
Photo credit: Adam Sings In The Timber
2019 has been a monumental year for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). In March, NABS convened a Leadership Planning Summit, bringing together leaders and visionaries consisting of board members, staff, partners, and several boarding school survivors. The summit was hosted in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, on the lands of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan near the site of the boarding school that once operated there, to develop a 10-Year Strategic Plan for NABS. Facilitated by Kauffman & Associates, Inc., the planning process produced a 2020-2030 plan that consists of four strategic pillars that will guide us in our work:

1. Initiate a global advocacy campaign
2. Embody indigenous healing practices and values
3. Expand the organizational infrastructure and network
4. Develop an accessible national education platform

Our Mission and Vision remain the same.

Vision: Indigenous cultural sovereignty.

Mission: To lead in the pursuit of understanding and addressing the ongoing trauma created by the U.S. Indian Boarding School policy.

NABS saw changes in staff during 2019. Recently, we welcomed to the team Stephen Curley (Diné) as Director of Digital Archives, Dr. Samuel Torres (Mexica) as Director of Research and Programs, and Vance Blackfox (Cherokee) stepped down from the Board to join NABS as Director of Communications.

Please take time to read this year’s annual report for more detailed information on NABS’s programmatic activities and financials over the past year. We are grateful for the support of our Coalition Members, Partners, and Funders. Together we will continue to bring education, advocacy, and healing to our communities across Turtle Island.

Sincerely,
Vance Blackfox, President of the Board, FY 2018-2019
Christine Diindiisi McCleave, Executive Director
Programs and Accomplishments

Education

NABS continues to lead the pursuit of understanding and addressing boarding school trauma in the U.S. with the creation of the National Indian Boarding School Digital Archives (NIBSDA). NABS hired a Director of Digital Archives and our first digital archive project will kick off in December 2019 with the Upper Sioux Community in Minnesota. The community partnership project will focus on the records of the Pipestone Indian Boarding School and is funded by the Minnesota Humanities Center.

In April 2019, NABS launched the first of its kind research study on Native American Child Removal in the U.S. in partnership with the University of Minnesota and the First Nations Repatriation Institute. The study will be an important part of our efforts to learn more about how boarding schools impacted rates of adoption and foster care in our communities and how these instances of child removal impacted health and well-being. The data we collect will be an important part of our efforts to spark a national conversation on these issues and cultivate opportunities for healing. It will help us continue to inform policy reform, best practices in social work and healthcare fields, and community-led healing initiatives.

NABS also continues to do independent research into boarding schools and its impacts. We will publish a report summarizing research to date in 2020.

Advocacy

In Spring of 2019, NABS filed a submission with the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID) detailing a number of children who were taken into federal custody and whose fate and whereabouts remain unknown to this day. The filing outlines how the U.S. has never acknowledged, accepted responsibility for, nor shown accountability for the many children that did not return home from federal Indian boarding schools. Our partners on the filing include the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and independent researchers.

NABS’s Executive Director also attended the 12th session on the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) at the United Nations in July and read an intervention to the EMRIP asking them to get involved in our filing to the UNWGEID on children who went missing at Boarding Schools. We also hosted an international panel on the need for boarding school acknowledgement and reparations by the U.S. government and included experts Heather White Man Runs Him from NARF, Andrea Carmen from IITC, Les Malezer from National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, and Former TRC Commissioner Chief Willie Littlechild from Canada.

Healing

In November 2019, NABS held its 2nd Annual Boarding School Healing Conference in Tulalip, WA. The conference theme was “Honoring Native Survivance” and was co-hosted by the Tulalip Tribes. As over 250 participants gathered from all over Turtle Island, we honored the sentiment expressed by Gerald Vizenor that “Survivance is more than mere survival—it is a way of life that nourishes Indigenous ways of knowing.” Boarding School Survivors, descendants, our children, and our allies gathered and shared testimony, tears, laughter, and songs. As Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart describes in the process of transcending historical trauma, the first steps are to confront and understand the trauma. NABS and our members and partners continue to pursue truth in history in order to confront the trauma created by the U.S. Boarding School Policy to ultimately support our own communities leading in the healing for our peoples.
Financials as of September 30

2018

Source of Funds

- $238,674 Foundation Grants
- 48,755 Special Events
- 15,555 Church Giving
- 10,196 Individual Contributions
- 9,041 Earned Revenue
- 6,500 Tribal Giving

Total Funds: $328,721

Use of Funds

- 85% Programs
- 12% Administrative
- 3% Fundraising

Total Spent: $383,840

2019

Source of Funds

- $314,200 Foundation Grants
- 26,532 Earned Revenue
- 21,349 Church Giving
- 16,768 Individual Contributions
- 15,882 Special Events
- 10,400 Tribal Giving

Total Funds: $405,131

Use of Funds

- 82% Programs
- 14% Administrative
- 4% Fundraising

Total Spent: $383,417

2019 Funders

Better Way Foundation
Boulder Meeting Society of Friends
Christ Church Cathedral
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Forest County Potawatomi Tribe
Interfaith Network for Indigenous Communities
 Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
Native American Rights Fund
Native Americans in Philanthropy
NoVo Foundation
Prairie Band Potawatomi
Prairie Island Tribal Council
San Manuel Tribe
The Kendeda Fund
The UTE Indian Tribe
Tulalip Tribes
Tzó-Nah Fund

Individual Donors gave $16,768!

THANK YOU!

2019 Partners

American Indian Catholic Schools Network
Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums
Association for American Indian Affairs
Dickenson College Digital Archive
First Alaskans Institute
First Nations Repatriation Institute
Genoa Indian School Digital Archive Project
Independent Indigenous Film and Media
International Indian Treaty Council
National Congress of American Indians
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Indian Education Association
Native American Rights Fund
Seneca Media & Communications Center
The Tulalip Tribes
University of Minnesota
University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program Tribal Justice Clinic


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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.