

Outstanding WIOA Section 166 Grantees and Chief's Award

Outstanding 166 Grantees

Alu Like, Inc. – A community-based non-profit Native Hawaiian organization. They have been providing services since 1975 to assist Native Hawaiians in their efforts to achieve social and economic self-sufficiency. They are a statewide system consisting of a network of Island offices located on Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i and O'ahu with their central offices located in Honolulu. Over 1,500 individuals are served annually through their workforce development programs. They were selected as an outstanding grantee because of their commitment and flexibility to provide quality employment and training services.



In Program Year 2020, during the pandemic, the program successfully implemented remote work and established virtual platforms to recruit, enroll and serve the Native Hawaiian community. This past year, Alu Like served a total of 488 youth by providing outdoor work experience and online workforce preparation and career exploration coursework called Dream Navigator. Alu Like's WIOA employment rate in the second quarter after exit is 75% – this exceeds nationally recommended goals.

Alu Like's staff rose to the challenge of continuing services during the pandemic. Their commitment and dedication provided much needed services to their community during uncertain times. The staff and Board at Alu Like continue to work together and create service delivery to achieve a better tomorrow for the Native Hawaiian community.

United American Indian Involvement – UAI serves American Indians/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians residing in Los Angeles and Orange counties, and was recognized for making great strides in successfully implementing a workforce development program to one of the largest urban areas in the United States. They have four locations serving their large service area 1) Downtown Los Angeles Office, 2) Santa Anna Office, 3) Cerritos Office, 4)



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Orange County Partner Organization, the Walking Shield. In Program Year 2020, UAll enrollments increased despite the pandemic. The program served 346 clients with 43% of those clients receiving training services. UAll's WIOA employment rate in the 2nd quarter after exit is 71%. They were able to tailor their approach during the pandemic by implementing promising and innovative practices such as developing a quick online eligibility check, virtual information sessions for the public, and an online WIOA application. Staff meet virtually with clients to complete enrollment and provide career and training opportunities. UAll's online tools, social media outreach, supportive leadership and staff have all contributed to the successful implementation of a robust and innovative workforce development program.

United Tribes Technical College – The United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) in Bismarck, North Dakota, was recognized as an outstanding grantee due to their dedication to the tribal workforce program throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many workforce programs, UTTC faced burdensome challenges throughout the pandemic, yet they persevered and continued to serve participants, maintaining the goals of their four-year strategic plan.



**UNITED TRIBES
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

In 1969, UTTC became the first inter-tribal post-secondary training and education facility targeting American Indians. They are a 501(c)3 organization governed by the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake Nation, Standing Rock Sioux, the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Their services extend to all forty-one counties outside the four reservations located in the state of North Dakota.

The UTTC service structure targets not only hard to serve areas but also participants with significant barriers to employment. Most participants have at least one barrier to employment, including criminal record, disadvantaged background, drug and/or alcohol abuse, lack of education, lack of work history, employer bias, and more. UTTC specialized in addressing these challenges for both their youth and adult participants. Despite the overwhelming challenges during the pandemic, UTTC has successfully navigated these complexities while performing grant requirements outlined by the grant terms and conditions. UTTC has proven to be a and dependable program for American Indian job seekers.

Chief's Award

Winona Whitman – The selection for the Chief's award is a special choice and many factors are taken into consideration. This year's recipient was Winona Whitman (Native Hawaiian). As the Executive Director of Alu Like, Inc., Winona is a strong advocate for Native Hawaiians, American Indians, and Alaska Natives. Winona has also been the Native Hawaiian representative of the Native American Employment and Training Council since its inception in July 1993 and served as the Vice-Chair from 2005 to 2014.



Winona has a Master's Degree and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Education from Morehead State University, Kentucky. She has extensive experience in workforce issues and serves as the Native Hawaiian representative on the Hawaii State Workforce Development Council/Board, appointed by the Governor of Hawaii. She is also the Vice-Chair on the State Council/Board's Youth Services Committee. Winona is someone who truly cares for all Native Americans. Her experience and wisdom will continue to benefit all of us, and she is truly a leader.