

January 28, 2010

Contact: Georgiana Lee
(402) 472-0497, glee3@unl.edu

NAPT Announces 2010 Open Call for Filmmakers

Native American Public Telecommunications announces its annual open call for proposals from filmmakers. With funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the NAPT Public Television Program Fund will award support to video projects with significant Native involvement—including documentary, performance, cultural/public affairs and animation—and help bring the projects to national broadcast on public TV. Proposals are due by July 14, 2010.

The purpose of the program fund is to increase the diversity of voices in public media, says NAPT Executive Director Shirley Sneve (Sicangu Lakota). “There are very few avenues open to documentary filmmakers, and we believe that NAPT has a great responsibility to support the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media. We also believe that support from NAPT can help open other doors for other funding.”

Projects in any phase of production are eligible to apply for funding. Awards for research and development range from \$10,000 to \$25,000, and awards for production or completion can be up to \$100,000. NAPT does not fully fund programs, and awardees are required to seek additional funding from other sources.

“First and foremost, we’re looking for good stories from Native filmmakers,” Sneve says. “Second, programs that tell the truth and illuminate aspects of contemporary tribal cultures or peoples. The primary audience is PBS viewers, so we want stories that transcend cultures. And we’re not looking for ‘poor me’ films. Native Americans have faced extremely serious hardships over the last 500 years, but we’re still here.”

A five-person anonymous panel of public television professionals, independent producers and Native history and resource experts will review submissions and recommend the top proposals. NAPT will bring awardees to Lincoln, Neb., for training and orientation. Additionally, NAPT will assist producers with fundraising, navigating the public TV system, and thinking beyond the broadcast.

“Many folks who would be interested in this content may not watch television, but they do use the Internet,” Sneve says. “There is more to many of these stories than can be told in an hour-long TV program, and we can show that on the Web.”

For program fund guidelines, application materials and an audio clip of Sneve and NAPT Assistant Director Georgiana Lee discussing what makes a winning proposal, go to:
http://www.nativetelecom.org/program_fund.

Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT) shares Native stories with the world by supporting the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media. NAPT’s other Fall 2009 offerings include *To Brooklyn and Back: A Mohawk Journey*, *For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska*, *River of Renewal* and *Power Paths* on Independent Lens. Other NAPT services include **AIROS.org**, which features streaming and downloadable audio stories, and **VisionMaker Video**, a distributor of *Jim Thorpe, The World’s Greatest Athlete* and other documentaries by and about Native Americans. For more information, visit: **www.nativetelecom.org**.

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