

# A National Collaboration to Strengthen the Advanced Environmental Technology Education Programs at Tribal Colleges

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*Strategic Project Partner:* Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center (ATEEC)

*Project Website:* <http://ateec.org/tribal-colleges/about>

## Project Goals and Objectives

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**1) Ensure that project activities and outcomes of this STEM project reflect the historic/cultural beliefs and contributions of Native Americans.** A project steering committee represented by both Tribal Colleges and Native Americans working in industry (see below) helped ensure the integrity of the project through continuous involvement and communication. In addition, any technical assistance requested by a Tribal College from this project first called upon local Native Americans in the area to provide the assistance.

**2) Ensure Tribal Colleges have ready access to a full range of technical assistance to strengthen their Environmental Science/Technology Programs.** The Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center (ATEEC) and PETE have extensive experience in the areas of facilitating the creation of new environmental programs, program improvement, curriculum development and professional development. In addition to simultaneous interaction with the Tribal Colleges, a section of the ATEEC website is dedicated to the Tribal Colleges (<http://ateec.org/tribal-colleges/about>). Information about the project, a project listserv, case studies and discussion boards have been developed so Tribal Colleges can interact and learn from each other online. Finally, a series of Mini-Grants were made available to individual Tribal Colleges to assist in program improvement or implementation based on their needs.

**3) Develop a Tribal College Environmental Fellows Institute which serves as a vehicle to strengthen environmental science/technology education at the nation's Tribal Colleges.** The three-year project offered two (2) annual Fellows Institutes for Tribal high school and Tribal college faculty beginning in the summer of 2009. ATEEC and PETE have a long history of providing professional development opportunities for faculty in the environmental sciences (see the website [www.ateec.org](http://www.ateec.org)). The main objectives of this project were to provide rich faculty development experiences aligned with the needs of Tribal College STEM education. By conducting field exercises and field-based learning activities, Tribal faculty were enabled with the tools to transition those experiences back into their classrooms where their students continue to benefit. In addition, the Fellows Institutes provided faculty the opportunity to network with other Tribal College faculty from different institutions. Faculty attending the Fellows Institutes were provided the opportunity to apply for Mini-Grants which encourage implementation of enhanced STEM curricula.