Filling the Pipeline

Tribal In-House Counsel Association
Indigenous Law & Policy Center

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NNABA Report: “The Pursuit of Inclusion”

• Four key findings:
  1. Extraordinary complexities
  2. Unique pipeline challenges
  3. Professional development challenges
  4. Personal satisfaction, inclusion, & alienation
NNABA Report: “The Pursuit of Inclusion”

• Demographic disparity:
  • 1.6% of the population
  • 0.3% of lawyers
Pipeline Strategies

• Minneapolis All Nations high school Indian law moot court program
• Mitchell Hamline School of Law Gateway to Legal Education pre-law program
Pipeline Strategies

• MSU College of Law Indigenous Law & Policy Center Student Success Program
• New Mexico Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program
Minneapolis Public Schools
All Nations Moot Court Program
All Nations Moot Court
Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Gateway to Legal Education
Mitchell Hamline School of Law

• Tradition of nontraditional education
  • Nights and weekends
  • Online/hybrid learning

• Commitment to inclusion
  • Students of color are 28% of incoming class
  • Among 2018-19 1Ls, second-highest enrollment of indigenous students in the country
MHSL Gateway to Law Program

• MHSL partners with undergraduate institutions with high percentages of POCI students, Pell Grant recipients, first-generation college-goers

• All tribal colleges and universities are eligible partners
MHSL Gateway to Law Program

• Deliver online pre-law curriculum to target undergraduate institutions
  • Introductory legal education
  • Health law
  • Federal Indian law (in progress)
• Paired with law student/lawyer mentor
Gateway Program Online

Curriculum & Instruction

No cost to college/university

Standard tuition

Credit hours toward degree
Gateway Program Online

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No cost to college/university

Standard tuition

Credit hours toward degree
MHSL Gateway to Law Program

- Weeklong onsite summer immersion program for students
  - Program and travel scholarships available
  - Mock classes
  - Reduced-cost LSAT preparation
  - In-person mentorship
  - Encourage law school interest and accessibility
MSU College of Law
Indigenous Law & Policy Center
Student Success Program

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Program Creation

- Identify goals
  - **Mashkawendami**: Giving someone a strong resolution, letting someone think firmly (empowerment)
- Dialog with key staff and faculty
- Find and reserve time and space
- Create a syllabus and handouts
- Ensure student confidentiality
Program Syllabus

1. Skills
   - Note taking, case briefing, time management, revision

2. Content
   - Civil procedure, contracts, torts

3. Questions
   - Q&A, peer-to-peer mentoring

4. Study / Community Hall
   - Reserved space for studying and community building
Other Components

• Presence
• Reaching out
• Deadline calendaring
• Creative problem solving
• Unique second-semester considerations
• Consistency in messaging and programming
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