



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## National Policy Memorandum

**Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Office of the Director**

Effective: SEP 20 2012  
Expires: SEP 20 2013

**Number: NPM-DBIA-01**

**Title: Youth Initiative**

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the BIA Youth Initiative is to engage and employ native youth, and to introduce them to unique internships and job opportunities which encourage protecting and improving the trust assets of American Indians, tribes and Alaska Natives, preserving and maintaining natural resources, and the conservation stewardship of the land, water, and earth.

### 2. Scope

To provide youth opportunities for internships that include connecting them to natural resources and conservation projects as well as placements within the BIA Office of Indian Programs, Office of Justice Services, Regional Offices, Agencies, and Field Offices and any of the BIA owned or BIA operated facilities within the geographic jurisdiction of the agency or field offices.

### 3. Policy

The BIA Youth Initiative promotes the engagement, education, and employment of native youth, providing hands-on experiences while developing the necessary skills for future employment.

#### Mission Statement

To promote, coordinate, and direct the engagement, education, and employment of native youth through hands-on experiences in natural resources, law enforcement, Indian services, and Trust, Education, and all programs BIA oversees in carrying out their government to government responsibilities to Native communities.

### Vision Statement

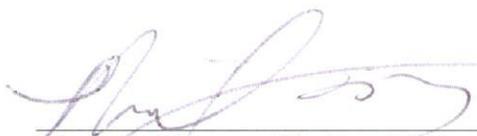
Provide opportunities to Native youth by promoting cultural, spiritual, and traditional values through meaningful employment opportunities.

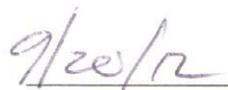
Through these opportunities in public service, students learn more about the role of the federal government in Indian self-determination, and the building of strong, stable tribal governments.

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

- A. Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs is responsible for improving the quality of life in tribal communities, fulfilling BIA trust responsibilities to protect and preserve natural resources on trust lands and shared off-reservation resources, and establishing policy and programs affecting Indian trust resources.
- B. Director, Youth Initiative is responsible for building relationships with federal organizations, establishing partnerships with academia and universities, and engaging tribal organizations to provide internships for native youth which encourage protecting and improving the trust assets of Native Americans, preserving and maintaining natural resources, and the conservation stewardship of the land, water, and earth.

#### 5. Approval

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date