

Partnership With Native Americans Featured in PBS Documentary on Native American Food Movement and Food Insecurity



Documentary by Front Page Productions now airing on PBS Stations, Nationwide

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Partnership With Native Americans
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ADDISON, Texas, Dec. 5, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA), a nonprofit committed to championing hope for a brighter future for Native Americans, has partnered with Front Page Productions, a full-service, high-definition staging production company, to share the story of a return to healthy, traditional diets in Indian Country.



Partnership With Native Americans was featured in a documentary on Native American Food Movement and Food Insecurity, now airing on PBS stations, nationwide.

Nearly one in four (23 percent) of Native families experience low food security. Often, remote reservations have few supermarkets or access to fresh fruits, vegetables and whole foods. Lack of access to these foods fuels for Native Americans the highest diabetes rate in the U.S.

The Public Television segment, hosted by actor James Earl Jones, explores a return to healthy, ancestral diets to combat food insecurity and health issues. Native Chef Lois Ellen Frank, PhD; Daniel Vega, Director of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Department of Language and Culture; and Rafael Tapia, Jr., PWNA VP of Programs, discuss the Native American Food Movement and their work to address food insecurity.

"Healthy food choices are in abundance for most Americans, but that's not always the case for our Native American citizens," said Tapia, Jr. "This documentary captures the reality of food deserts and how traditional knowledge and local ingredients can reduce the shortage of healthy foods and dietary deficiencies, for sustained health and wellness."

PWNA addresses food insecurity through healthy food access, nutrition training, garden support and garden training. Partnering with the Pascua Yaqui tribe (PYT) in Tucson, Ariz., the Huyapo Bwaa'ame ancestral garden project was created two years ago to engage the PYT community and reinforce the importance of incorporating tribal knowledge and culture into answers to healthier living.

"The goal is to provide a better understanding of ancestral foods and their holistic spiritual, mental, physical and emotional impact, as well as the connection of the land to the people and the people to the land," said Vega. "From the harvest to youth engagement, the ancestral garden continues to impact our community."

The documentary also features Dr. Frank, a Native food historian and chef who has spent her career chronicling food and habits of Southwest tribes. Dr. Frank delivers nutrition training, focusing on indigenous food options.

"Native American Food Movement" is airing on PBS stations nationwide. Check your local listings or visit www.nativepartnership.org/PBS, and call (877) 618-0610 to learn how you can get involved.

About Partnership With Native Americans

PWNA is a nonprofit committed to championing hope for a brighter future for Native Americans living on remote, geographically isolated and often impoverished reservations. Established in 1990, PWNA collaborates with reservation programs to serve immediate needs and support long-term solutions for strong, self-sufficient Native American communities, improving the lives of 250,000 Native Americans annually. Follow PWNA on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, or visit www.nativepartnership.org.

Contact:

Helen Oliff PR Manager Partnership With Native Americans O: 540-825-5950 Ext 205 holiff@nativepartnership.org

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