

Civic Engagement Objective

Native American residents are active in every facet of community life, including community betterment activities and leadership roles in both public and service organizations.

1. Within 1 year the Blandin Foundation will implement its regular **leadership program** and the **Kootasca Project** in the Bemidji area.
2. Within 2 years 10 Native Americans will have completed **Northwest Minnesota Foundation's Leader Impact** program.
3. Implement an **organizational diversity initiative** to double American Indian participation in civic organizations within 2 years, with a doubling again in another two.
4. Develop and implement a **new neighbor initiative** that intentionally welcomes and encourages new residents to become engaged in Bemidji community life
5. Within 2 years there will be an **online community involvement directory** that identifies civic engagement opportunities and methods to become engaged.
6. A **work readiness initiative** will be implemented for workers with needs, with an emphasis on "soft skill" development

Education Objective

Bemidji community Native American children graduate from high school in the same proportion as does the entire student population, and there is a 50% increase in post-secondary enrollment in the same population.

1. Every student with need has an **education coach** and every student has an **individualized academic achievement plan**.
2. A bold **Native American co-curricular initiative** is created that doubles Native American student participation in co-curricular activities within 3 years.
3. An **adopt-a-school program** is created to turn each school into a model of cultural awareness.
4. **Tutors** are available to all students in need to support education success.
5. An **Adult+Education=Success!** initiative will result in every child having active parental involvement in their education life.
6. The **BSU/Tribal College/High School - Native American Teacher initiative** doubles the number of Native American teachers in 5 years, and provides the best teacher cultural diversity training in the Upper Midwest.

Economic Opportunity Objective

Economic indicators of median income, unemployment, and entrepreneurship are steadily improving for the Native American population.

1. Within 2 years the Bemidji community, in collaboration with the surrounding tribes, will host an **economic summit**.
2. Within 2 years an **entrepreneurial support package** will be available to Native American entrepreneurs.
3. Beginning in 2010 **5 internships** will be created for Native American post-secondary students, with an increase in the number annually.
4. Within 5 years the Bemidji community will develop a **second chance job skills training program** for individuals that without high school educations and those recently released from prison.
5. Within 3 years there is an **Entrepreneurship Education Initiative** that is part of the school curriculum.

Objective

Cultural literacy about Native American culture has increased in the Bemidji community for all races and discrimination has decreased in all aspects of community life.

1. Within a year 20 institutions in Bemidji will have **Ojibwe and English signs** at their business.
2. Within 3 years **three new flag poles with flags from the three surrounding nations** will be added to two prominent locations in the Bemidji community.
3. Within a year 25 **“Dispel the Myth” presentations** will be given to key groups in our community and a permanent **speaker’s bureau** will be available to the community.
4. Within 2 years a **Pen Pal program** will be initiated between Bemidji elementary schools and elementary schools on nearby Indian reservations that focus on sharing cultural information between kids.
5. Within 5 years **Bemidji entrance signs** (south and west) will depict our community as one that embraces and celebrates diversity.
6. A **“We Embrace Diversity!” business campaign** is developed and implemented in the Bemidji community.
7. An **Annual Cultural Music Festival** will become one of the signature community festivals within five years.