S.T.R.O.N.G

Sticking Together Reaching Our Goals

Vision of S.T.R.O.N.G is to bridge the gaps of native reaching their goals such as Language, Cultural activities and Mentorship.

Language- To learn the basics of pronunciation and how to use the language in everyday activities

Cultural Activities- Singing and Drumming will be one of the main focal points paired with one of the older traditional games still played today.

Mentorship- To support and enable all native youth with their Educational needs as well as Everyday life needs.

Parental Involvement- This is the most important component of S.T.R.O.N.G. Parents are included as some may have not experienced these native ways of life. That is not a problem as knowledge is not for us to hold onto, it is for us to share with others. Once this knowledge is gone there is no bringing it back.

In my experience and years of service to our native youth. There are methods that work with our native youth no matter the tribe. Some of those methods are to invoke and incorporate native ways of life into everyday learning.

When situations arise in our personal life we tend to not talk about it. As this is very unhealthy, the Mentorship assists with the guidance and provides a role model. Home life for natives differs very exponentially then that of other ethnic backgrounds. Understanding is a gift both for the adults and youth of all various backgrounds. For Adults we need to acquire the understanding to not dismiss youth of their feelings or thoughts. For the youth it is our jobs as the adults to help provide that understanding. Understanding in daily living and learning that will benefit the youth.

Cultural activities provide inclusion that instills following of rules and camaraderie. Most importantly fun as when we have fun we don't think of it as learning. When we have the elements incorporated in daily schedules and become a part of the daily routine. Only then will we gain the trust and respect of these said youth. Therefore all of these generate a positive native youth who becomes endowed in their own educational pursuit.

Language- We will establish a strong foundation of obtaining the complexities of the Menominee Language. Paired with discussions and insight that come along with some of our diverse vocabulary. Also included will be a few prayers commonly practiced through native lifestyles.

Cultural Activities- Singing and drumming is a strong part of the native lifestyle, it involves building on morals and practices the grandfather teachings. Traditional activities provide knowledge by participating and engaging meaningfully. Numerous activities include seasonal harvesting, playing and enjoying games.

Mentorship- Mentoring is a strong and vital role in all youth no matter the ethnic background. Serving as a mentor for the youth benefits both involved. Youth gain a lifelong mentor who can assist and guide when youth are in a dilemma. Adults gain a lifelong mentee that in turn respects and learns from these youth as well.

Parental Involvement- The most important of all is parental involvement and engagement. Parents who engage meaningfully and are included in daily activities with youth support their needs to be seen or validated in their journey of learning. Parental involvement can include the educating of the adults as well as some may not have had a lot of exposure as youth.