

## Native American Community Academy Foundation

**Kara Bobroff**, NISN Executive Director and NACA Founding Principal

Phone:

Email: [kbobroff@nacaschool.org](mailto:kbobroff@nacaschool.org)

**Address:**

1000 Indian School Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

**Turning the Page on Indigenous Education through the NACA-Inspired Schools Network**

**Proposed Initiative:** Native American Community Academy (NACA) Foundation will use funding for dissemination of a successful education model for Native American education, re-envisioning historical Indigenous education with community-based, culturally-integrated curriculum strongly aligned with rigorous Common Core standards. NACA is a 6-12 grade public charter school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, highly rated by the New Mexico Public Education Department, and realizing significant success in improving academic proficiency and college-preparedness among its primarily Native American, low-income student population. Of the student body, 75% have parents who have not attended college, yet 100% of the past four graduating classes have been accepted into a college program, and 83% have immediately enrolled. To expand on this success, the NACA-Inspired Schools Network (NISN) emerged out of community collaboration and a three-year pilot period, committed to establishing schools in high-need, under-performing Native American communities.

**Goals:** (1) Create “Proof Points” by growing the number of high-performing schools offering integrated Indigenous education that meet Common Core State Standards; (2) Disseminate teacher training and information for culturally relevant curricula and methods to ensure teachers, administrators, and policy makers are armed with the content, background, and guidelines needed to provide high-quality, Indigenous education of excellence for Native American students; and (3) Increase options for community-determined schools that are reflective of Native American culture and learning styles, and of community needs and desires for education.

**Expected Outcomes and Contributions:** (1) NISN will develop schools that outperform peer schools in the district and will prepare students for success in college, careers, and their communities; (2) NISN schools will model cultural responsiveness with 90% of families participating in annual surveys and with 90% or more indicating satisfaction; (3) Capture materials created by NISN member schools in an Online Curriculum Hub to facilitate the dissemination of data and leading practices, demonstrate customization for different geographical areas and needs, and grow the body of practitioner knowledge around effective instructional practices; (5) Recruit and support three to six highly experienced educators each year of the grant period for an NISN Fellowship, committing to a three-year term of community dissemination and intervention; (6) Host an annual NISN Convening in 2016 and 2017, attended by NISN administrators, Fellows, and all active or potential communities’ school administration to share best practices and trouble-shoot obstacles; (7) Engage at least 200 community members annually in focus groups, forums, and events to identify the strengths, resources, needs, and desires of each community; and (8) Incubate the launch of two new schools each in 2016 and 2017 in communities with large Native American populations and underperforming schools.