

What are you working on?

A Healing Educational Solution addressing educational disparities which will produce measurable results within its first year of application. It will reduce drop out rates and increase scholastic ability, advanced education enrollment and societal involvement. What's cool is it will enable low income and people of color a chance at leadership roles in the Green Economy instead of being relegated to its low skill jobs. Best of all, we will reduce the death rate of youth between 14 to 22 years of age in certain communities

Objectives

- Reduce isolation and fragmentation in communities
- Reconnect youth and true elders
- Reconnect people to the earth
- Scholastic and leadership improvement
- Green economy leadership

Our approach

We are an independent virtualized educational resource center providing:

- Integrated earth oriented learning for both healing and instruction
- Bio-mechanical elements and brained based learning
- Systems approach (Relational world view focused on balance and harmony in time, space, or physical existence)
- Full immersion "Invisible School"
- Place making & service learning
- Community re-building
- Elder in training

2005-2014 is the United Nations' Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

- Education for sustainable development incorporating key themes of sustainable development: poverty alleviation, human rights, health and environmental protection
- Business, education partners and K-12 classrooms to design sustainable solutions to student-identified real world challenges
- Capture student's imagination and creativity to help build a more hopeful future

This effort was devised by the elder grandmothers after the 2005 International Gathering of Grandmothers and the Healing Heart of the First People peace symphony. The grandmothers' Earth is Our First Teacher teaching is merged with Valerie Bob's curriculum addressing PTSD in school children. Si Kazili is Samish for Sacred Mother Earth.



The Grandmothers' Project NW

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SI KAZILI: HEALING EDUCATION SOLUTION

ELDER GUIDED EFFORT FOR THE EARTH AND ALL HER CHILDREN

Under the eyes of the Grandmothers



Method

Marry established studies of indigenous educational methods, bio-mechanical healing, PTSD and trauma effects on school children with experiential environmental education methods.

We will provide assistance in the form of knowledge transfer to any group providing an engaged elder from the peacemaking traditions.

Advantages

- Can start quickly
- Lower cost; the earth is available to everyone
- Culturally competent
- Open to all peoples
- Self paced
- Lead to better academic performance
- Lead to green employment

This is an elder guided effort to address educational disparities caused by cognitive breaks in the brain due to trauma

Partner Benefits

- Extend Environmental Education programs
- Add resources & support to public school teachers
- Increased use of the Parks and Environmental Education Centers
- Service of urban forests
- Access to cutting edge special needs education & support

The Invisible School

When the mentoring places and moments are integrated – present in every moment and place the student exists – the School becomes Invisible. Some elements of the Invisible School are:

- *Silence, reflection*
- *Animal forms and lessons*
- *Storytelling*
- *Art, Music, Dance*
- *Flora and Fauna*
- *Outdoor learning*
- *Integrated Elder presence*

Unlike current efforts which are broken down into fragmented and disassociated programs, the grandmothers' solution unifies and integrates while holding focus to create a complete community.

For community efforts that struggle with diversity and inclusion, Si Kazili offers guidance benefiting service providers immigrant populations, First People, homeless youth and others.

The grandmothers from the peacemaking traditions will assist with re-building community and advocating for the earth.

Seeking solutions to poverty

It is an axiom that education is the way out of poverty. But the cycle of poverty places barriers in front of getting a competitive education. Of these, lack of hope is the biggest barrier, created by lack of community and family support, learned violence and escapist, self-medicating behaviors in home and community. This causes the trauma that research has shown breaks the right and left brain

communication. Everything from managing a household budget to entrepreneurial initiative is lost to an inability to see relationships or mapping patterns.

If education and inclusion is not urgently addressed we feel that those on the receiving end of environmental injustice will be relegated to the lower paying vocational skills in the new economy. This is the second reason we focus on an earth oriented education. We have an eye on filling the pipeline with green entrepreneurs.

Our Resources

- Environmental educators
- Experienced curriculum developers (classroom, on-line, self-paced)
- Elders found in the community
- Transitional home case workers
- Prevention case workers
- Sustainable energy consultants working with State Community Colleges
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

"Today, the elder is the TV. If you want us to act differently, then give us a different elder."

Anonymous 13 year old girl, Welcoming Our Children to a New Millennium