

**Ah Ho !** (Hello in Cheyenne)

I would like to request your support for the **American Indian Housing Initiative (AIHI)**, a program at Penn State dedicated to promoting sustainable building practices and intercultural awareness. AIHI specializes in sustainable building methods including straw bale construction and solar energy systems, and sustainability education for low-income homeowners on Indian reservations.

Through a unique course series offered at Penn State, AIHI exposes students from a variety of disciplines to the principles of green building. During summer “blitz-builds”, students are joined by participants from across the country and construct buildings and homes on a Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Lame Deer, Montana. This progressive program provides participants an opportunity for hands-on and experiential learning. Principles of sustainable housing learned in class are directly applied to combat the current housing crisis afflicting American Indians. Our unique location and partnership with the Northern Cheyenne further enhance the experience by exposing participants to the rich culture of the Northern Cheyenne.

This summer’s program will continue to focus on green building and increasing solar energy awareness. Two student teams will install a photovoltaic grid tied solar array and a solar hot water system on the Tech Center at Chief Dull Knife College, built in 2004 by AIHI. The project’s high visibility will help the College in their efforts to expand their developing sustainability education program and provide a model to the surrounding communities about the benefits of solar energy. Students will also introduce a new Home Energy Use tool they developed in class this spring to perform informal residential assessments on homes in the area.

The American Indian Housing Initiative relies on financial support from individuals and organizations to accomplish its goals and continue to offer this rich and unique opportunity. Participants, the majority of whom are students, are required to cover the costs of their travel and meals on site, as well as contribute to raising funds to support the Northern Cheyenne tribal members who assist with our educational programs in Montana. Money raised by participants also helps to defray costs of construction materials and other design needs.

*Please consider investing in this worthwhile program.* The enclosed materials and **sponsor form** offer more information regarding the American Indian Housing Initiative, our values and our goals. We encourage you to visit our website [www.engr.psu.edu/greenbuild](http://www.engr.psu.edu/greenbuild) for more information. If you have any questions about our program, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

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814 - 863 - 2079  
[driley@engr.psu.edu](mailto:driley@engr.psu.edu)

# American Indian Housing Initiative



## Design-Build Montana!

### *Hands-on Service Learning*

#### Tribal Housing

*Americans left behind*

Each year hundreds of American Indians perish due to over-crowded substandard housing conditions. Of the over 2 million American Indians living on reservations today, more than 300,000 are homeless. Extreme temperatures and severe weather conditions make survival a daily struggle.

#### The Program at Penn State

*An innovative learning exchange*

The American Indian Housing Initiative is a multi-university partnership with American Indian tribes. Educational programs and technologies that promote sensible and sustainable solutions to housing problems are explored through courses and research.

#### Student Opportunities

*Facing the challenge*

This program offers opportunities for Penn State students to take a hands-on role in helping American Indian communities, and at the same time, allows students to explore the valuable lessons offered by American Indian culture.

- Gain hands-on experience in the design and construction of a housing project.
- Learn about sustainable building methods and experience American Indian culture.
- A chance to make a difference in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the U.S.

#### How You Can Help

##### **Sponsor a Student**

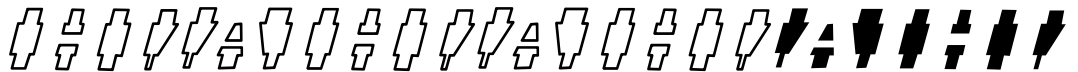
Help cover the travel costs for Penn State students who take part in this experience.

##### **Make a Donation**

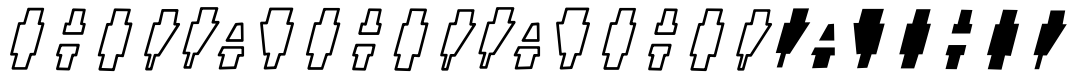
Contribute to this program through a tax deductible donation. Funds are used to cover the expenses of this unique educational experience. A sponsor form is attached.

Photos by Kate Moxham

PENNSSTATE



Visit our web site: [www.engr.psu.edu/greenbuild](http://www.engr.psu.edu/greenbuild)



# SPONSOR FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## *How you can help*

### **Sponsor a Student**

Help cover the travel costs for Penn State students who take part in this experience.

*Student Sponsor* (\$25 minimum)

Student Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Make a Donation**

Contribute through a tax deductible contribution.

Funds are used to cover the expenses of this unique educational experience and to help pay for building materials and supplies.

*Donor* \$100

*Student Sponsor* \$500

*Corporate Sponsor* \$1000

Check Enclosed **Payable to Penn State** \_\_\_\_\_

As a thank you for your support, all sponsors and donors will receive a **photo album (PDF)** of the summer project. Building Partners and Corporate Sponsors will have Names or company names added to a **commemorative plaque** to be presented to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. All contributions are tax deductible. PSU Tax ID #24-6000376

Would you like to be informed of future projects?

Yes

No thank you

### **Mail to:**

**American Indian Housing Initiative**  
Pennsylvania State University  
104 Engineering Unit A  
University Park, PA 16802