

News Release

National American Indian Housing Council
June 13, 2006



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kim Hayes, (202) 454-0931; Cell: (202) 536-7983 or khayes@naihc.net
Jane DeMarines, (202) 454-0911 or jdemarines@naihc.net

NAIHC Offers 45 Training Sessions at Convention New Training Popular, Including Emergency Preparedness —Hurricane Season Could Hit Gulf Coast Tribes

WASHINGTON—June 13, 2006 — In addition to numerous training courses throughout the year, the **National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC)** offered 45 training sessions, 20% of them on new topics, at its 32nd Anniversary Convention and Trade Show, held in Honolulu, Hawaii in May. The 45 training sessions covered everything from homeownership training, Environmental Compliance, predatory lending, Methamphetamines in Indian housing, asset-building panels, Records & Information Management, Grant Writing, and how to access Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

In addition, as hurricane season draws near, new training on **Disaster Preparedness for Tribes and Tribal Housing** was added to the convention program. This year's convention, which drew attendees from tribes across the nation and various government agencies, and is the largest annual gathering of Indian housing professionals, was the one of the highest attended ever with nearly 1,000 participants.

Hurricane Season/Disaster Preparedness

With the memories of Katrina and Rita firmly in the minds of tribal leaders, and tribes in the Gulf area still at risk, the disaster preparedness training identified potential disasters that could affect tribes and tribal housing programs. In addition to natural disasters, these courses looked at terrorism and other disaster situations. The training sessions: 1) **Disaster Preparedness for Tribes and Tribal Housing**, 2) **2006 and Beyond Shaping Up to Be Years for Natural Disasters – Wind and Fire** and 3) **Tribal Protection Strategies** were well received. The sessions were conducted by both **NAIHC Training Director Kermit Mankiller** and **AMERIND Risk Management**. Those attending the sessions said that they learned a great deal and it made them realize the need for emergency preparedness in the workplace and the community.

“All tribes are vulnerable to natural disasters as well as other disasters. Tribal housing leaders will be at the forefront of emergency response and need to be knowledgeable about how to deal with these situations,” said **Marty Shuravaloff, NAIHC Chairman**. “The annual convention is the ideal place for Indian Housing leaders to gather and benefit from **NAIHC’s** valuable training, but particularly disaster preparedness training.”

First-Ever Affordable Housing Tour a Success

About 80 convention attendees participated in an Affordable Housing Tour held during the convention. The tour was sponsored by Washington Mutual Bank in conjunction with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). This was **NAIHC’s** first “workshop on wheels” and it visited affordable housing with the DHHL to provide examples of how projects are done in Hawaii. Attendees said that they appreciated the comprehensive understanding of the Hawaiian housing developments and the culturally relevant presentations, as well as their interaction with the Hawaiian community. Tribal members on the tour said that they related to the Hawaiian culture because of the similarities in their respective Indigenous cultures.

—MORE—

Asset-Building Strategies Are Key

Another session at the convention, titled “Creating a Path to Self-Sufficiency Through Integrated Asset-Building Strategies,” was part of the Financial Education and Asset-Building Strategies Track. This session reviewed how strategies including financial education, IDAs, EITC outreach and free tax preparation services can be linked so that clients can access Indian housing authority programs through multiple entry points. Panelists noted that these services are crucial to build financial literacy and homeownership opportunities from childhood through adulthood in Indian Country. Attendees noted that the panel gave ideas that work to motivate tribal people to save money towards financial stability and homeownership.

Workplace Workshops Welcome

Two standing-room-only new courses were: 1) Dealing with Negativity in the Workplace, Cultivating Winning Attitudes; and 2) Creative Leadership Crash Course with Judi Moreo, an **NAIHC** consultant who works with Rockhurst University. These courses dealt with the everyday working issues that Indian housing authorities can face. Attendees said that Moreo helped them to realize their own negativity and how to change it and how important good attitude is in the workplace.

All of the training sessions were well attended overall and among the most popular were Dealing with Meth (235 students), Fighting Meth & Coalition Building (132 students), Board of Commissioner Training (139 students), Dealing with Negativity in the Workplace (89 students), and Creative Leadership (77 students).

Solid Training Record...but Funding Still Cut

Despite its solid training record, **NAIHC's** funding was cut last year by **\$2.6 million**, threatening **NAIHC's** training and technical assistance programs, which convention attendees and training students have stated are integral to successful Indian housing programs.

“At the annual convention and throughout the year, **NAIHC** strives and succeeds in providing informative, engaging and relevant training to Indian housing authorities,” said **NAIHC Executive Director Gary L. Gordon**. “Despite the recent budget cuts, we are committed to continuing our work and hope that our funding is restored so that we can grow our programs even further and offer more training at the convention and throughout the year.”

###

The National American Indian Housing Council assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages.

(www.naihc.net)