Tribal Wisdom for Business Ethics – 30 minute film
Teaching notes by Grace Ann Rosile and Mary Jane Williams 9/19/2014

Native and non-native scholars present a fascinating view of American Indian tribal values and indigenous cultures that is relationship-based and community-oriented, fostering a harmonious web of life which includes the natural environment. These values and practices have shaped daily conduct in business and personal life among Native Americans for centuries. Many of these traditional tribal values still exist in today’s business world, and further, offers insights to which, according to Garrey Carruthers, former Governor of New Mexico, “...if some of us would pay a little more attention, we might be better off.”

Time: 30 - 40 minutes

Materials:

Physical Setting: Classroom

Group Size: Groups of 3-4 with a summarizing large group discussion at the end.

Think-Pair-Share is an activity that allows students to think about a short prompt, write an answer, and then share it with the person next to them. Depending on your time frame, you could have students share with one other person (as below) or continue to share with additional persons before you change the prompt.

Activity: Think-Pair-Share

Part A. Listen and reflect - 15 minutes

Having viewed the segment, “Tribal Wisdom for Business Ethics,” what are the 8 main aspects or principles expressed here? Define/describe each of the 8 aspects listed (on a handout or on a blackboard or PowerPoint). (Relationships, Respect, Gifting, Egalitarianism, Usefulness, Barter, Trust, and Disclosure.)

Park B. Think-Pair-Share - 10 minutes

1. Each of the 8 principles will be read out loud to you. As you write each down, think of an example in your life (work or social) that is a good representation of the philosophy and jot it down under that aspect.

2. Turn to the person next to you. You will have 30 seconds each to share/discuss your response to the first of the 8 aspects.

3. Move to a new person. The instructor will call out the next principle. You will have 30 seconds each to share your response to the 2nd principle. You will continue at the Instructor’s guidance to share each aspect until you go through the entire list.

Part C. Discussion Questions: 15 minutes

As a whole group, review the responses to the principles, one by one. Was there a particularly interesting or unique response to the item? Did one response resonate with you? Encourage students to share what they have responded to in others’ comments they heard, as well as their own written comments.