Indigenous Leadership Exemplifies Resilience, Courage & Collaboration in 2018 Tribal Probation Academy Cohort

The first class of the Tribal Probation Academy (TPA) consisted of 14 members and 12 successfully completed the 3-week course of training at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy located on the Fort McCoy Military Installation near Tomah, Wisconsin. The trainings were held for one week each month in March, April and May, 2018 and representatives included Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Colville, Isleta Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, Meskwaki, Ute Mountain, Standing Rock, Chehalis, Choctaw Nation, Karuk, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes.

In the three weeks of training, the participants were trained in areas of Tribal Governance, Traumatic Stress, Report Writing, Using Traditional Methods to Change Behavior, Evidence Based Correctional Practices, Native Youth Gangs and Drug Trafficking in Indian Country, Case Management, Supervising the Mentally Ill, Program Management, Child Abuse, Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence, Data Collection, Court Room Hearings & Testimony and culminated with a Hands on Skills Training specifically developed for probation officers as a best practices approach to officer safety. Additionally, each week the participants created a project they developed throughout the three-week training program that was unique to their own community which they would further develop for implementation as part of their training.

This group of TPA participants were APPA’s pilot group of trainees and the smallest class in terms of number of participants. However, the impact this group has had on subsequent TPA members and APPA has been encouraging in the way mentorship spawns leadership. This group developed their own intra-network of collaborative resources during the first week of training and APPA has supported their efforts in housing those resources

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in Tribal Community Corrections Support Center (TCCSC). This network continues to thrive and grow and often I hear from them reporting things like, “I heard from Christine, she has lots of stuff on assessments you can look into that can help you.” Recently, an alumnus from this cohort has also been named Chairman of the Tribal Issues Committee for APPA (see APPA announcement) and numerous members of this cohort have also presented at APPA Training Institutes in their areas of expertise as they share their experiences as Probation Officers serving in Indigenous communities. Join me on behalf of APPA and the many members of the communities they tirelessly serve everyday in thanking them for their dedication and their service in honor of PPPS Week.

Watch “Tribal Probation Academy Class of 2018” video!

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