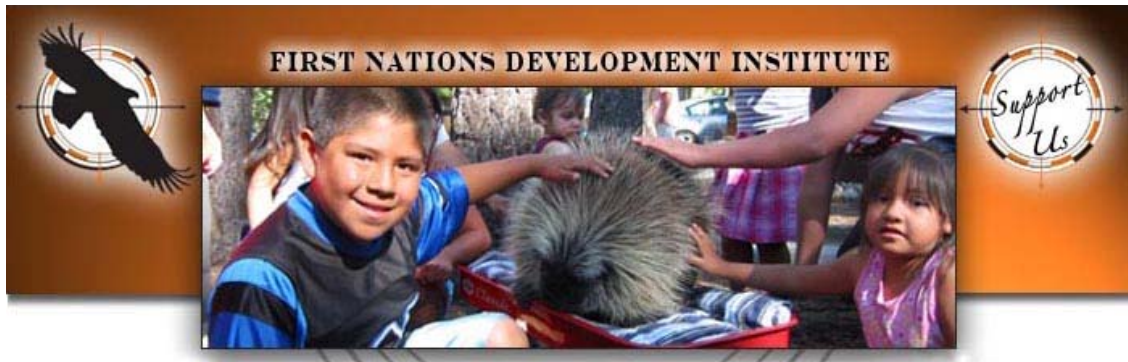


# Foundation Grants Support Native American Nonprofit Leadership Development



Released on: December 18, 2008, 8:09 am

Press Release Author: **Sarah Vermillion, Vice President**

Industry: [Non Profit](#)

**Press Release Summary: Longmont, Colorado-** The next generation of Native American nonprofit sector leaders will receive a significant boost from a leadership training program organized by **First Nations Development Institute (First Nations)** and funded by a consortium of private foundations as well as contributions from individual supporters.

Press Release Body: Foundation Grants Support Native American Nonprofit Leadership Development

Media Contact: Sarah Vermillion, Vice President  
Phone: 303-774-7836 e-mail: [svermillion@firstnations.org](mailto:svermillion@firstnations.org)

Longmont, Colorado- The next generation of Native American nonprofit sector leaders will receive a significant boost from a leadership training program organized by **First Nations Development Institute (First Nations)** and funded by a consortium of private foundations as well as contributions from individual supporters.

Grants of \$300,000 over three years from the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, \$400,000 over two years from the **Ford Foundation** and \$25,000 from **American Express** will support the **Leadership and Entrepreneurial Apprenticeship Development (LEAD)** program for up-and-coming, nonprofit executives serving Native American communities in Oregon, Washington and Colorado. In all, 60 Native American nonprofit professionals will be trained during the three-year grant period.

**LEAD** will develop a new pool of nonprofit leaders to meet the needs of the growing Native American nonprofit sector. **LEAD** Fellows are employed by a nonprofit

organization or planning a career in the nonprofit sector, are committed to a career working in Native communities, and are affiliated with a tribe. In fall 2008, **LEAD** graduated 12 Fellows. For information about the 2007 - 2008 **LEAD** graduates and the 2008 - 2009 class of **LEAD Fellows**, visit [www.firstnations.org](http://www.firstnations.org).

In Oregon, Washington and Colorado, respectively, partner organizations - the **Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)**, the **Potlatch Fund** and **NVision**- will organize and host the training sessions for the Fellows with facilitation and support from **First Nations**.

*"We are so pleased to expand this program that builds the capacity of Native nonprofit organizations," said **First Nations' President, Michael E. Roberts**. "By concentrating resources on our communities' most important asset - our people - we can build strong communities and tribal institutions."*

The one-year mentorship program will train participants in areas critical to successful nonprofit leaders, including financial management, factors affecting Native or reservation-based nonprofit organizations, fundraising, program evaluation and service leadership.

#### **About First Nations Development Institute**

Through a three-pronged strategy of Educating Grassroots Practitioners, Advocating for Systemic Change, and Capitalizing Indian Communities, First Nations Development Institute is working to restore Native control and culturally-compatible stewardship of the assets they own - be they land, human potential, cultural heritage, or natural resources - and to establish new assets for ensuring the long-term vitality of Native communities. First Nations Development Institute is a national, nonprofit, Native American-led organization.

For more information about this program, contact Sarah Vermillion, Vice President of First Nations Development Institute, at 303-774-7836 / [svermillion@firstnations.org](mailto:svermillion@firstnations.org).  
###

**Web Site:** <http://www.firstnations.org>

**Contact Details: First Nations Development Institute**  
**703 3rd Ave, Suite B**  
**Longmont, CO 80501**  
**303-774-7836 (tel)**  
**303-774-7841 (fax)**  
**[svermillion@firstnations.org](mailto:svermillion@firstnations.org)**