

Working Together For A Safer Tomorrow
Applied Research in Environmental Science (ARIES)
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1. Overview

This project aims to reduce the impact of terror and disaster events to tribal communities and neighboring non-tribal communities by providing opportunities to work together as collaborators to identify risks, analyze data, develop impact reduction strategies, and implement risk-based activities via a series of symposia and workshops. Specifically, the Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow project provides these opportunities for American Indian tribes, tribal corporations, tribal colleges, tribal gaming enterprises, Alaska Native villages, Alaska Native corporations, and neighboring non-tribal communities. The results of these efforts have led to the development of collaborations between tribal and non-tribal entities as well as the implementation of collaborative impact reduction projects where tribal entities are provided opportunities to serve as institutional, organizational, or fiduciary co-leads with neighboring non-tribal entities. This work builds on previous CREATE efforts to promote risk awareness and risk factor identification training for American Indian communities and to develop collaborative working relationships between tribal and non-tribal entities.

The objectives were for Year 4 include:

- Develop a national network of tribal and indigenous communities committed to working together with non-tribal neighboring entities including governments, business and industry, academic and research institutes, etc., to identify risks and risk management practices.
- Increase number of tribal community members trained in risk identification related to tribal operations.
- Improved accessibility to risk management tools, data interpretation methodologies, and other related resources for tribal and non-tribal resource allocation decision-makers.
- Enhance efforts to prepare “The Next Generation of Homeland Security Professionals” via student recruitment and participation in Working Together projects

Throughout the year, Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow team members, students, and activity participants planned, developed, implemented, or assisted with activities related to each of the above four objectives. Haskell Indian Nations Foundation provided fiduciary management responsibilities and student

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coordination was overseen by Dr. Anne Garland and the non-profit research and educational organization Applied Research in Environmental Science (ARIES).

Working Together for a Safer Tomorrow developed and initiated the implementation of a national network of tribal and indigenous communities committed to working together with non-tribal neighboring entities including governments, business and industry, academic and research institutes, etc., to identify risks and risk management practices. At this time, over 40 tribal and non-tribal entities have formally participated in Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow networks. Network members are diverse, possess a variety of knowledge, skills, and abilities; span a variety of cultures and geographic regions, and have provided a range of professional, service, and resource contributions.

Network members include, but are not limited to: Haskell Indian Nations University, City of Seattle, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, University of Washington, King County (Washington), City of Lawrence (Kansas), U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Citizens for Equal Rights Alliance (CERA), American Indian and Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group, City of Suffolk (Virginia), Humane Society of the United States, Holiday Inn Hotels, Alaska Airlines, North Slope Borough (Barrow, Alaska) University of Colorado at Boulder, South Puget Sound Community College, Old Dominion University, Ilisagvik College (Barrow, Alaska), Port of Seattle, State of Washington, Applied Research in Environmental Science (ARIES), Haskell Indian Nations University Foundation, KBRW Public Radio of Alaska, Barrow Arctic Science Consortium (BASC), University of Washington American Indian Student Association, University of New Hampshire, tribal groups or members from: Rosebud Sioux Indian Tribe, Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation, Inupiat communities of Alaska's North Slope, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and many others!

Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow provided assistance to Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, to host a symposium designed to assist tribal communities in increasing the number of American Indian tribal members trained in risk identification related to tribal operations. Over 300 American Indian and non-Indian participants from a variety of communities attended one or more components of a week-long triple function event that included a disaster camp, terrorism symposia, and safety session workshops in May, 2008.

Improved accessibility to risk management tools, data interpretation methodologies, and other related resources for tribal and non-tribal resource allocation decision-makers were provided throughout the year. Examples include engaging participants in a variety of learning opportunities such as the Symposia and Disaster Camp hosted by Haskell Indian Nations University. The sharing and distribution of hard copy materials directly to tribal communities was accomplished via activities such as the CREATE-DHS-Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow resource display at the Tuzzy Library in Barrow, Alaska. Formal and informal presentations followed by open discussions at various colleges and universities such as the University of New Hampshire and Ilisagvik College provided tribal and non-tribal decision makers and students with methods to enhance personal and institutional abilities to access risk management tools and data interpretation methodologies. Public events such as the Sea Fair Pow Wow in Seattle, Washington, provided opportunities for community leaders and event participants to enhance access to resources related to reducing economic impacts of terror events. Video presentations related to domestic terrorism and terrorism events, such as the one given at the event in Lawrence, Kansas by Federal Bureau of Investigation, provided hands-on training for tribal and non-tribal participants in observation based data collection and interpretation. Handouts and other shared information provided at symposia and workshops enhanced resource availability and access. Small group meetings with tribal government officials and neighboring communities, such as the ones conducted on the North Slope of Alaska, assisted resource allocation decision-makers by opening doors of communication and creating a basis for the establishment of trust based relationships with DHS.

Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow staff and students assisted tribal members, upon request, on a one-on-one basis, with web based learning and technical processes at several on-reservation locations.

Symposia events, workshops, and plenary sessions also provided learning opportunities and enhanced access to resources not only for key resource allocation decision-makers, but community members, students, and elders. In every Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow activity, elders were formally invited and included as valued contributors and participants at all levels.

Enhancement of efforts to prepare “The Next Generation of Homeland Security Professionals” via student recruitment and participation in Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow projects took place throughout the year. Students from eight different colleges or universities participated in Working Together events by shadowing, observing, presenting at, or assisting with activities. Students accompanied Working Together and ARIES faculty to Alaska, Washington, North Carolina, Kansas, California, Washington D.C., and Wisconsin and were challenged to be actively involved with and contribute to each mission. Activities students were involved in, for example, were data collection, data recording, report writing, project planning, and project support. Several Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow students excelled in their work. For example, a Working Together student involved in disaster response after tornadoes caused heavy damage in Suffolk, Virginia, was asked by several agencies to assist in future regional coordination of local community and regional ‘animals in disaster’ requirements. 100 % of Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow undergraduate students continued their studies, one completed nursing clinicals and was advanced for board preparation, another graduated with honors and was admitted into a medical program, and one Ph.D. student advanced to the final stage of dissertation review in preparation for her defense.

In summary, Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow planned, developed, implemented, or assisted activities related to each of the above objectives. A national network of tribal and indigenous communities committed to working together with non-tribal neighboring entities including governments, business and industry, academic and research institutes, etc., to identify risks and risk management practices was developed. The number of tribal community members trained in risk identification related to tribal operations was increased. Accessibility to risk management tools, data interpretation methodologies, and other related resources for tribal and non-tribal resource allocation decision-makers was improved. Efforts to prepare “The Next Generation of Homeland Security Professionals” via student recruitment and participation in Working Together projects was enhance Each of the four objectives was met albeit the total numbers of participants were slightly lower than originally anticipated.

2. Research Accomplishments

Research accomplishments include 1.) the continuation of collection and compilation of field research data related to American Indian and Alaska Native communities’ and corporations’ risk-based activities and event impact reduction efforts, 2.) Development and administration of an informal interest survey tool at the SeaFair Pow Wow, and 3.) Mentoring students in research protocols and scientific methods.

3. Applied Relevance

Through contacts established via networking at symposia, workshops, seminars, presentations, and other related activities, Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow’s concept of tribal and non-tribal communities collaborating and co-leading efforts aimed at preparing for, and reducing the economic impact of, disasters and terror events has lead to several long term projects. These collaborations are further discussed in the next section, ‘Collaborative Projects.’

4. Collaborative Projects

Examples of some of the activities that resulted from bringing together tribal and non-tribal entities involved in this network included, but were not limited to 1.) the United Indians of All Tribes located in Seattle, Washington, collaborating with the City of Seattle, King County, the University of Washington, CREATE, and Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow faculty and students during the 2008 SeaFair Pow Wow to bring disaster or terrorism event preparation and related information directly to the public, 2.) a series of single or multi-purpose collaborations were established all along the North Slope of Alaska between the Barrow Alaska Native Corporation, North Slope Borough, Barrow Arctic Research Consortium, Iisagvik College, Tuzzy Library, CREATE's Working Together for a Safer Tomorrow, KBRW Public Radio of Alaska, Indian Health Service, and Applied Research in Environmental Science, 3.) Youth Elder Disaster Camp hosted by Haskell Indian Nations University.

4.1. Collaborations Resulting in Significant Products

Although small, Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow activities did have an initial role in previous years in promoting dialogue between tribal communities and their non-tribal neighbors. As a result of this dialogue, at least in part, collaborations were established and in several cases, diverse parties worked together seeking resources for joint projects related to terror event risk reduction, disaster preparedness, and similar projects. Among these, the Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow project is pleased to confirm that at least two tribal-non-tribal collaborations developed or enhanced in part by Working Together based networks and activities such as the 2006 Inter-Tribal Risk Symposium, were recently awarded service related grants. The Oneida tribe of Indians of Wisconsin applied for and was awarded a \$91,500.00 State Homeland Security Supplemental grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to assist the department's efforts in "preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and responding to acts of terrorism" (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2008). Additionally, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and neighboring adjacent Brown County, representing non-Indian communities within the county's jurisdiction, recently completed an historic 15 year service agreement effective June 30th, 2008. Components of this agreement specifically address full collaboration in emergency and terror related events and situations, including responder coordination, disaster mitigation and recovery, and other public safety concerns. The State of Wisconsin, Oneida, Brown County, and other funding agencies appropriated monies for the associated activities. (Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, 2008)

4.2. Collaborations Resulting in Foundations, Frameworks, and Proposals

Also, several American Indian or Alaska Native community and non-tribal entity collaborations were created directly, further developed, or enhanced as a result of Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow networking opportunities. For example, networking participants have further developed collaboratively based disaster response activities related to animals in disaster, enhanced existing operations related to school and institutional terrorism, and created a variety of frameworks for risk related proposals. Specific examples of these successful collaborations between tribal and non-tribal communities include, but are not limited to:

- Real time response by two Working Together project faculty, a graduate student,
- and citizen volunteers after a tornado event in Suffolk, Virginia (the hometown of one of the faculty members), which resulted in further developing intra-agency cooperative procedures for animal related emergency responses, care, identification processing, and pet-family reconnection. This *framework* is expected to serve as a guiding tool for future planning and response activities between several agencies in southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina.
- The United Indians of All Tribes, a multi-tribal consortium serving American Indians throughout the Pacific Northwest, located in Seattle, Washington, is developing a bioterrorism and disaster response training *proposal* for Northwest Seattle residents, regional tribal colleges, and American Indian tribal members.

- A project related to setting up a *framework* for infrastructure protection and interoperability of response systems, jointly suggested by research scientists and Alaska Native leaders in rural Alaska, has been developed as a *proposal* for submission to a nationally recognized funding source.
- Tribal leaders who have participated in Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow Symposia Series activities in previous years have indicated that at least two projects have been enhanced indirectly as a result of discussions, panels, presentations, and networking opportunities made available during the series. As an example, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin's new regional public safety center, designed to be a *foundation* to provide service throughout a multi-jurisdictional geographic area, confirms the potential for collaboration between tribal and non-tribal governmental entities and serves as a model for future successful homeland security efforts. It is described as a facility "to service the public safety needs of the region and is a cooperative project of the Oneida Nation, several adjacent municipalities, and other entities" (Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Engineering Department, 2008). Although this, and similar projects, may not be directly recognized as a Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow activity, Oneida tribal leaders have indicated that the networking opportunities and information made available at the first and subsequent symposia assisted and inspired local and regional tribes and American Indian leaders in thinking about, developing, or enhancing a variety of projects, such as the new regional center.

5. Products

- Symposia that brought together American Indians and Alaska Natives with non-tribal communities as collaborators to identify risks, analyze data, and implement risk-based preparation activities
- Workshops for tribal communities and neighboring stakeholders on specific topics such as bioterrorism and port security to assure a higher degree of awareness of the necessity for tribal and non-tribal entities to work together at all stages of risk identification and management.
- Development of a national network of tribal and indigenous communities committed to working together with non-tribal neighboring entities including governments, business and industry, academic and research institutions, etc., to identify risks and risk management practices.
- A cadre of students able to engage in quality and meaningful research thus enhancing DHS efforts to recruit and train "The Next Generation of Homeland Security Professionals."
- Summary reports to DHS entities, as requested and approved, related to risk assessments of tribal communities at risk for specific events.
- Provision of real-time risk related data interpretation to critical decision makers experiencing or expecting to experience a terror or disaster event associated with a tribal community.
- Provision of culturally based advice to critical decision makers experiencing or expecting to experience a terror or disaster event associated with a tribal community.

5.1. Publications and Reports

Publications and reports consisted primarily of internal documents and reports. These are noted in the chart below. Although not included in the summary chart below, Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow personnel had abstracts or presentation summaries published in meeting proceedings.

5.2. Presentations

Throughout the year, Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow faculty gave a variety of presentations to diverse groups. Dr. Lloyd Mitchell presented the Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow concept on several occasions to tribal and non-tribal communities in Alaska, North Carolina, Washington, Kansas, South Dakota, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Washington D.C., and Wisconsin. Additional presentations were given by Dr. Anne Garland in Maryland, New Mexico, Montana, and Kansas. These presentations are counted in the summary at the end of this section.

5.3. Models, Databases, and Software Education Tools

A template for a national network of tribal and indigenous communities committed to working together with non-tribal neighboring entities including governments, business and industry, academic and research institutes, etc., to identify risks and risk management practices is currently in draft form and under review in preparation for presentation and implementation in January 2009.

5.4. Summary Total of Research Products

Research Products		#
5a	# of peer-reviewed journal reports published	0
5a	# of peer-reviewed journal reports accepted for publication	0
5a	# of non-peer reviewed publications and reports	2
5a	# of scholarly journal citations of published reports	0
5b	# of scholarly presentations (conferences, workshops, seminars)	8
5b	# of outreach presentations (non-technical groups, general public)	16
5c	# of products delivered to DHS, other Federal agencies, or State/Local	2
5c	# of patents filed	0
5c	# of patents issued	0
5c	# of products in commercialization pipeline (products not yet to market)	0
5c	# of products introduced to market	0

6. Education and Outreach Products

Education was a strong component of the Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow project, which integrated the “Next Generation of Homeland Security Professionals” at various levels in every major activity. Students attended, observed, supported, or participated in professional meetings, planning meetings, field visitations, and educational and outreach activities. Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow is especially proud of one of our students, Mr. Juan Alcantar, who graduated with honors and was accepted into a professional medical academic program. He has expressed an interest to maintain his affiliation with the Department of Homeland Security while continuing in school and is considering a career providing primary care post disaster or terrorism events. Another student, Ms. Carol Jo Evans, is scheduled to defend at the end of 2008 or early 2009 and has integrated her Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow experiences throughout her dissertation related to conflict resolution between U.S. government and domestic new indigenous population groups. Ms. Evans has also expressed an interest in a career with the Department of Homeland Security and is considering post doctoral of new investigator opportunities.

6.1. Education

Student Support

Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow supported one Ph.D. level Research Assistant this past year and provided project specific or indirect support to 11 other graduate and undergraduate students. One student graduated with honors and was accepted into a professional medical program. All others advanced in their educational status appropriately. Dr. Anne Garland and the ARIES team are working closely with two students in who have requested academic and career guidance.

Student Advancement

Two Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow students will be applying to DHS for consideration as DHS Scholars or Fellows during 2009 and beyond. Working Together for a Safer Tomorrow faculty are also encouraging upper division and graduate students to apply for DHS Summer Internship Program and other opportunities.

Professional Education and Training

Dr. Lloyd Mitchell has completed professional education and training requirements for the national Registered Sanitarian licensure continuation. Dr. Anne Garland has met continuing education requirements for counseling certification renewal. Glen Needham, a Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow nursing student has completed certified training in Health Information and Patient Privacy.

Diversity

Diversity is a key element of the education and outreach components of Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow. Thus, differences in gender, ethnic, racial, age, veteran status, mental and physical ability, and socioeconomic status of Working Together staff, students, and project participants can be observed and otherwise noted. American Indians from tribal communities throughout North America comprise approximately one-half (50%) of all participants in Working Together projects. Diversity is also evident in the students, service providers, and targeted service population groups affiliated directly or indirectly with Working Together activities.

6.2. Outreach

Workshops and Events

Working Together for a Safer Tomorrow supported several workshops and events. Support varied from advice to tribal and non-tribal community members and leaders to providing major financial and planning sponsorship to educational institutions or communities for education and outreach activities. Educational and outreach products included, but were not limited to:

- An interview on the topics of disaster and terror event preparation, CREATE, and DHS with KBRW Public Radio of Alaska edited for repeated broadcasting throughout the North Slope of Alaska (May 2008).
- Video workshop and discussion on domestic terrorism by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Lawrence, Kansas (May 2008)
- An “Elder and Youth Disaster Camp” which brought together American Indian elders and youth from local communities to allow the elders, all of whom experienced disasters (i.e. tornadoes) to share their wisdom and knowledge in an effort to reduce economic impact through the preparation of a younger generations to face natural disasters, Lawrence, Kansas (May 2008).
- Active committee participation in the American Indian and Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group at the University of Colorado, Boulder (May 2008).
- Providing support and input for activities and workshops for Haskell Indian Nation University’s Safety Days (March, April, May 2008).
- Participation in discussions with the United Indians of All Tribe’s SeaFair Pow Wow Planning Committee (April-June 2008) which resulted in a multi-entity supported event in July, 2008.
- Presentations to Alaska Native collegiate educators, Ilisagvik College, Barrow, Alaska (January 2008).
- Agreements, initially informal, with local agencies in and near Suffolk, Virginia, to review and develop enhanced response mechanisms and policies for ‘animals in disaster’ (April, 2008)
- Participation in roundtable and dinner discussions related to DHS educational opportunities with enrolled members of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin (December 2007, March 2008 which resulted in Oneida Indian nursing, police, students, and banking professionals interested in supporting the efforts of the Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow program signing up to be active collaborators for future endeavors as requested.
- Discussions with tribal members and students residing on the Rosebud Sioux Indian reservation in South Dakota about the role of DHS and learning opportunities available which resulted in two tribal members, and one student agreeing to participate in future Working Together events or projects (June, 2008).

Center Publicity/Marketing, DHS Outreach, and Other Outreach

In May, two CREATE members joined Working Together for A Safer Tomorrow in assisting with, participating in, and promoting collaborations within Alaska’s North Slope. One event, a radio interview, was edited and repeatedly broadcast throughout the North Slope reaching remote Alaska Native Villagers as well as research scientists in the Arctic. This event combined both center publicity and outreach to indigenous populations.

6.3. Summary Total of Education and Outreach Initiatives

Education and Outreach Initiatives	#
# of students supported (funded by CREATE)	6
# of students involved (funded by CREATE + any other programs)	6
# of students graduated	1
# of contacts with DHS, other Federal agencies, State/Local, or Tribal (committees)	48
# of existing courses modified with new material	1
# of new courses developed	0
# of new certificate programs developed	0
# of new degree programs developed	0

7. References

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