



**Native
Professional
Advancement
Center**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Isaac De Luna | isaac@semillastrategies.org | 505.917.5501

Native Professional Advancement Center Seeks New Board Members to Advance Indigenous Leadership and Opportunity

Applications open through April 30, 2026

JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

The National Indian Youth Council / Native American Professional Advancement Center (NIYC/NPAC) is seeking passionate leaders to join our Board of Directors and help **empower urban Native communities in Albuquerque, Farmington, and Gallup.**

WHY JOIN US?

- ✓ **Guide** strategic advocacy, education, and professional development programs.
- ✓ **Support** fundraising and outreach to uplift Native voices.
- ✓ **Be a champion** for Native leadership and economic self-sufficiency.

APPLY BY APRIL 30, 2026!

Send your statement of interest & resume to Darius Smith at darius@npacnm.org



LEARN MORE ABOUT US AT: NPACNM.ORG

Albuquerque, NM — The [Native Professional Advancement Center \(NPAC\)](https://npacnm.org), powered by the National Indian Youth Council (NIYC), is **now accepting applications for new members to join its Board of Directors**, inviting passionate leaders to help guide the organization's mission of empowering Native communities across New Mexico.

NPAC is seeking individuals committed to advancing Indigenous self-determination, workforce development, education, and economic opportunity in Albuquerque, Gallup, and Farmington. Board members will play a critical role in shaping strategy, supporting organizational growth, and strengthening programs that serve urban Native communities.

*“For more than 65 years, our organization has been driven by bold leadership and a deep commitment to our communities,” said **Darius Lee Smith, Executive Director of NPAC**. “We are looking for leaders who are ready to step forward, bring their expertise, and help us continue building pathways to opportunity for Native people across New Mexico.”*

Board members will contribute to NPAC’s work by:

- Guiding strategic advocacy, education, and workforce development programs
- Supporting fundraising and community outreach efforts
- Championing Native leadership, economic self-sufficiency, and community well-being

The recruitment effort comes at a pivotal time, as NPAC continues to expand its programs—including workforce training, supportive services, and new initiatives like the [Indigenous Civic Leadership Program](#)—while navigating an evolving policy and funding landscape.

*“Strong governance is essential to strong impact,” said **Deanna Aquiar, Director of Programs and Development at NPAC**. “We are seeking board members who not only believe in our mission, but who are ready to actively support and grow it. This is an opportunity to be part of something meaningful and help shape the future of Native workforce development and leadership in our state.”*

NPAC encourages applications from individuals with diverse professional backgrounds, including workforce development, education, public policy, nonprofit leadership, business, and community advocacy.

How to Apply

Interested candidates are invited to submit a statement of interest and resume by April 30, 2026.

Applications should be sent to: darius@npacnm.org

More information about NPAC and its programs can be found at: www.npacnm.org

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Founded in 1961, the [Native Professional Advancement Center](#), powered by the National Indian Youth Council (NIYC), has been a pioneering force in advocating for the rights and well-being of Native American communities. Born out of a desire to see a world where Native peoples can freely exercise their rights to self-determination and sovereignty, we have spent over six decades dedicated to the empowerment and advancement of Native Americans across the United States.