources | The Kendeda Fund |
| Episcopal Diocese of NW Pennsylvania | The Oregon Community Foundation |
| Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration | United Parish in Brookline |
| Fursona Pins | Unity Church - Unitarian |
| LaxStraps | University of MN Human Rights Program |
| Haayk Foundation | W.K. Kellogg Foundation |
| Minnesota Humanities Center | Ways of Peace Fund |
| Native Voices Rising (Common Counsel Foundation) | |

Over 2,750 Individual Donors gave \$177,159!

THANK YOU!

National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

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The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization incorporated in June 2012 under the laws of the Navajo Nation.