



November 1, 2018

A message from our director, Katsi Cook:

The application period for the next Spirit Aligned Fellowship Award cycle is now closed. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the time and thoughtfulness put forward by each applicant. We asked you to reach deep into yourselves and tell us your stories, something that we Indigenous women elders are not used to.

Spirit Aligned Leadership program sought applicants who, through the practice and development of their own knowledge and knowing, have re-quickened Indigenous women's kinship, community, love and trust. They embody the principles of indigeneity: appreciation, respect, reciprocity, world alive, balance.

Fellowship applications are requested and received through a geographically and culturally broad, fair, and open process. Our second cycle drew promising candidates from across many North American Indigenous nations. The process of review, evaluation, selection and invitation to Spirit Aligned Leadership program's second Legacy Circle begins now, with screening of applications for timeliness, completeness, documentation of membership, and relationship with an Indigenous community.

The applications are evaluated in confidence by a dozen anonymous Selection Committee members who participate in a thorough, step-wise review process. Their dynamic perspectives in the broader landscape of strengths, wisdom, trust, and authenticity of Indigenous communities throughout North America are brought to bear on the daunting task of selecting only eight women from a field of extraordinary applicants.

Holding in the balance the suggested criteria reflected in the application questions, the process aligns with the sacred spaces of deep emergence and generative embodiment as we work to become our greater selves. As Legacy Leader Nora Naranjo-Morse, a Kha Po Tewa potter whose life is full of power imbalances that she smooths out in her daily work with clay, puts it, "Becoming takes time."

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Spirit Aligned Leadership program will announce the eight Indigenous women elders who have been invited into a second Legacy Circle on January 31, 2019. All applicants will receive a notification of our decision by mail prior to this announcement.

