



Karuk Food Security Project announces the birth of the Pikyav Field Institute!

Within the framework of this USDA-funded intertribal, multi-agency collaborative Klamath Basin Tribal Food Security Project, the Karuk Tribe has developed several initiatives focused on the education and workforce

development of our tribal and non-tribal youth, as well as opportunities for research within our Ancestral Territory and homelands. You might know of the **Kaavíchvaans Project**, employing tribal youth over summer break; our culturally relevant and academically stimulating **K-12 Nanu'ávaha Curriculum**, which has been piloted at four of our local schools; and the digital training opportunities of the **Sípnuk Digital Library, Archives and Museum**, which house collections about our rich cultural heritage, traditional and contemporary food systems, and historical photographs.

But when the 2014 White House Native Youth Report came out, showing that students from our first people were still suffering from the lowest academic achievement levels and graduation rates, as well as having the highest suicide rates and poverty levels of all ethnic groups in the nation, the declaration was widely publicized that *"Native youth -- and Native education -- are in a state of emergency."*

On the heels of these findings, the Obama Administration decided to increase efforts to change this disheartening trajectory for our tribal youth. U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. stated: *"All American-Indian and Alaska-Native students should have the support, opportunities, and education that honor their identity and their unique experiences, while providing them with the knowledge and skills to attain their greatest aspirations."* And they put their money where their mouth was!

The Food Security Project is proud to announce that one of its objectives, the **Pikyav Field Institute**, was awarded a 1 million-dollar grant! This four-year project is designed to support culturally relevant and holistic environmental education programs benefiting our tribal and non-tribal students in the Karuk Tribal Service Area. A full-time K-12 Environmental Education Division Coordinator, along with positions in Environmental Workforce Development and Higher Education Divisions, will help support our vision for improving the academic performance and college- and career-readiness of one of our most precious resources: our youth.



A field excursion with Tribal Youth on the habitat, harvest, and health of the deer potato — lessons on botany, Karuk culture and traditional ecological knowledge.

Please look for ways to share your cultural heritage and traditional ecological knowledge with us and our local schools, and help support our efforts to meet the Department of Natural

Resources' goal's for the Pikyav Field Institute as stated in our Strategic Plan: *To provide Tribal capacity within the Karuk Department of Natural Resources and build upon our partnerships with collaborating academic institutions to address identified program needs for a dedicated environmental education program, supporting traditional and western scientific knowledge to inform and augment long-term co-management within Karuk ancestral homelands; build upon and formalize our current pilot programs to educate tribal and non-tribal Youth in cultural relevant and academically and vocationally challenging programs; and address high rates of unemployment and poverty among the tribal membership.*

Yôotva for your support of the **Food Security Project!**

- Lisa Hillman, Food Security Coordinator/Pikyav Field Institute Program Manager