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NAPT Welcomes Multimedia Fellowship Journalists Gemma Givens and Kiera Lasiloo

Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT) is pleased to announce a first-ever, four-month journalism project that will bring free news content this summer to public television and radio websites, as well as interested media.

As part of the NAPT Multimedia Fellowship Program, two full-time Native American journalists will write and produce multimedia projects about national Native American issues starting in early June and ending in late September. With major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the project is meant to increase the quantity and quality of multimedia reporting on Native news available to public radio and television audiences, and other news outlets.

“The goal of the program is two-fold,” said NAPT Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve. “First, we want to provide this valuable opportunity for Native college students to advance the skills they've been learning in the classroom. Second, we want to increase the availability of the stories they will cover through many outlets on the Internet, as well as PBS programs like *Need to Know* and *The NewsHour*.”

The two Native American student journalists are: Gemma Givens, who is Cakchiquel (Mayan) and Yaqui from Santiago Sacatepéquez, Guatemala; and Kiera Lasiloo, who is Zuni and Cochiti Pueblo from Santa Fe, N.M.

Givens attends the University of California-Santa Cruz, where she majors in politics and American studies. In summer 2009, she graduated from the American Indian Journalism Institute at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and later worked as an intern at the Santa Cruz (Calif.) Sentinel.

“My passion for journalism comes as a direct response to a static and often inaccurate portrayal of my culture through visual media,” Givens said. “I seek to utilize education and experience from NAPT to redefine and tell my story and my peoples’ stories.”

Lasiloo attends the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, where she majors in new media arts with an emphasis in moving images. She comes from a large family of jewelers and is married with one daughter.

“I’m excited and honored to be a NAPT Multimedia Fellow,” Lasiloo said. “Not only am I able to do something that I love, but I'm also helping our people tell their stories. I can’t begin to describe how happy that makes me.”

Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT) shares Native stories with the world through support of the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media. Founded in 1977, through various media—public television, public radio and the Internet—NAPT brings awareness of Indian and Alaska Native issues. Through the CPB-funded Production Fund, five to ten new projects are supported each year. Last year, we worked with ***American Experience*** in the award-winning ***We Shall Remain*** five-part Native history series. NAPT operates the **AIROS Native Network**, a 24/7 Internet radio station that features music, news, interviews, documentaries and audio theater. We also feature downloadable podcasts with Native

filmmakers, musicians and Tribal leaders. **VisionMaker Video** is now the premier source for quality Native American educational and home videos. Profits made from video sales are invested in new NAPT productions. All aspects of our programs encourage the involvement of young people to learn more about careers in the media—to be the next generation of storytellers. Through our location at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we offer student employment, internships and fellowships. Reaching the general public and the global market is the ultimate goal for the dissemination of Native-produced media.

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