



NCAIED, NIGA Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Further Advance Economic Development in Indian Country

First collaboration will promote the enhanced Native Edge online platform

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) and the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance each organization's broader goals: fostering economic development opportunities, as well as workforce development initiatives and training programs for Tribes, Tribal enterprises and American Indian entrepreneurs. In the immediate term, NIGA will help promote NCAIED's revamped Native Edge; the online business training, networking, employment and development ecosystem built to give American Indian entrepreneurs and business owners, corporations, and tribally owned businesses an "edge" in all aspects of business.

"The MOU is a groundbreaking development for two organizations that care deeply about advancing the economic interests of American Indians," said Gary Davis, President and CEO of NCAIED. "We look forward to working with NIGA, and combining our resources to give Indian Country the tools it needs to succeed in business and entrepreneurship. Specifically, NCAIED believes NIGA will be a tremendous help to boost the reach and impact of the Native Edge – the unprecedented tool that we hope changes the way Indian Country does business."

"Though NIGA and NCAIED have enjoyed a close relationship over the years, this MOU will solidify and strengthen our relationship – and Indian Country will see the benefits," said Ernie Stevens, Jr., Chairman of NIGA. "We are particularly excited about what our involvement with NCAIED will mean for the Native Edge, and encourage all of our members to support and participate in this innovative new online platform."

Launched earlier this year, the Native Edge has recently changed its membership structure, and now offers more of its services for free to anyone who is interested. This will allow all of Indian Country the chance to network, as well as see the jobs posted on the Native Edge.

Basic Membership includes:

- Access to the **N2N Edge Community**: where Indian Country networks online for business. Native Edge members have a variety of interactive and social capabilities to communicate with other members of the Native Edge community, including Native Edge Member Groups, the Native Edge business directory and member timeline status updates.
- Access to view/respond to jobs posted in the **Hire Edge**: a workforce development tool providing the ability for Native American professionals seeking employment and internship opportunities to post their resumes; and respond to job postings from industry-leading companies looking to hire qualified Native Americans.

Premium Memberships are unchanged, and available for \$24.99 per month (2 months free with full year membership), and include everything in a basic membership, plus:

- Ability to post jobs in the Hire Edge.
- Ability to search Federal RFPs and search and post private RFPs in the **Procurement Edge**: an online meeting place for Native American-owned businesses, corporations and federal agencies seeking Native American suppliers.
- Full access to the **Training Edge**: provides premium members online access to a fully interactive video training library designed for business development. The Training Edge also provides members access to "RES On Demand" videos of sessions recorded at NCAIED's national and regional Reservation Economic Summit (RES) events.

For more information about the Native Edge or to sign up, please visit www.nativeedge.com.

Beyond promoting the Native Edge, the MOU will help each organization better collaborate through improved communication, increased participation in each other's events and programs, and enhanced marketing and promotion.

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About NCAIED: *The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. With over 40 years of assisting American Indian Tribes and their enterprises with business and economic development – we have evolved into the largest national Indian specific business organization in the nation. Our motto is: "We Mean Business For Indian Country" as we are actively engaged in helping Tribal Nations and Native business people realize their business goals and are dedicated to putting the whole of Indian Country to work to better the lives of American Indian people- both now... and for generations to come.*

About NIGA: *The National Indian Gaming Association is a nonprofit trade association comprised of 184 American Indian Nations and other nonvoting associate members. The mission of NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian people - economically, socially and politically. NIGA operates as a clearinghouse and educational legislative and public policy resources for tribes, policymakers and the public on Indian gaming issues and tribal community development.*