

GATHERING OF NATIVE AMERICANS (GONA)

**Presented by
Gary Neumann, Salish
NACE – Training and Technical Assistance
Coordinator**



Native American Center for Excellence

- A national training and technical assistance resource center established by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.
- Provides culturally-centered resources to a variety of Native and non-Native audiences throughout the United States.
- Maintains an active consultant pool of American Indian and Alaskan Native content experts for the provision of TA.
- Maintains a NACE Expert Panel of 15 members to guide TA emphasis and support quality and service delivery.

Training and Technical Assistance

NACE provides TA:

- At national and regional events
- Via teleconferences and Webinars
- To Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grants AI/AN Grantees
- To SAMHSA Project Officers
- To AI/AN Prevention programs eligible for Service to Science TA
- To selected Programs of Regional and National Significance

[NACE WEBSITE - http://nace.samhsa.gov](http://nace.samhsa.gov)

Gathering of Native Americans

From SAMHSA Website

“Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) initiated a Community Partnership Training Program to assist Community Partnership grantees in support of community efforts to reduce and prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse.

–250 Community Partnerships were funded, including 15 American Indian specific Community Partnerships.

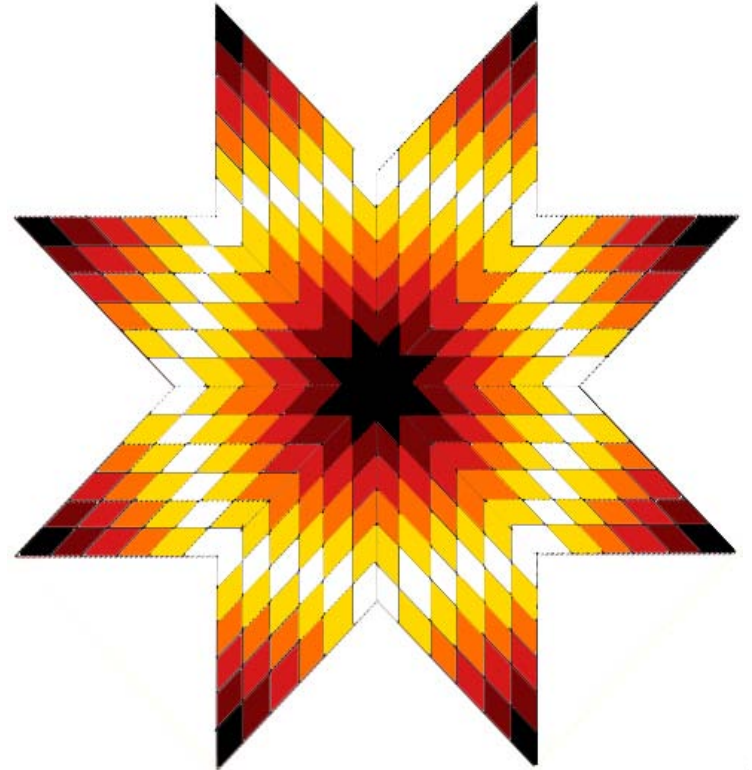
*Under contract with CSAP, Macro International Inc., and Circle Solutions, Inc., were tasked to develop and deliver trainings. These include a 5-day Community Partnership Institute; a Multicultural Leadership Institute; an Institute for Partnership Development; a variety of 1- and 2-day workshops; and **four cultural specific institutes**. The Native American component of the cultural specific institutes is called the "**Gathering of Native Americans**" (GONA)."*



NACE

**NATIVE AMERICAN
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION**

GONA



GONA Process

The 4 parts of the GONA incorporate the values of four levels of human growth and responsibility that are found in Native cultures.



GONA is for Native Americans and others who want to become change agents, community developers, and leaders.

Based on several ideas:

- community healing is necessary for substance abuse prevention;
- healthy traditions in the AI/AN community are key to effective prevention;
- the holistic approach to wellness is a traditional part of AI/AN belief systems;
- every community member is of value in empowering the community; and
- GONA is a safe place to share, heal, and plan for action.

BELONGING

A place for all ages. A place for all kinds of people. The first level represents infancy and Childhood, a time when we need to know how we belong. It is the most important first lesson a person must learn to live comfortably and to work effectively.





MASTERY

Empowerment, for individuals and for the Community. The second level honors adolescence as a time of vision and mastery.

Understanding AI/AN communities and the local contexts that inform work in partnership with other tribes/communities/governments.

INTERDEPENDENCE



Action, community leadership. Adults, integral and interdependent within their families and their communities. How do we interconnect with our environment and social network of our community?

GENEROSITY

Teacher / Elder, and resources in the Community. Honoring our elders, who give their knowledge and teachings to our generations of the future.

Looking at our responsibilities to give back to our communities and share graciously.



ELEMENTS

- ALTAR SET UP
- DRUM CALL
- OPENING PRAYER or
- WITNESSES.



STORYTELLING

- Storytelling is traditional for Native peoples. Oral histories and legends were used to transmit knowledge, teachings, and values from one generation to the next.
- We can use storytelling TODAY in our communities to convey the same teachings as we look at our work in prevention.



SEE – HEAR - FEEL

You will be asked to answer the following questions:

What did you see?

What did you hear?

And how did it make you feel?



AFFIRMATION & RITUAL

To provide a forum for individual and community affirmation and ritual in a Native-specific way, through exchange of handmade articles that have been made, throughout the Training by the participants. NACE has created a closing ceremony and individuals will receive their "certificate of affirmation".

RITUALS

The act of "ritual" within a community is a means to convey community values to the members of that community.



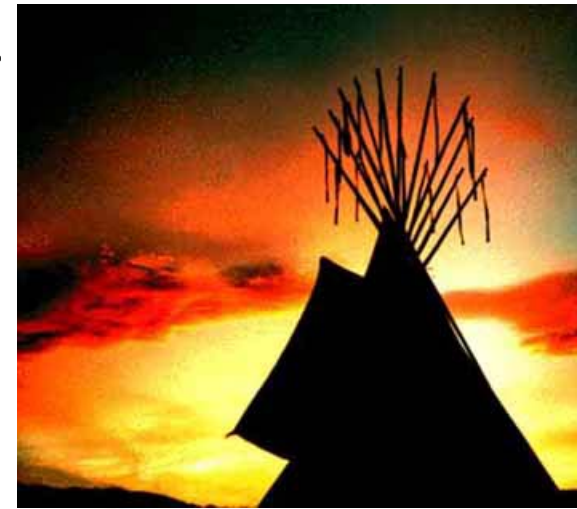
EXERCISE

In small group - identify some of the rituals or ceremonies from your cultures that helped your communities to remain healthy and in balance.

What about rituals taught us belonging and purpose?

GIVE AWAY

This was common among most Indian groups to show the value of our communal existence, our interdependence, our honoring of our relations, and the importance of giving back to community.





Follow-Up

For Further Information or Questions Contact:

- CDR Josefine Haynes-Battle, MSN, BSN, RN – GPO
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
(SAMHSA) - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
240-276-2563 or Josefine.Haynes-Battle@SAMHSA.hhs.gov
- Anthony J. Ernst, PhD, Project Director
301-588-6800 or anthony.ernst@kauffmaninc.com
- Gary Neumann, Training and Technical Assistance
Coordinator
301-588-6800 or gary.neumann@kauffmaninc.com
- **NACE WEBSITE** <http://nace.samhsa.gov>

