

LUCE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FELLOWSHIP

Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 7, 2024, no later than 5 pm MT

General Information

In 2019, First Nations Development Institute ([First Nations](#)), in partnership with [The Henry Luce Foundation](#) (Luce Foundation) launched the **Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship** to honor and support a select cohort of fellows as they work to further Indigenous knowledge creation, dissemination and perpetuation in Indigenous communities. The intent of this fellowship is to support the exceptional creativity, progressive and critical thinking, and Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers as they move forward their field in ways that will ultimately lead to broad, transformative impacts for Indigenous communities.

This fellowship will give Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers the funding and connections necessary to maximize their potential and realize their vision. This fellowship will provide knowledge producers with the resources to match their existing knowledge, passion and drive to achieve their personal and/or community goals.

First Nations will award 10 fellowships of **\$75,000 each** to outstanding Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers engaged in meaningful work that benefits Indigenous people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings. These fellowships support the work of Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers as they significantly advance their work and spark transformative change in their communities. In this sense, community is broadly defined and can include your Native community, knowledge community, etc.

The fellowship is a two-year, self-directed enrichment program designed to support the process of growth, development, knowledge and networks of Native leaders and thinkers. This unique and exciting new fellowship will seek to support individuals from diverse fields. The fellowship is open to both emerging and experienced leaders and thinkers from a wide variety of fields, including but not limited to agriculture, food systems, youth leadership development,

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natural resource management, climate change, economic development, journalism, language and cultural revitalization, traditional and contemporary arts and more.

During the fellowship period, fellows will gather three times to pool their collective knowledge and create a community of practice that crosses fields, geographies and tribal cultures. These three **required** convenings will give fellows the opportunity to engage in rich conversations intended to strengthen their leadership skills, reflect on their impact, share their learning and experiences and promote enduring professional relationships. These cohorts will empower fellows to overcome any geographic and cultural isolation they may experience by being a Native knowledge holder or knowledge maker, possibly as the only one in their field.

Fellows will also be required to submit **two formal reports** at the end of year one and two.

Award & Timeline

The start date of the fellowship is January 1, 2025, and the end date is December 31, 2026.

This fellowship will provide \$75,000 awards each to 10 individuals. This fellowship is flexible in that it allows emerging and experienced knowledge holders and knowledge makers to determine their own goals and decide how their funds are best used to make a positive impact for creation, dissemination and perpetuation of knowledge. The award is split into three payments across the first year of the fellowship to support fellows in their work and efforts.

Applicants do not have to design or complete a project to be eligible or selected. The goal of this fellowship program is to provide flexible funding to selected fellows as they seek to achieve their goals and further or advance knowledge creation and dissemination in their respective field(s).

The fellowship may be used for a wide range of costs, including living expenses, tuition, conference registration, equipment, travel and childcare. **The fellowship cannot be redirected to another person or organization.**

 2432 Main Street,
Longmont, CO 80501

 303.774.7836
 info@firstnations.org



Important note: The \$75,000 fellowship is considered taxable income. Fellowship recipients will be responsible for all related taxes resulting from this award.

Requirements and Guidelines

Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers are individuals engaged in the creation, dissemination and perpetuation of knowledge that advances their respective field or expertise area. This includes those engaged in either and/or both Western knowledge fields or traditional Indigenous fields of knowledge development and dissemination, including:

- Cultural Leaders and Activists
- Linguists and Language Preservationists
- Artists, Craftspeople and Designers
- Writers, Storytellers and Media-Makers
- Curators, Conservators and Educators
- Food System Workers and Food Justice Advocates
- Small Business Owners and Entrepreneurs
- Healthcare Professionals and Practitioners
- Environmentalists and Conservationists
- Academics, Researchers and Scientists
- And many more

As part of the application process, fellows will be expected to define and articulate their primary knowledge field or area.

Eligibility

The fellowship is open to emerging and experienced individual Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers actively engaged in meaningful, positive work that benefits Indigenous people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings.

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To be eligible for the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship:

- Applicants must be tribally-affiliated with a Native American, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian community.
- Applicants must be engaged in the creation, dissemination and/or perpetuation of knowledge in their field.
- Applicants should have experience or expertise within the knowledge field/area they are pursuing.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old.
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- Applicants must be able to clearly demonstrate how their work can impact and benefit an Indigenous community or communities in the U.S. and U.S. Territories.
- Applicants must apply or be nominated as an individual, not on behalf of an organization or group.

Individuals may apply directly OR an individual may be nominated as a Native knowledge holder or knowledge maker for this fellowship.

We understand that some Indigenous people might be hesitant to identify themselves as knowledge holders, knowledge makers, culture producers, etc. For many, this kind of terminology may seem contrary to community beliefs on ownership of knowledge and recognizing thought leaders.

Thus, individuals can nominate their family, friends, neighbors or colleagues for this fellowship opportunity. To do this, a nominator must work collaboratively with the knowledge holder or knowledge maker they wish to nominate to complete all application materials. Before applying on behalf of another individual, you must contact the nominee in advance to fully discuss the parameters and guidelines of the fellowship.

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Important Note for Nominators: The nominee will need to sign a [Consent Form](#) indicating that they have agreed to work with the nominator to complete the application, and that they have read and agreed to the fellowship terms.

Submission Deadline

The application process is a two-stage competitive process.

All applicants must submit a Stage 1 application form. These will be reviewed and approximately 100 applicants will be invited to submit a full Stage 2 application.

The Stage 1 deadline to apply for the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship is **Tuesday, May 7, 2024**. Completed applications must be submitted **no later than 5 pm Mountain Time**.

First Nations recognizes that some of our most rural and remote applicants may have limited access to high-speed internet and be unable to submit the application in First Nations' online system. Applicants who are unable to use the online system must request approval from First Nations **at least two weeks in advance of the application deadline** by submitting an email request to grantmaking@firstnations.org. Please include your name, contact information and the name of this fellowship opportunity in your message. If you do not have access to email, you can call our office at (303) 774-7836 and ask to speak with a member of the Grantmaking Department and we will discuss submission options.

Selection Criteria

Our criteria for selecting each fellow are based on a combination of the applicant's knowledge, experience, potential and vision.

KNOWLEDGE: Applicants must be actively engaged in the creation, dissemination or perpetuation of Indigenous and/or Western knowledge. They must have a cultural grounding and connectedness to community.

EXPERIENCE: Applicants must be engaged in relevant work that seeks to grow and advance knowledge. They must demonstrate a record of success of working and collaborating with Indigenous people and communities and preserving and perpetuating Indigenous knowledge systems.

POTENTIAL: Applicants must demonstrate continuing promise in their field of endeavor. They must embody exceptional creativity, progressive and critical thinking, and the potential to significantly move forward their field in ways that will ultimately lead to broad, transformative impacts for Indigenous peoples.

VISION: Applicants must clearly articulate how the fellowship will support or accelerate their work. They must develop a unique plan of action that details their vision for creating, disseminating and perpetuating Indigenous knowledge in either reservation and/or urban community settings.

The selection of fellows will be made by First Nations' Fellowship Selection Committee. The Fellowship Selection Committee includes First Nations staff, external partners and an Advisory Committee of Native American intellectual leaders representing a diversity of geographies, tribes and fields. Selection will be based on each candidate's application.

Application & Required Attachments

All candidates must submit a completed Stage 1 fellowship application by **Tuesday, May 7, 2024, no later than 5 pm Mountain Time.**

Stage 1 applicants will be notified in late June regarding the status of their application. Approximately 100 applicants will be invited to submit a Stage 2 application.

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION FORM: The [online fellowship application](#) will ask applicants to provide their contact information, demographic information, and additional information regarding the applicants' knowledge field, experience, vision for the fellowship

period. The online application also requires that applicants upload several attachments throughout the online submission process.

All applicants will receive confirmation of submission after completing the Fellowship Application Form via email from mail@grantapplication.com to the **primary email address provided in the application**. Please check your junk or spam folder should this email not arrive in your inbox.

Stage 1 Application

ESSAYS: In the application, applicants will be asked to respond to two short essays. These statements are designed to yield more insight into applicants' knowledge, experience, potential and vision. In addition to aiding with the selection process, these essays are intended to help applicants define their vision and goals for the fellowship period.

- **Statement of Community Impact:** In 500 words or less, please share more about your personal and/or professional work as it relates to your knowledge field and Indigenous communities. Please make sure to address how you have been actively engaged in the creation, dissemination and/or perpetuation of your knowledge area and how your work supports Indigenous peoples and communities.
- **Vision for Fellowship Period:** In 500 words or less, please describe the personal and/or professional goals you hope to achieve during the fellowship. Please make sure to address any plans for creating, disseminating, and/or perpetuating knowledge within your community or to Indigenous peoples at large. Please include clear and specific goals for how the fellowship will support your work to advance your leadership or further contributions to your community and/or knowledge field.

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Resumé/Curriculum Vitae/Biographical Sketch:** All applicants must submit a detailed, up-to-date résumé, curriculum vitae or biographical sketch that summarizes their background in their knowledge field(s) and experience working with Indigenous

people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings. This attachment must be uploaded as a .pdf file.

- **Consent Form (REQUIRED FOR NOMINATIONS):** Nominators submitting applications on behalf of another individual must upload a signed consent form. This form indicates that the nominee consents to working with the nominator to complete the fellowship application. It also indicates that the nominee has reviewed and agrees to the terms of the fellowship. Download First Nations' Consent Form [here](#).

Stage 2 Application

If invited to submit a Stage 2 application, the following additional information will be requested in the Stage 2 application form.

ESSAYS: In the application, applicants will be asked to edit, update, and expand on their previous essays, up to 1000 words, and provide additional information regarding use of funds for the fellowship period.

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Three (3) Letters of Reference:** Applicants must submit three letters of reference with their application. References should be from 1) An individual in the same knowledge field who can speak on the importance of your work, 2) An individual from the tribal community you serve who can speak on your experience working with and supporting Indigenous communities, including your own tribal community, and 3) A personal character reference. This attachment must be uploaded as a .pdf or Word file.
- **One (1) High-Quality Photo**
- **Additional Supporting Materials (OPTIONAL):** Applicants can attach up to three (3) supporting documents or materials. These attachments must be uploaded as .pdf files.

Important Note: Please allow yourself enough time to submit a complete application before the deadline, as the online system will shut down automatically at **5 pm MT on TUESDAY**,

MAY 7, 2024, and no data may be entered thereafter. Partial, faxed, emailed or mailed applications that are not received on time due to user error will not be considered. **Any requests for exemptions to the online system must be received no later than two weeks before the deadline.**

If you require a .pdf writer, there are many free options available including [Cute PDF Writer](#) and [BullZip](#). Or you may do a web search to find a writer that fits your needs.

Download instructions for First Nations' Online Application System [here](#). Begin your Fellowship Application [here](#).

Selection Process Timeline

The stages and timeline of the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship are anticipated as follows and subject to change:

1. Application for the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship opens Wednesday, March 27, 2024.
2. Stage 1 applications are due Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 5 pm MT.
3. Stage 1 applicants will be notified of their applications' status on or before July 3, 2024. Those advancing to Stage 2 will be able to access their application forms on or before July 8, 2024.
4. Stage 2 applications are due Monday, July 29, 2024, at 5 pm MT.
5. Stage 2 applicants will be notified of their applications' status on or before September 20, 2024. 25 semifinalists will be selected to advance to the final interview stage of the selection process.
6. Semifinalists will travel and participate in an in-person (pending community and travel restrictions) interview with the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship Selection Committee the week of November 4, 2024, at First Nations' headquarters in Longmont, CO. First Nations will cover all travel and accommodation expenses for semifinalists' travel.

7. After the interviews, the Fellowship Selection Committee will select 10 fellows. Semifinalists will be notified on or before November 29, 2024.
8. The fellowship will begin January 1, 2025, and conclude December 31, 2026.

FAQ & Informational Sessions

First Nations has compiled a list of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** regarding this fellowship opportunity which can be accessed [here](#).

In addition, First Nations will host an optional, informational Question & Answer (Q&A) webinar for interested applicants prior to the stage 1 application deadline. This Q&A webinar will provide interested applicants with an overview of the fellowship program, eligibility criteria, and allowable activities and requirements. Attendees are also encouraged to ask questions about the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship application and this funding opportunity.

Participation in this webinar is NOT mandatory, but applicants are strongly encouraged to register for and attend.

APPLICATION Q&A SESSION WILL BE HELD ON:

- **Monday, April 8, 2024, at 3 pm MT.** Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_h-RrTsFEQEGMAm-Cz580NQ

About First Nations Development Institute

For 44 years, using a three-pronged strategy of educating grassroots practitioners, advocating for systemic change, and capitalizing Indian communities, First Nations has been working to restore Native American 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 American communities. First Nations

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serves Native American communities throughout the United States. For more information, visit www.firstnations.org.

About the Henry Luce Foundation

[The Henry Luce Foundation](#) seeks to enrich public discourse by promoting innovative scholarship, cultivating new leaders, and fostering international understanding.

The foundation advances its mission through grantmaking and leadership programs in the fields of Asia, higher education, religion and theology, art and public policy.

Established in 1936 by Henry R. Luce, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time Inc., the foundation's earliest work honored his parents, missionary educators in China. The foundation's programs today reflect the value Mr. Luce placed on learning, leadership, and long-term commitment in philanthropy.

The Henry Luce Foundation, a private independent foundation, is a nonprofit corporation operating under the laws of the State of New York.

Additional Questions & Technical Support

If you have any additional questions about the Fellowship program, please contact Autumn Romero by email at aromero@firstnations.org or by phone at (303) 867-8014.

If you need assistance submitting your application in the online system, please contact First Nations' Grantmaking Department by email at grantmaking@firstnations.org or by phone at (303) 774-7836.

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