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DIVERSITY—UI Extension helps three Idaho tribes unravel probate; learn AIPRA rules

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IN 1906 THE FEDERAL government allotted each member of the Coeur d'Alene tribe 160 acres of land. Since then, land ownership has become increasingly complicated and murky. (See www.indianlandtenure.org/ILTFallotment/FAQs/faqsI.htm#impacts).

"Now allotments have many owners. I know of one with 300 co-owners," says Laura Laumatia, UI Extension educator on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, which means one owner must get written approvals from at least half of the other owners before doing anything with the land. Such issues are common among all Idaho and other Native American tribes. In 2006 the federal American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA) provided criteria for Indian people to inherit trust land either with or without a will.

UI Extension members have collaborated with tribal agencies and attorneys to provide education about AIPRA at Idaho's Fort Hall, Nez Perce, and Coeur d'Alene reservations. Marilyn Bischoff, Boise, UI Extension family economics specialist, partnered with Montana State's Marsha Goetting to get a USDA Risk Management Agency grant to fund probate education. Results can be found in 14 fact sheets describing important aspects of the act at the URL above. Other actions:

- **Information distribution:** At Ft. Hall, where the UI Extension AIPRA program began, Danielle Gunn, UI Extension educator, has handed out 200 packets and had a total of 746 contacts with tribal members. Packets have been distributed to tribal offices, businesses, and through the mail at all three reservations.
- **Articles:** 13 AIPRA-related articles were published in the Shoshone-Bannock newspaper and the Fort Hall Agricultural Extension Newsletter
- **Seminars:** 19 seminars were held at the Fort Hall, Nez Perce, and Coeur d'Alene reservation, with nearly 200 tribal members participating; Gunn made four formal presentations to more than 130 participants at Fort Hall.

After the seminars, many program participants made attorney appointments to write wills. In post-seminar evaluations, one Fort Hall participant said, "I got nervous when I heard about AIPRA, and I made a legal will." A Nez Perce attendee called the seminar "Very informative—I learned much... it gave me information to pass on to my children."

Honing cultural competence on UI campus

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"I WAS GYPPE" or "She's not playing with a full deck" are common things we say that could be misunderstood by others.

Respectively, these phrases insult the gypsy culture and people with mental disabilities.

A University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) initiative aims to increase cultural competency of faculty and staff through training. "People I've talked to since they took the training are more aware of things they say," said Charity Buchert, college personnel and diversity coordinator.

The University of Idaho is one of 14 uni-

versities nationwide that formed the Change Agent States Consortium to provide education to smooth gaps among cultures and avoid inadvertent conflicts.

The program's goal is not so much political correctness as it is ensuring that ignorant comments do not gum up the mutual respect essential to any productive workplace, said Buchert. Idaho employees who take Navigating Differences training this spring will train others in the college and throughout the university. "Our ultimate goal is to have everyone in the college, at least, trained in cultural competencies," Buchert said.

No horse? No worry. Tribal members learn leadership on 4 legs

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THE FIRST YEAR of a University of Idaho Extension basic horsemanship program on the Nez Perce Reservation attracted 75 participants ages 3 to 66 who wanted a chance to learn the basics about horses.

The program helps participants safely handle horses, build their self-confidence, and develop skills in leadership, communication, and teamwork, said Valdasue Steele, UI Extension's educator on the Nez Perce Reservation at Lapwai.

Steele shared her own horses with those eager for the program who didn't have a horse. She hopes that the experience, knowledge, and skills participants learn in the horsemanship program will help them in other areas of their life.

"If you can get a 1,000-plus-pound horse to follow your lead and you can control the horse, it will likely prepare you to handle some of the things that life throws at you," Steele said. Steele hopes future programs will include University of Idaho credit.

DID YOU KNOW?

26%

THE PERCENTAGE OF IDAHO INDIAN TRIBE RESIDENTS AGE 25 OR OLDER (1,058 OF 4,086 IN THAT AGE RANGE) WHO DID NOT HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IN 2000; IN 1990, 36% OF 3,320 PEOPLE AGE 25 OR OLDER LACKED A DIPLOMA.

*Source: <http://www.indicators.nwaf.org/>