

PITAS

Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Arizona Schools

**Teaching and Learning
College of Education
Northern Arizona University**





NORTHERN ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY
College of Education



Principal Investigators



Dr. Angelina Castagno



Dr. Ramona Mellott

Cohort 1 Graduating in May 2024

- Funding Source: Arizona Department of Education

Cohort 2 graduating in May of 2025

- Funding Source: Arizona Governor's Office

Learning does not come from one source, nor is it best learned from behind a desk, hands folded, feet flat on the floor, and eyes front.

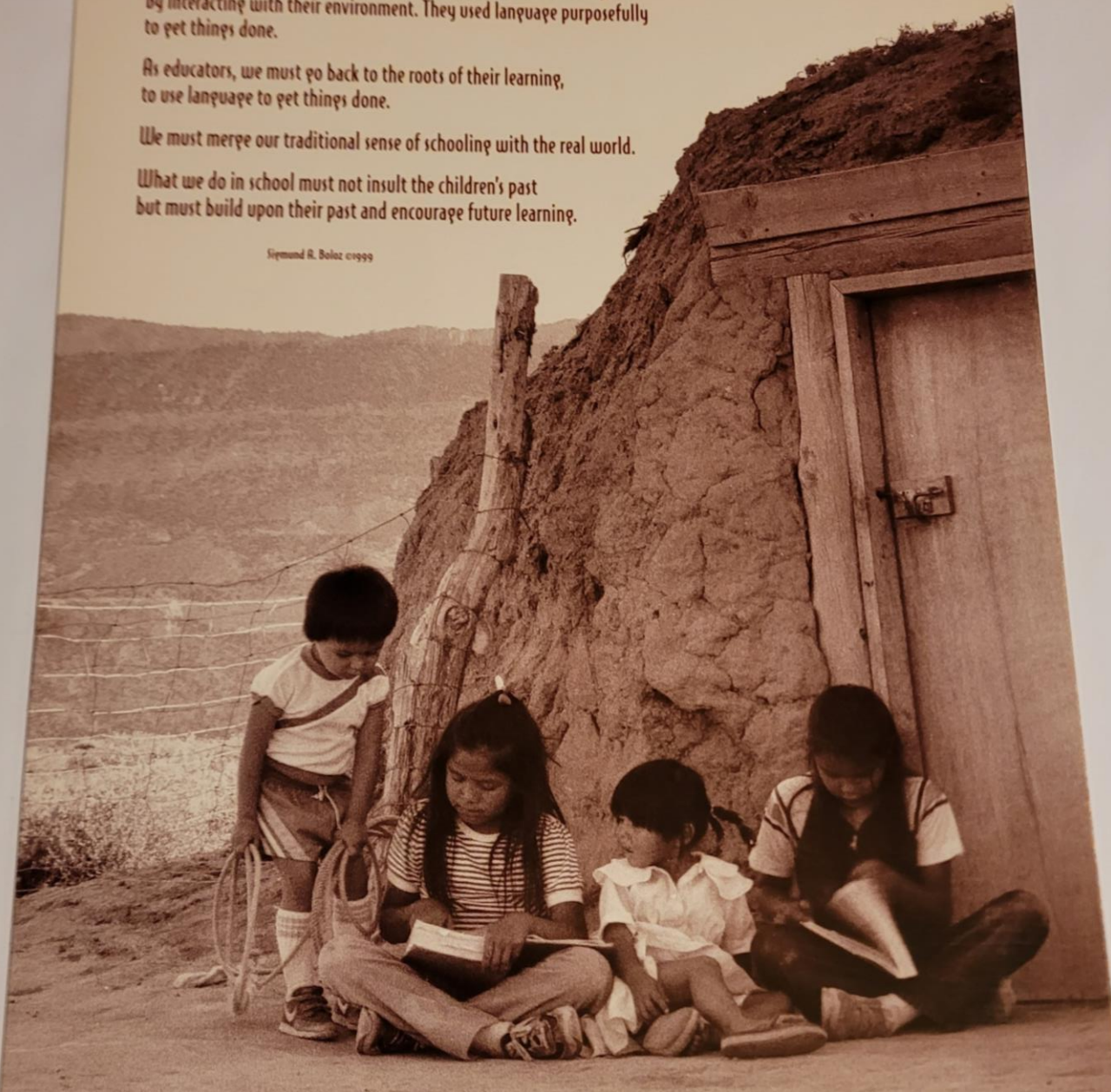
Before the children entered school, they learned language actively, by interacting with their environment. They used language purposefully to get things done.

As educators, we must go back to the roots of their learning, to use language to get things done.

We must merge our traditional sense of schooling with the real world.

What we do in school must not insult the children's past but must build upon their past and encourage future learning.

Seymour R. Boloz ©1999



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Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Arizona Schools (PITAS) is . . .



**designed for para-
professionals,
educational assistants,
and others in Native-
serving schools across
Arizona who want to
become certified K-8
teachers.**

**Persons who are already certified teachers are
NOT eligible**

Distribution of PITAS Students in cohort 1

Tribal Affiliations:

American Indian
Navajo
Hopi
Paiute
Gila River
Non-Native

Tribal Homelands In Arizona



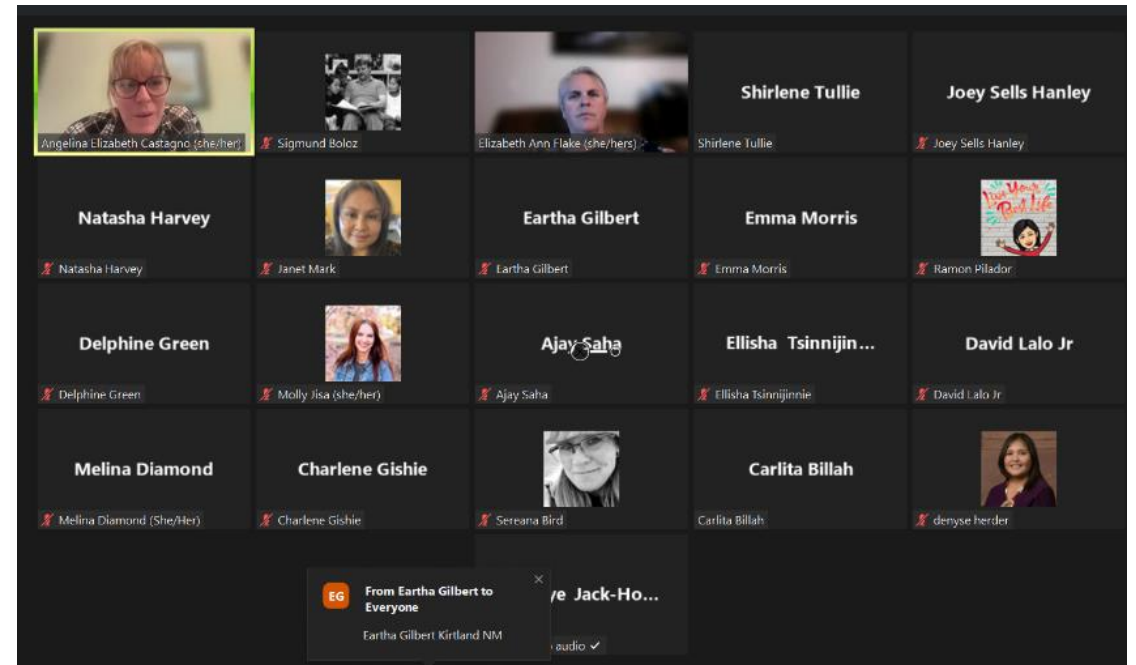
Stay in your Home Community

PITAS Scholars will earn either a bachelor's or master's degree in Elementary Education and be eligible for Arizona State teaching certification in **two years, while you stay in your home community and **continue working in your school**.**



Classes will be delivered in a hybrid format

Classes are delivered in a hybrid format that accommodates most work schedules;



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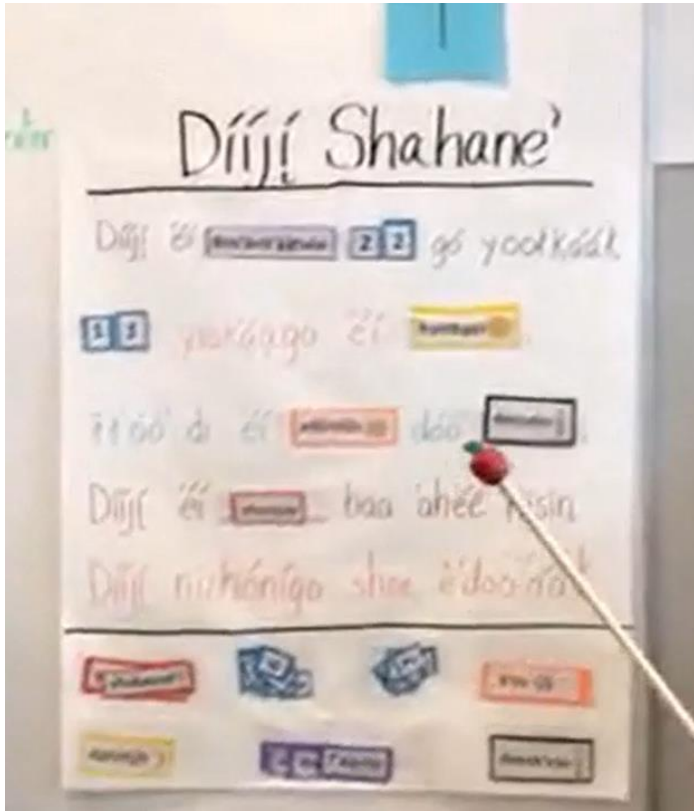
PITAS Scholars will participate in two-weekend community residencies and a summer residency at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.





Participants in Northern Arizona University's Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Arizona Schools program helped to facilitate a one-week camp for Indigenous youth in Flagstaff during the summer of 2023.

Northern Arizona University



One benefit is that the university classes are specifically embedded with culturally relevant practices and indigenous perspectives.

Cohort 2 Coming Soon!

The first PITAS cohort began in October 2022 and will end in June 2024.

WE ARE CURRENTLY RECRUITING FOR THE SECOND PITAS COHORT, which will begin classes in early October 2023, and graduate in May 2025!



Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Arizona Schools Information Sessions

Join us on Zoom to learn about this new NAU program to become a certified teacher in two years!

Open to para-pros, educational assistants, and others working in Native schools. All classes on Zoom, with occasional weekend and summer in person sessions.

You are eligible if you...

- Work as a para-pro, ed assistant, etc. in a Native-serving school
- Have 45 units of coursework (see website for more details) <https://in.nau.edu/ine/pitas-2/>
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Agree to be a teacher in an Arizona Native-serving school upon graduation

Benefits to participants include:

- All tuition and fees covered if participant applies for ATA funding
- \$800 stipend each semester
- Laptop
- Coursework that is tailored to Native-serving schools and culturally responsive approaches to teaching and learning
- Mentorship and support from dedicated staff and cohort peers

Register for one of these virtual info sessions

Date: Aug 30
Time: 5:30pm AZ Time
<https://bit.ly/AugPITAS>



Date: Sept 7
Time: 5:30pm AZ Time
<https://bit.ly/SeptPITAS>



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please see our website for full information about how to apply. Applications are due mid-September!

<https://in.nau.edu/ine/pitas-2/>

For help with the admissions process, contact: Molly_Jisa@nau.edu
602-298-4023

The Demand is High

We have had **over 100 persons** demonstrate interest in the **25 PITAS** scholar positions in the new Cohort this semester!



Arizona Teachers Academy



- PITAS scholars **receive a small stipend and laptop**. As an admitted student in the BSED/MED Elementary Education program, **you are eligible to participate in the Arizona Teachers Academy (ATA)** which will cover your tuition and mandatory fees after all other scholarships and gift aid are applied.

Three Primary Funding Support for Our Scholars

- *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA)*
- **Arizona Teachers Academy (ATA)**
- **Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Arizona Schools (PITAS)**



Complete the FAFSA Yearly

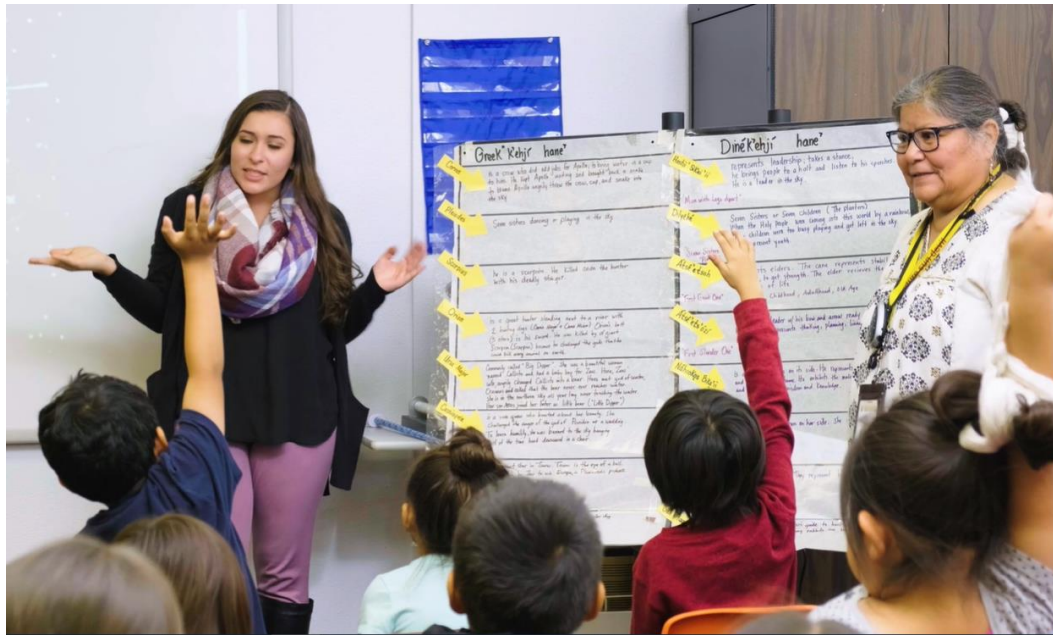
(Federal Application for Federal Student Aid)



To receive this funding, you must:

- complete a FAFSA every year,
- seek ATA support, and
- remain in good academic standing at NAU.

You must commit to Teaching in Arizona



As a result of receiving the ATA and PITAS funding, our scholars commit to teaching at an approved Arizona public, Arizona BIE, or Arizona Charter school **for the number of years you receive the funding.**

Eligibility criteria: Bachelor's Degree

Individuals working as Para-Professionals, Educational Assistants, etc. in schools on or bordering any of Arizona's 22 Native Nations are eligible if they have the following:

- 45 units of coursework
- ENG 105 or equivalent
- MAT 150 or equivalent
- MAT 155 or equivalent
- 2 lab science courses
- EDF 200 or equivalent
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Fingerprint clearance card



Eligibility criteria: Master's Degree

Individuals working as Para-Professionals, Educational Assistants, etc. in schools on or bordering any of Arizona's 22 Native Nations are eligible if they have the following:

- A completed bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
 - GPA of 3.0 = full admittance
 - Below 3.0 undergraduate gpa must petition the College of Education Admissions Committee to achieve conditional admittance with allowance to achieve 3.0 in graduate-level work with first nine (9) graduate credit hours
- College Algebra or equivalent with a minimum grade of C
- ENG foundation composition course(s) with a minimum cumulative English GPA of 3.0
 - If the English composition GPA is not 3.0, the applicant can complete one of the following NAU courses (or an advisor approved writing course) with a minimum grade of B: ENG 105, ENG 205, 210, 211, 220, 270, 302W or 310W.
- One lab science with a minimum grade of C
- A copy of IVP fingerprint clearance card



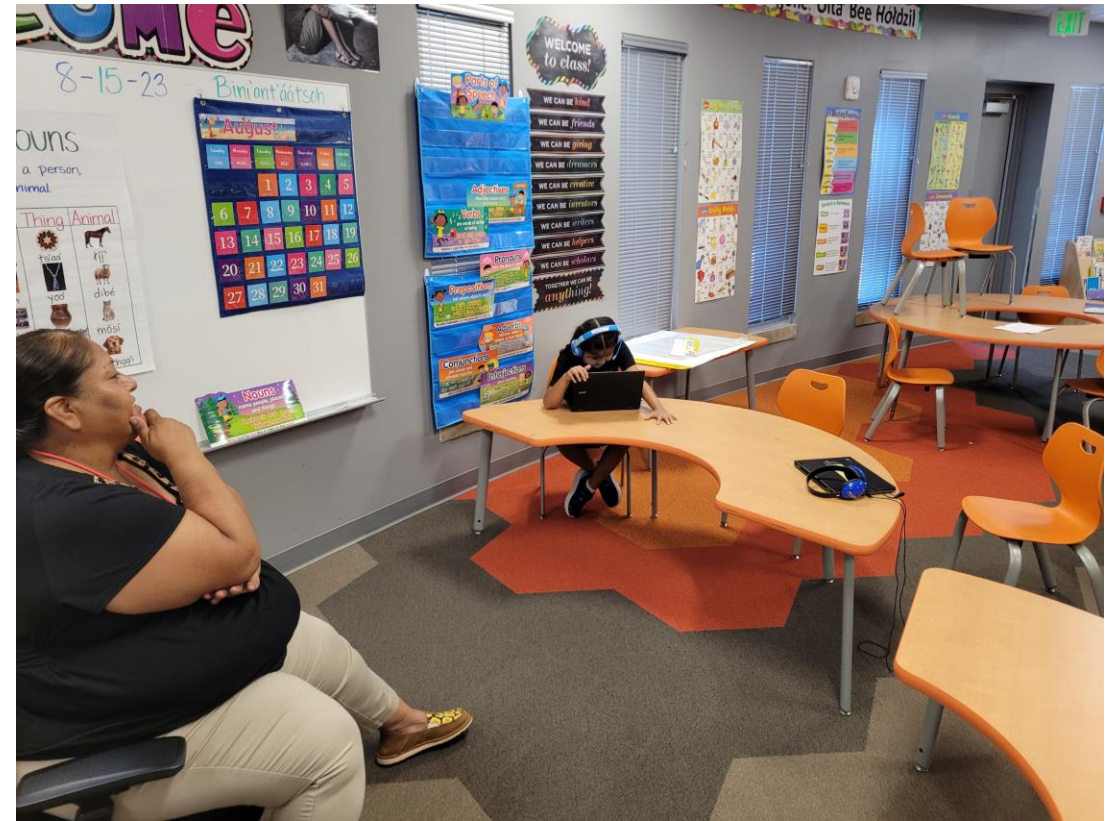
Benefits of program participation



- The program is designed for para-professionals and others working in Native-serving schools
- PITAS Scholars will remain in your community while completing your courses synchronously online (via Zoom)
- PITAS Scholars are eligible to apply for ATA funding, which covers tuition and mandatory fees after all other scholarships and gift aid are applied
- PITAS Scholars will receive a laptop and an \$800 stipend each semester
- All education classes will be taken with the cohort, and classes will be designed for relevance to teaching in Arizona's Native-serving schools
- Faculty and staff will provide mentorship and support

Student Teaching

Working with schools in their communities, PITAS scholars have the opportunity to complete their student teaching requirements in those same communities.



Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Arizona Schools (PITAS) has been a success. . .



As **21** of the original **25**
PITAS Scholars have
remained with the
program.

Teaching in Indigenous Communities (TIIC) Certificate

Developed by the College of Education and Applied Indigenous Studies

Starting Fall 2023

Are you interested in teaching in and partnering with Indigenous communities?

If you are interested developing understandings around reciprocity, cultural responsiveness, and building meaningful relationships with and in Native communities, the Teaching in Indigenous Communities (TIIC) certificate is for you! This program is open to all undergraduate students, regardless of your degree plan. The TIIC certificate requires 18 credit hours of specialized coursework. Most of this coursework is already required of students in the Elementary Education, Special Elementary Education, and Special Early Childhood Education programs, making the TIIC certificate a nearly seamless addition to these programs.

Students completing the Teaching in Indigenous Communities (TIIC) certificate will:

- Understand the history of American Indian education in the U.S.
- Know and be able to apply core concepts of Indigenous education including the importance of reciprocity and community.
- Recognize the unique assets of Indigenous schools and consider how to center those assets in teaching and learning approaches.



The table to the left shows the courses required for the TIIC certificate. In years 3 and 4, students will complete an experiential one-credit course along with two courses which are designed TIIC sections. This experiential course plus the two TIIC courses will enhance both students' knowledge by allowing students to apply what has been learned in the classroom to Indigenous contexts.

	Term	Course (Units)
First 2 Years	Fall	AIS/BME 260 (3)
	Spring	Elective (3)
Year 3	Fall	EPS 340 (3) and EPS 346 (1)
	Spring	EDF 301W (3) and EDF 346 (1)
Year 4	Fall*	ECI 321 (3) and ECI 346 (1)
	Spring*	ESE 420 (3) and ESE 346 (1)

*In year 4 you may choose to take either the fall or spring course, as required by your major.

** The EPS, EDF, ECI and ESE 3-credit courses will have a special section for the TIIC program.

NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

College of Education

Contact us

Institute for Native-serving Educators

928-523-2507 | NativeServingEducators@nau.edu

College of Education

928-523-7139 | COE-Dean@nau.edu

nau.edu/ine | nau.edu/coe

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**For help with the admission process,
contact:**



Enrollment and Student Services

Molly Jisa

Student Development Coordinator, Sr.

📞 602-298-4023

✉️ Molly.Jisa@nau.edu

💻 nau.edu/statewide-campuses/

**For help with the admission process,
contact:**



College of Education

Dr. Sigmund A. Boloz

PITAS Anchor Faculty

928-523-8562

Sig.Boloz@nau.edu