RETHINKING THE WARRIOR TRADITION

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For generations in order to survive, Indian people held fast to their long-cherished Warrior Tradition, courageous deeds in battle, best exemplified by the qualities of strength, honor, pride, perseverance, and wisdom. Today, however, books and learning have replaced the bow and arrow as the most effective weapons for survival in the contemporary world.

Since 1880, Bacone College has been in the forefront of efforts to assist Native students in meeting modern challenges through higher education. For 135 years, young Native men and women who have come to our historic campus to participate in this new battle in the classroom rather than on the battlefield, have returned home with experiences and skills that have helped them realize their destinies as valued members of their respective societies.

Education planning at Bacone provides opportunities for young academic warriors to return to their communities with productive job skills, broadened horizons, improved life choices and prospects, as well as cultural self-fulfillment.

The Center for American Indians works to promote both academic excellence and social well-being for our Native students. Through programs and activities founded on traditional values and the promotion of healthy lifestyles, we seek to minimize the common transitional difficulties Indian students often face away from home for the first time. At CAI, our greatest mission is to help our American Indian Students rethink the Warrior Tradition and realize their greatest potential by supporting their academic endeavours and cultural integrity.

CAI Services Include:

- Academic Advising
- Scholarship Assistance
- Academic Monitoring, Evaluation, and Assistance
- Peer Support and Networking
- Talking Circles
- Social Activities and Fellowship
- Community Service Opportunities
- Culture Clubs
- (Arts & Crafts, Stickball, Storytelling, Tribal Language, Song & Dance, and more)

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES?

At Bacone, our goal is to educate for the future, and American Indian Studies is one of our premiere programs. History and culture are the underlying roots of all Bacone AIS courses. A degree in AIS is excellent preparation for work in tribal government, education, human services, health care, law and enforcement, environment and resource management, and in many other areas. AIS courses also place emphasis on empowering critical thinking and effective writing, making AIS graduates better prepared for a multitude of jobs in tribal communities. These kinds of skills also prove beneficial in fields such as teaching, archiving, cultural resource and corporate managing, community planning, legal researching and lobbying, legislating, and much, much, more!

Why is the Study of American Indian History so Important?

Every issue, problem, or concern of Indians and tribes has an important history. Investigating the stories and events that influenced particular regions, civilizations, and people, provides critical insights that can benefit Native communities in a variety of ways.

Knowledge of American Indian History has proven to be especially critical for tribes and their members in pursuit of language and cultural preservation, as well as in federal, civil, and tribal rights, justice, and legislation. Native history also helps bring the experiences and voices of our ancestors and elders to the forefront for the empowerment of future generations. It can also make a substantial contribution to the ongoing work of community building. Historical research, combined with tribal and family oral history leads to a more complete understanding of the rich diversity of native cultures in both ancient and contemporary times.

Researching the past can provide a lens through which we may recognize current patterns in seemingly unrelated events. Such perspectives can assist communities in making more intuitive observations for solving problems and making more appropriate decisions and recommendations in current and future tribal matters.