

Native American Studies/Blackfeet Language
Board Report March 21, 2019

On March 18, 2019 our BNAS staff conducted training to BPS faculty on IEFA. We primarily focused on the seven essential understandings of IEFA found on the OPI web page. We also included some points of emphasis that we, as a BNAS team, thought are important to keep in the consciousness of our schools. Those points being; #MMIW(G) (missing and murdered indigenous woman (and girls) is an important topic and we just want to make sure we keep those victims in our hearts and minds, hopefully by talking about it we keep our community aware of the MMIW(G), we brought up how Indian Women make more money than Indian Men (a statistic that all other ethnicities do not share in the US), that one of the top ten reasons for death for Reservation Peoples are domestic injuries, which shines a light on the attitudes and realities of health care in Indian Country, we mentioned that Blackfeet sacred lands are all within field trip distance, we wanted to emphasize that one does not need to leave the Reservation to be successful, that family values are utmost important for our people, that kindness and treating children with respect is an important cultural value for Blackfeet and that we must have empathy for our students and try to understand the lives and environments they all come from, and, lastly, we wanted to emphasize laughter as a major value for Blackfeet. Our team put together a Kahoot! test for the end of our presentations and we had very positive feedback. One of the major things we wanted to accomplish was to make the training and Kahoot! test enjoyable and funny. Overall, I believe our IEFA training was fun and effective.

I met with Stephany Vielle, who is the activities director for the tribe, and we, BPS, have been given the opportunity to organize and perform a 'cultural expression/presentation' during the half-marathon in the summer. This is also an opportunity to get our students community service. I will meet with her again to get more specifics and details.

Cut Bank Middle Schools Students Council contacted me and requested I help them with language materials. I think this is a great idea, I have tried to contact their school officials a few times but still have yet to have the phone answered, I will try again this week. I believe a cultural connection with Cut Bank is good for our Blackfeet Nation seeing that more and more Blackfeet are enrolled in Cut Bank Schools. Perhaps we can have our Student Councils meet each other.

Started Tuesday March 26, 2019 I will be hosting a language class from 4-5 (for staff and faculty) and from 5-6 (for the larger community). Classes will be held in BES with the blessing of Ms. LaFromboise.

We have been having NAS extended Wednesdays every Wednesday as well.