

New Mexico

Forty Years of Contemporary American Indian Art

A culture takes its most understandable shape
through the arts ... no arts, no culture.

– Lloyd Kiva New (Cherokee, 1916-2002)
Artist, President Emeritus, IAIA

COME TO NEW MEXICO TO EXPERIENCE 40 years of contemporary American Indian Art.

The Institute of American Indian Arts is the only tribal college offering a four-year degree with an arts focus. Located in historic Santa Fe—the capital of the Indian art world—the IAIA has been at the center of the contemporary American Indian art movement for 40 years. Many of North America’s most illustrious contemporary Indian artists have been associated with the Institute, including Dan Namingha, Linda Lomahaftewa, Kevin Red Star and Allan Houser.

IAIA’s history: Key developments

Founded in 1962 as a BIA school, IAIA’s path has been one of steady evolution: from a high school sharing quarters with other educational institutions to a four-year college with its own campus.

In 1971, the IAIA Museum, one of the city’s cultural gems, opened its doors on Cathedral Place near Santa Fe Plaza. An integral part of the IAIA, the Museum trains up-and-coming curators and provides students with prime exhibition space.

In 1986, the IAIA was granted congressionally chartered status. In 2002, the Institute opened its new campus on a breathtaking stretch of desert landscape outside of Santa Fe.

The IAIA will begin its next development phase in the coming months: an \$8 million Learning and Technology Center.

IAIA student body

IAIA students represent tribes from nearly every state in the nation. They range in age from 18-70 and come from reservations, rural areas and urban communities. IAIA students regularly take top honors at major contests sponsored by organizations such as the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and Livermore Laboratories.

IAIA curriculum

IAIA is the only college with a Bachelor of Fine Arts tailored for Native Americans. The Institute offers Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Studio Arts, Creative Writing, Visual Communications, and Museum Studies.

It also offers an Associate in Applied Sciences Degree in Visual Communications, and Associate Fine Arts and Associate of Arts degrees in Studio Arts, Creative Writing, Indigenous Studies and Museum Studies.

Formal coursework, however, is only part of the picture at IAIA.

“Through a curriculum of arts and learning, our students are exposed to a whole way of life—a special process of discovery, energy, vision and leadership skills,” says Joe Baker (Delaware), Dean of the IAIA Center for Arts and Cultural Studies.

A value-based education

IAIA students graduate with much more than a diploma. They also gain a proud sense of their Native American heritage. As IAIA President Della Warrior (Otoe-Missouria) has stated on many occasions, students at the Institute learn to appreciate core Native American values that are shared by all tribes: respect, sharing, generosity and a sense of community.

To learn more about IAIA please visit <www.iaiancad.org> or call 1-800 804 6422 to arrange a personal visit with a counselor. ☞

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