OVERVIEW
Native SOAR (Student Outreach, Access and Resiliency) is a multigenerational service-learning mentoring program in the Center for the Study of Higher Education through the College of Education that equips undergraduate students at the University of Arizona (UA) in Tucson to mentor local middle and high school students. Undergraduate students enroll in Native SOAR’s three-unit class and learn about the pedagogy and skills to mentor Native American students.

IMPACT
In the fall of 2013, with Professor Jenny Lee as principal investigator, Native SOAR was awarded a $667,000 Helios Foundation grant that sustained the program until May 2017, at which point the UA Department of Educational Policy Studies and Practice through the College of Education is providing some financial support. Over the course of Native SOAR’s history, the program has engaged hundreds of undergraduate students, served over 3,700 K-12 students, dedicated over 4,000 hours’ worth of mentoring and have worked with over 30 Arizona schools. Additionally, some of the first high school graduates Native SOAR undergraduates have mentored are entering the UA.

One of Native SOAR’s greatest accomplishments is receiving national recognition from the White House for the creation of a digital story entitled, SOAR HIGHER: Tradition Meets New Knowledge - 2015 First Lady Near-Peer Challenge, which can be found here: https://youtu.be/Qd8hvm22vhE

OVERVIEW
The Native American Science & Engineering Program (NASEP) is a FREE year-long program designed to provide Native American high school students with the necessary resources to enroll in college and pursue a career in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Through interactions with university experts, hands-on projects, and college preparation workshops, participants are exposed to a wide variety of STEM areas, including environmental sustainability, engineering, computer programming, and optical sciences.

IMPACT
The Office of Early Academic Outreach partnered with The University of Alaska-Anchorage in a National Science Foundation Partnership for Innovation Proposal titled Indigenous Alliance: Pre-College Component Expanding on Success. By participating in the Indigenous Alliance, Arizona joined nine other universities in an attempt to effect a systematic change in the hiring patterns on Indigenous Americans in STEM fields by increasing the number of individuals on the path to leadership in those areas. Since 2009, NASEP has hosted 10 cohorts impacting 204 Native American students from 23 different tribal nations.
IMPORTANCE

This data reflects the impact that Native SOAR and NASEP have on the college going culture in tribal communities. Although the data is from previous years, we continue to see the trends of 100% of Native SOAR freshmen participants continuing on to their sophomore year, and 25% of NASEP students going on to study at the University of Arizona with 20% enrolling in Native SOAR during the undergraduate career.

Data Byte (December 2016, Student Affairs Assessment & Research)