

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ArizonaNativeNet ROLLS OUT DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM FOR TRIBES

ArizonaNativeNet, a web portal designed to promote nation building in American Indian communities, today debuted the first in a series of distance learning modules designed for tribal leaders. As the first free program of its kind in the country, the web-based project will address a critical and increasing need for information about Indian law and governance. The module, as well a variety of information about ArizonaNativeNet, can be viewed at <http://www.arizonanativenet.com/>.

"There's really nothing like it anywhere in the world," said Professor Robert A. Williams, Jr., Director of the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program at the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law. "The Internet has the potential to be an important tool of tribal sovereignty, bringing cutting-edge research and information to reservations." ArizonaNativeNet is unique in that it was developed by world class experts in the fields of Indian law and native nation building and provides a one-stop shop for information in other areas of concern, including health, education, breaking news, employment and grant opportunities, a calendar of events, and much more.

Preliminary plans call for the development of over twenty distance learning modules in categories as diverse as "Entrepreneurship and Doing Business on Indian Lands" and "Modern Tribal Jurisdiction" from two highly regarded UA Native American academic programs: the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy (NNI) and The Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program (IPLP). The Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office (NPTAO), a division of the Office of the UA's Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and Economic Development, has also played an integral role in the development of the web portal and distance learning content.

The module introduced today, "The History of Federal Indian Law and Policy: the European Doctrine of Discovery and American Indian Rights," is part of a project entitled "Federal Indian Law for Tribal Leaders: IPLP Tribal Leadership Curriculum." It covers the Marshall Trilogy, the trust doctrine, tribal sovereignty, Congressional plenary power, the Doctrine of Discovery and the European Law of Nations. Designed especially for use by tribal leaders, attorneys, judges, and college students, the modules include video clips, images, maps, and supplemental reading materials, and should also appeal to anyone with a general interest in learning the history and development of Federal Indian law.

ArizonaNativeNet is supported through a grant from the Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona Regents Reach Out (ARRO) grant program and a Congressionally-directed grant administered through the Department of Education.