



Ute Mountain Learning Center Workforce Development Program



The **Workforce Development Program** is a series of trainings to help Native Americans build their work skills, in order to gain good-paying, full-time employment. It is the centerpiece of the Tribe's SEEDS grant (Sustainable Employment & Economic Development Strategies) awarded in 2015, from the federal Administration for Native Americans under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. This grant aims to get more people at Ute Mountain working with higher wages and job satisfaction, and in turn build up the Tribal economy and family wellbeing.

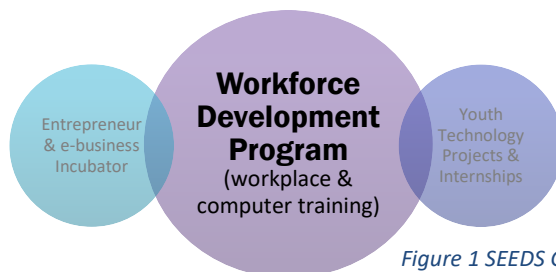


Figure 1 SEEDS Grant programs

The students we seek are those who up to now have been earning low-wages or had trouble getting regular full-time jobs. **When they complete the program, students are then given the choice to (1) keep going for a higher certificate or degree at college or (2) be placed for an internship with a local employer, and in turn get a chance for a permanent position.**

The two main areas for completing the program are workforce skills and computer skills. When students turn in their application they are assigned a case-worker and then select from a variety of class options (like Time Management, Customer Service, Conflict Resolution, Business Writing, etc. as well as Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.). The case-worker meets with the student periodically to discuss student plans, career interests, needs, and goals. Additional workshops required in the program include financial management skills, resume writing, and one specialized software (like AutoCAD, ArcGIS, etc.).

For adults there is no age limit. And you can complete the program within 2-3 months. *If you do not have your high-school diploma you may still join*—provided that you also make progress on your GED or HiSET exam during that time. We will help you.

There are funds to help support you while you take the classes: **Along with the Tribe's WIOA program, the Temporary Worker program has agreed to partner on this project, and is willing to help support clients during the hours they need to finish the courses.** To do so, students must be enrolled with both the Temporary Worker and the Learning Center. There are also other activities and supports from the Learning Center that can help students finish quickly and positively.

Each Year we are trying to enroll 40-60 Native adults from Ute Mountain into Workforce Development. From October to September, students can take classes at their own pace—finishing quickly or bit by bit—and will have access to special field trips, college tours, technology expos, and employer visits to learn about new opportunities.

Feel free to ask questions! Any of our Learning Center staff will be glad to help and can connect you with a case-worker who can provide additional details.