



10th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum

St. Paul, Minnesota

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Presented by the National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center

**PROPOSAL DEADLINE:
Monday, February 9th, 2015 (5pm EST)**

Back to Our Futures: Re-Searching for Justice

Theme: On the 10th anniversary of the Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum, we will explore the ways our communities can draw on our cultural roots to build a more just vision for our futures:

- How do our cultural origins guide us as we work to modernize the federal trust relationship?
- How do our cultural values ground us as we grow our economies, work to keep our communities safe, enhance or plan to develop natural resources, initiate new approaches to tribal enrollment, and come to understand what it means to participate as active tribal members?
- How can research strengthen justice for, with, and by Indigenous peoples? How can we use research to build a stronger platform for trust and justice in the future?
- Whether through the promotion of Native languages, traditional ecological knowledge, or restorative justice and peacemaking, how have research and practice made the case for cultural renewal as good governance for the next generation?
- How do the cultural traditions of Native communities inform other local and global efforts – how is the exercise of tribal sovereignty good for all?

This year we are soliciting two types of proposals: 1) typical Conference Proposals; and 2) Concept Paper Proposals.

Conference Proposals: Participants can submit conference proposals to present using one of the following formats, including:

- **Individual Paper** proposals: Proposals feature insights from a research or policy paper that has significance to the Forum theme. Selected proposals will be grouped as part of a panel by the NCAI reviewers.
- **Panel** proposals: Proposals can include up to four presenters discussing a topic of significance to the Forum Theme from different regional, institutional, disciplinary, or policy perspectives. Presentations should feature research and data, discuss key links between research and policy, and/or advance policy discussions by using research and data. This format is different from the ‘Individual Paper’ proposal format because presenters propose a pre-formed group of panelists rather than have NCAI arrange the panel from separate proposals. It is important that proposals aim to coordinate panelists from different tribes, geographic regions, institutions, disciplines, or policy perspectives.

- **Poster** proposals: Proposals can highlight completed or ongoing research with significance to the Forum theme. This format is most suitable for students, colleges and universities, and community programs to share information with tribal leaders and citizens on their efforts and programs.

Concept Paper Proposals: Beyond soliciting traditional conference proposals that explore and demonstrate the role of our cultures in community planning and development, we are also soliciting proposals for brief concept papers that propose provocative ideas for community development and use culture as a foundation. These papers can propose a new model of federal funding, a new method for coordinating across communities, insights about how to develop mechanisms to improve tribal-state relations, or a new policy advocacy approach, amongst others.

Proposals should be submitted via email to Joel Chastain at jchastain@ncai.org by 5pm EST on Monday, February 9, 2015.

Click [here](#) to access the Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum page, where you will find the proposal template, guidelines for presenters, and an overview/history of the event.

*Help us look back to our futures as we celebrate the
10th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum!*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What Is the Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum? The Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum (‘the Forum’) provides a space for tribal leaders and citizens, researchers, and community organizations to discuss how to strengthen public policy and community-based initiatives based on meaningful data and research. The Forum aims to generate *strategic* and *impactful* research that benefits Native communities and centers Native cultures.

Who Can Present? The Forum has featured work by tribally-based researchers, community members using program or other data to advance policy or develop research projects, university-based researchers, students, and tribal leaders. We welcome those with a demonstrated commitment to Native people whose insights can inform the development of effective policy and meaningful research.

What Else Do I Need to Know? The Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum will take place in St. Paul, Minnesota, on **Tuesday, June 30th, 2015**, at NCAI’s Mid-Year Conference. While students are encouraged to submit proposals, unfortunately at this time there are no NCAI scholarship funds to support their travel or costs. Selected presenters may be asked to participate in teleconferences before the conference to coordinate with others and receive support from NCAI staff about how best to prepare a presentation for tribal leaders. Selected presenters will be asked to submit final papers, poster files, and/or PowerPoint presentations to NCAI electronically by 5pm EST on Tuesday, June 16th, 2015, to post for Forum attendees.