

PP-514 [Beekeeping for Rural Development]

Reconnecting Societies From Soil to Sky: Indigenous Insights into Apiculture

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The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) based in Santa Fe, New Mexico- USA, is a global leader of contemporary Indigenous artistry and diversity. Through the concept of art as a traditional path of creativity, IAIA excels at skill building, provoking thought and providing a place to embrace the past, enrich the present, and create the future, moving ahead to establish paths where traditions are rediscovered, explored, deepened. And, where art and cultural identity are celebrated and revered. IAIA Land-Grant Programs is the agriculture extension department which focuses on the development of integrative approaches weaving the arts and earth sciences together through Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Western sustainable agriculture science. This presentation will share an introduction and overview of Indigenous Research Theory and practices as related to pollinator stewardship and conservation at IAIA. IAIA Land-Grants Program established a tribal beekeeping and mentorship program 4 years ago. With funding from the USDA-ARS SW Climate Adaptation Science Center, they also offer online programming for tribal and Indigenous environmental stewards on pollinator stewardship. Through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Office of Tribal Relations, the program has developed a Grassland and Pollinator Stewardship research of interest to tribal communities and the development of resource guides for tribal college campuses developing pollinator conservation programs. Additionally, IAIA Land-Grant Programs is working on a NIFA- New Discovery grant funded project to develop a Tanoan/Puebloan bee atlas and to research the nutritional values of culturally relevant foods, pollens, and honeys for the intermountain southwest region. IAIA Land-Grant Programs recognizes that Apiculture weaves science, art, and cultural stewardship together to promote consilience- unity of knowledge systems.