LakM 706
Tiospaye Ecel Waecunpikta Wounspe

Community Action Project

**Handbook for Students,
Committee Members, Program Staff, and Faculty**

**Graduate Studies Department
Spring 2000**

Tiyospaye ecel waecunpi kita wounspe
Community Action Project (CAP)

The Challenge of the Community Action Project (CAP)

The Lakota leadership and management Program curriculum is guided by the principle:

> Traditional Lakota beliefs recognized a leader as someone who works for, with, and among the people, rather than above them, someone who lives for the people and takes action that is for the people rather than for personal or material gain.

The Community Action Project (CAP) calls upon Lakota leadership and management students to embrace that principle and to demonstrate it publicly, through research and action in and with the community.

The development and implementation of the project allows Lakota leadership and management students to demonstrate their capabilities as self-directed learners in the community, to demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to demonstrate their Lakota leader and manager skills.

Guidelines for choosing a CAP

Community Action Projects should reflect the student's interests, concerns, and must be socially meaningful. Therefore, CAP must matter in the reservation community. For example, some subjects may be of interest to scholars, but of little or no consequence to community people, others might be of particular interest to the student and their family, but have little or no impact on the lives of others in the community.

Student's choice of Project is to be confined to specific academic disciplines. Projects may be narrow in focus i.e., business or sociological or may transcend specific disciplines and be multi-disciplinary or inter-disciplinary.

The Community Action Project will include a **research and an action component**. The research component involves scholarly research using primary written sources, interviews, survey(s) and/or observation and further analysis of data resulting in findings, conclusion, and action plan. The action component requires implementation of findings to benefit the community. Finally, Projects must evidence involvement of community members in areas of

problem formulation, research and data collection, execution of an action plan, and/or project evaluation.

Lakota Language and CAP

Because the Lakota Leadership and Management Program is committed to furthering the use of the Lakota language, students are expected to use the Lakota language whenever possible in the conduct of their CAP. Students are required to orally present their Project and are required to use the Lakota language for presentation as much a possible, but no less than the introduction and the abstract.

Excellence in Scholarship

Lakota Leadership and Managers Program is a graduate program at the Master of Arts level, students are expected to demonstrate scholarship.

Project Committee

Committee members will serve as mentors and evaluators of Projects. Committee member's role is to provide guidance in topic selection and focus, constructive criticism, editing, and encouraging progress for completion of CAP in two semesters. Committee member can also refer the student to references.

Student's role is to organize their committee during the semester prior to enrolling for CAP. Students should have an idea of a topic for their CAP when they recruit prospective committee members. Committee members should be carefully selected for their willingness to work with student through fruition of the CAP. A Committee is comprised of three (3) members.

> **Committee criteria:**
> - **One (1) must be a fluent native speaker.**
> - **One (1) must be a community member.**
> - **One (1) must be a full time doctoral faculty from your tribal institution of higher education.**
> - **May serve on only two (2) committees simultaneously.**

The Cap committee will designate its chairperson. The Chairperson and the student will convene committee meetings.

Committee meeting responsibilities:

- ❑ To concur on topic.
- ❑ Approve proposal.
- ❑ Assist in presentation of first Colloquium.
- ❑ Mentor data collection.
- ❑ Review analysis.
- ❑ Support action plan.
- ❑ Encourage completion and implementation.
- ❑ Colloquium for final acceptance of project.

The full committee must meet with the student every thirty (30) days. In addition to required meetings, committee members will attend the CAP Colloquium presentations to Graduate Program staff and Advisory Board.

- ❑ Students must submit minutes of CAP committee meetings within one (1) week of meeting to Graduate Program Director.

In the event of a committee vacancy, a new member must be selected prior to next monthly meeting. The same rules apply if a student decides to remove a committee member.

- ❑ Student must submit Committee appointment form to Graduate Program Director.

Required Committee Meetings

Monthly meetings of the full committee and the student are required. Major purposes for each meeting are:

- ❑ Discuss topic and concur. Topic concurrence no later than 60 days following the beginning of the semester.

- ❑ Proposal approval no later than 120 days following the beginning of the semester, which will be the first Colloquium.

- ❑ First draft of project paper no later than 30 days following beginning of second semester then, on going, edit for grammar, clarification, offer suggestions, student rewrites.

- ❑ Final editing and acceptance of project paper (30 days prior to graduation).

- ❑ Submit original and two (2) copies of project paper to Graduate Studies Director ten (10) days prior to Final Colloquium.

- ❑ Final Colloquium (scheduled prior to graduation).

Research Seminar for Students and Committee Members

During the semester preceding enrollment for Community Action Project (CAP) Lakota Leadership and Management Program will provide a seminar to discuss CAP. Seminar is designed for discussion of topics, information on committee member recruitment CAP process, requirements, writing style, and frequently asked questions.

Colloquium Presentations

The purpose of the Colloquiums is to provide constructive criticism, support to students and committee members, and to provide a formal occasion for students to share their work with and interact with each other.
Colloquium presentations will be in two (2) parts:

- ❑ No later than 120 days following the beginning of a semester, Graduate Program staff will convene a Colloquium. Students will orally present their proposed CAP.

- ❑ Oral presentations will include problem statements, methods, progress and concerns to date. Students must submit a proposal draft of their CAP to the Graduate Director ten (10) days prior to Colloquium date.

- ❑ Final Colloquium – Showcase CAP.

Progress of CAP:

- ❑ A grade of "SP" or "NP" ("SP" indicates Satisfactory Progress, "NP" indicates No Progress) at the end of each semester.

- ❑ Grade determined by committee.

- ❑ Faculty member will submit grade to registrar.

Note 1): Should a student receive a "NP" grade, student must convene an additional Colloquium to determine continuance of the process.

Note 2): Should a student not complete CAP in a minimum of two (2) semesters, student will receive an "I" (incomplete). Student then has two additional semesters to complete CAP. Should CAP remain incomplete after the additional two (2) semesters, refer to policy.

- ❑ Final Colloquium showcase cap and acceptance or not.

- ❑ Committee signs acceptance of project and assigns grade.

- ❑ Following acceptance of CAP, faculty member will submit a final letter grade to registrar.

- ❑ Program will bind manuscript and will retain the original, and distribute one (1) copy to the Oglala Lakota College Archives, and one (1) to the graduate.

- ❑ Non acceptance indicates committee may recommend a continuance for one (1) or two (2) additional semesters only (CAP process begins again).

- ❑ A second CAP non-acceptance after two (2) additional semesters, student will be dropped from program.

Ethics

Community Action Projects will be conducted with respect for the community and for the principle of confidentiality. To promote the value of honesty, plagiarism will result in immediate dismissal from the graduate program, no appeal.

Community Action Projects and Student Employment

A purpose of the CAP is to afford students the opportunity for new learning experiences. Therefore, students are not allowed to use their regular employment as a CAP.

Community Action Projects and Oglala Lakota College

Community Action Project is partial fulfillment of requirements of the Master of Arts Degree. The program recognizes that some projects, though well designed and constructive in their intent, may still generate controversy. The students' right to carry out such projects is in keeping with the doctrine of academic freedom. It is also in keeping with the philosophy of the program and with Oglala Lakota College, both of which seek to further the goals of a sovereign Lakota society. Nevertheless, each project is the unique creation of the individual graduate student and does not necessarily represent the views, opinions, and positions of the Graduate Program or Oglala Lakota College.