LUCE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FELLOWSHIP

Application Deadline: Friday, September 13, 2019, no later than 5:00 p.m. MDT.

General Information

First Nations Development Institute (First Nations), in partnership with The Henry Luce Foundation (Luce) is proud to launch the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship. Through this new fellowship program, we will award 10 fellowships of $50,000 each to outstanding Native Americans engaged in meaningful work that benefits Indigenous people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings.

This fellowship is intended to support Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers that 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 communities.

Fellowship Overview

First Nations will award 10 fellowships of $50,000 each to 10 outstanding Native Americans engaged in meaningful work that benefits Indigenous people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings. These fellowships are intended to support the work of Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers as they significantly advance their work and spark transformative change in their communities.

The fellowship is a 12-month, self-directed enrichment program designed to support the growth, development, knowledge and networks of Native leaders. This unique and exciting new fellowship will seek to support individuals from diverse fields and engaged in different modes of expression. The fellowship is open to both emerging and experienced leaders from a wide variety of fields, including but not limited to agriculture, food systems, youth leadership development, 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 together three times during the year 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.

Requirements and Guidelines

For 39 years, First Nations has had the privilege of working with countless Native American leaders including elders, knowledge keepers, cultural advisors, language experts and other members of Indigenous communities dedicated to using their wisdom and ingenuity to restore, rebuild and/or perpetuate Indigenous knowledge systems. First Nations has witnessed such individuals spark significant innovation and positive change in their communities.

This fellowship is designed to honor and support individuals as they work to further Indigenous knowledge creation, dissemination and change in 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 for their communities. This fellowship will provide cultural producers with the resources to match their existing knowledge, passion and drive to achieve their personal and community goals.

Broadly defined, Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers are individuals engaged in the creation and dissemination 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
As part of the application process, fellows will be expected to define and articulate Native knowledge within the context of their own communities and knowledge field. Fellows will create a unique plan of action that will empower them with the leadership skills and strategies necessary to preserve and perpetuate Indigenous knowledge in either reservation and/or urban settings.

**Award**

This fellowship will provide awards in the amount of $50,000 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 in their communities.

Fellows do not have to design or complete a project to be eligible or selected. The goal of this new fellowship is to provide flexible funding to selected fellows as they seek to create or disseminate knowledge in their respective field.

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. It does not cover health insurance.

**Important Note:** The $50,000 fellowship is considered taxable income. Fellowship recipients will be responsible for all related taxes resulting from this award.
**Fellowship Period**

First Nations provides a $50,000 award that may be used flexibly over 12 months. The start date of the fellowship is January 1, 2020, and the end date is December 31, 2020.

After 12 months, fellows will be eligible to apply for a supplemental grant of $25,000 to extend their work for another year and help mentor the next cohort of fellows.

**Eligibility**

The fellowship is open to emerging and experienced 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.

To be eligible for the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship:

- Applicants must be a member of a federal- or state-recognized Native American or Alaska Native tribe or community, Native Hawaiian, or demonstrate significant and long-standing engagement with and commitment to an Indigenous community in the U.S.
- Applicants must be engaged in the development, perpetuation and/or dissemination of knowledge in their field.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old.
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

**Individuals may apply directly for this fellowship OR individuals may nominate Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers for this fellowship.**

First Nations and Luce launched this fellowship to recognize and reward outstanding Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers for their important community contributions, and commitment to preserving and perpetuating Indigenous knowledge systems. However, 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 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.

**Important Note for Nominators:** The nominee will need to sign a Consent Form indicating that he or she agreed to work with the nominator to complete the application, and that he or she has read and agrees to the fellowship terms. For more information about applying directly for this fellowship or applying on another individual’s behalf, please see the “Application” tab on the online version of this fellowship application.

**Submission Deadline**

The deadline to apply for the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship is **Friday, September 13, 2019**. Complete applications must be submitted **no later than 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time**.

**Selection Criteria**

In 2020, First Nations will award 10 fellowships of $50,000 each. Our criteria for selecting each fellow is based on a combination of the applicant’s community knowledge, experience, potential and vision.

**KNOWLEDGE:** Applicants must be actively engaged in the development, perpetuation or dissemination 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 communities.

**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 preserving 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 and an Advisory Committee of eight Native American intellectual leaders representing a diversity of geographies, tribes and fields. Selection will be based on each candidate’s application.

**Online Application Process & Required Attachments**

All candidates must submit a completed fellowship application using First Nations’ [ONLINE](#) system by **Friday, September 13, 2019, no later than 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight 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](mailto: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.
Important Note: Please allow yourself enough time to submit a complete application before the deadline, as the system will shut down automatically at 5:00 p.m. MDT on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019, 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.

ONLINE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION FORM: The online fellowship application form includes several sections that ask applicants to provide their contact information, demographic information, and three short essays. The online application also requires that applicants upload several attachments during the online submission process.

All applicants will receive a confirmation email following the completion of the Fellowship Application Form. This confirmation will be sent via email to the primary email address provided in the application.

ESSAYS: In the application, applicants will be asked to respond to three short essays. These statements are designed to yield more insight about applicants’ community knowledge, experience, potential and vision. In addition to aiding with the selection process, these essays are intended to help applicants define their vision, create a plan and implement it.

- **Statement of Community Impact** (in 1,000 words or less) describing the applicant’s personal/professional background and connection to his/her community. *Who are you? What do you do? What experience do you have sharing and disseminating Indigenous knowledge, and supporting Indigenous people and communities?*

- **Proposed Fellowship Plan** (in 1,000 words or less) describing the applicant’s vision for transferring and sharing Indigenous knowledge in his/her community. *What is your vision for preserving and perpetuating knowledge in your community? How will this fellowship help you strengthen and empower your community, transfer knowledge and build your leadership skills?*

- **Budget** (in 500 words or less) describing how the applicant will use the funds to support his/her community vision. *How will funds be used during*
the 12-month fellowship period? What activities or contributions will the Fellowship support?

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

TWO REFERENCES: Applicants must submit two letters of reference with their application. Referees should be able to speak to your character and potential, and be familiar with your work and vision for your community. This attachment must be uploaded as a .pdf file.

In the application, applicants will be asked to submit the names and contact information of two individuals who will upload reference letters on their behalf. Once the applicant submits this information, referees will receive an email instructing them how to attach their reference letters to this application. Once these letters are received, applicants will be able to submit their completed applications.

Important note: Applicants will not be able to submit the application until reference letters are attached. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that two reference letters are submitted by the deadline. Applications with less than two letters by Friday, September 13, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. MDT will not be reviewed.

ONE (1) PHOTOGRAPH: For potential use in First Nations’ publications. Please upload a high-resolution quality photo in the online system in .jpg format.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING MATERIALS (OPTIONAL): Applicants can attach up to three supporting documents or materials that demonstrate the applicant’s commitment to his or her tribal community (awards, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, etc.). Supplemental materials are optional but highly recommended. These attachments must be uploaded as .pdf files.
CONSENT FORM (OPTIONAL): 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.

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.

All applicants must complete the First Nations online grant application, including submission of necessary attachments, no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time.

Download instructions for First Nations’ Online Application System here.

Access First Nations’ Online Application system here.

Selection Process

First Nations recognizes that there is not one form of Indigenous knowledge; rather it takes many forms. Indigenous knowledge is diverse and reflects unique cultures, languages, geographies, histories, traditions and values. The fellowship selection process is designed to be inclusive and benefit all applicants.

The application process allows applicants to reflect on their previous accomplishments and create a plan that will allow them to achieve personal and/or community goals. The stages and timeline of the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship are as follows:

1. Application for the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship opens Friday, June 14, 2019.
2. Completed applications, including reference letters, are due Friday, September 13, 2019, at 5 p.m. MDT.
3. All applications will be reviewed by First Nations and 20 finalists will be selected to advance to the final interview stage of selection. Finalists will be notified in early October 2019.
4. Finalists will travel and participate in an in-person interview with the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship Selection Committee the week of November 18, 2019. Location to be announced, but First Nations will cover all travel and accommodation expenses for the finalists’ travel.
5. After the interviews, the Fellowship Selection Committee will select 10 fellows and selection notification will go out in December 2019.

Application Q&A Session

First Nations will host two optional, informational Question & Answer (Q&A) webinars for interested applicants prior to the application deadline. These Q&A webinars will provide interested applicants with information about the fellowship program, eligibility criteria, and allowable activities and requirements. During the webinars, First Nations will also discuss specific questions in the fellowship application and sample responses. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions about the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship application and this funding opportunity.

Participation in these webinars is NOT mandatory, but applicants are strongly encouraged to register for and attend one or both of the webinars.

APPLICATION Q&A SESSIONS WILL BE HELD ON:

- **Wednesday, July 17, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. MDT.** Register at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5884714174392893196
- **Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. MDT.** Register at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8131540897139977485

About First Nations Development Institute
For 39 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 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.

**Questions**

If you have any other questions about the Fellowship, please contact Raymond Foxworth by email at rfoxworth@firstnations.org or by phone at (303) 774-7836.