

# COLLEGE HORIZONS

## ***College Pride, Native Pride™***

A Pre-College, Pre-Graduate Program for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Students



# A Gathering Place

- Nationally work with AI/AN/NH rising 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders, College Students/Graduates (GH)
- 19 years: 3,000 students & 800 admission & counselors
- 200-300/cohort → 800 in college
- 56% 1<sup>st</sup> Gen, 55% Pell Eligible
- 60% Reside/60 miles from homelands
- Each cohort: 130 different HS, 60 Tribal Nations, 25 states
- 75 College Partnerships
- 120 admission counselors & 60 HS/Tribal counselors



# COLLEGE HORIZONS

# SCHOLARS COLLEGE HORIZONS

# GRADUATE HORIZONS

## College Horizons

- Pre-College, 1 week
- Application, Fin Aid, Transitioning to College
- Planting seeds of Nation Building

## Scholars Program

- First Year Bridge – 3 weeks
- Academic, SEL, Phys, Identity
- Wrap Around Services – Intensive Support in Y1 with Scholars and Family
- Decolonize, Well Being

## Graduate Horizons

- Pre-Graduate, 3 days
- MA, PhD, Professional/Graduate Schools
- Nation Builders

# Factors Affecting College Entry & Completion:

- Counseling
  - 80% White, case load, no required coursework on college counseling (training mismatch), correlation between counselor training/on-going training & student outcomes (Nat Survey of School Counselors, 2012)
  - 60% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders have NOT discussed with counselors their high school courses (academic requirements for colleges)
- College Admission Officers
  - Lack of understanding of indigenous student context, implicit bias, deficit thinking and evaluation
  - Understanding Race, Ethnicity & Tribal Citizenship in Admissions



# Factors Affecting College Entry & Completion

- Academic Rigor & Testing

- Opportunities for AP/Honors/Dual, AP is costly to schools (teacher time, training, test costs), limited test-preparation, Testing Deserts, myth of technology as an equalizer for test-prep, bias of test score over context/rigor
- Scholarships require Tests – are Tribal & Native specific scholarships creating barriers with test requirements?

- Taxes, FAFSA Completion, Financial Aid (Gapping)

- Working with parents to get taxes up to date and filed early, navigating the FAFSA with unique family structures
- Matriculation reality of Financial Aid gaps, Students navigating process on own with little parent support or understanding



# Factors Affecting College Entry & Completion: What are the barriers to college beyond the application process? What does racial equity and healing look like in college access and success?

- Telling My Story. Unpacking trauma and policies of genocide & colonization. Our students and families are hurting. High School students are ready for this discussion.
- Understanding Decolonization Theories & Approaches – Equip students with intellectual framework
- Socio-Emotional Learning
- Healing & Well Being v. College Success
- Identity & Cultural Development
- Attending a PWI, Imposter Syndrome, Fitting In, Finding & Creating community, Relevance of Coursework to Community needs



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