



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NAPT SELECTS EIGHT DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS IN OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

LINCOLN, Neb.—Dec. 2, 2008—**Native American Public Telecommunications** has selected eight outstanding documentary projects and will award more than \$500,000 to filmmakers in its annual open call for proposals.

"Supporting Native American filmmakers is our business and the talent in Native America continues to expand each year," **NAPT Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve** (Rosebud Sioux) said. "We are proud to be part of the process to provide indigenous perspectives—our stories, our lives—to an educated and insightful audience, a PBS audience."

In its 2008 open call, NAPT received 36 proposals totaling \$2.3 million. The organization will award \$526,000 with funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to eight producers in various stages of the filmmaking process, including research and development or completion.

Projects to be funded include:

- ***Breaking the Circle: The Threat of Gangs in Indian Country***
Producer: Mark Anthony Rolo

Exploring increasing urban gang activity within tribal communities, ***Breaking the Circle*** also examines how Indian communities confront violence, drugs and other anti-social behavior that threatens Native American youth and the future of Indian Country.

- ***La Donna Harris: Indian 101***
Producer: Julianna Brannum

Comanche activist LaDonna Harris, who has led an extensive life of Indian political and social activism, is now passing her traditional cultural and leadership values to a new generation of emerging indigenous leaders.

- ***Losing Ground***
Producer: Jenni Monet

The North Arctic landscape is changing rapidly—so too are the lives of Inupiat Natives living on tiny, vanishing island of Kivalina, Alaska. Many believe global warming is to blame but filmmakers show how one humble village fights to save their homeland under a cloud of doubt.

- ***Lost Tribes***
Producer: Leighton Peterson

This documentary feature examines the quintessential American issues of free

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speech and ethnic pride and the ongoing Columbus Day Parade controversy in Denver. Tensions rise as Denver's Native and Italian-American communities publicly fight over race, history and what it means to be an "American."

- ***Native American Marching Bands***

Producer: Cathleen O'Connell

The phrase "Native American music" may not invoke tubas and baton twirlers, but brass band music has been a part of Native culture for more than a century. Combining portraits of contemporary bands and archival material, the film offers an unexpected view into this surprising music scene.

- ***The Salmon People***

Producer: Luke Griswold-Tergis

A young Tlingit makes a pilgrimage to his ancestral home and is forced to confront the dichotomy between his history and the world he lives in. His personal life story parallels his culture's heart wrenching disintegration and struggle to revitalize itself.

- ***Telephone Warriors: The Story of the Choctaw Code Talkers***

Producer: Valerie Red-Horse

In 1918, not yet citizens of the U.S., Choctaw tribal members of the U.S. American Expeditionary Forces were asked to use their native language as a powerful tool against the German Forces in World War I, setting a precedent for code talking as an effective military weapon and establishing them as America's original Code Talkers.

- ***Video Letters from Prison***

Producer: Milt Lee

Following three young Lakota girls from the Pine Ridge Reservation as they form a tentative relationship with their incarcerated father through the exchange of video letters, filmmakers document the years that follow as each girl flowers into a beautiful young woman with a strong sense of identity and purpose.

NAPT shares Native stories with the world through support of the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media with offices in Lincoln, Neb., and Albuquerque, N.M.

Other NAPT products include the online Native radio network, **AIROS.org**, and **VisionMaker Video**, distributor of such films as ***March Point***, ***Waterbuster***, and a new documentary about American Indians' struggle for civil rights and the creation of the National Indian Lutheran Board, ***Native Nations***, and many other documentaries by and about Native Americans seen on PBS.

For more information on NAPT, go to www.nativetelecom.org.

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