

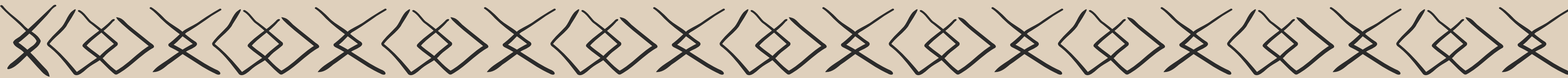
# Reviving Tradition, Inspiring Innovation: Makerspaces for Community Empowerment

Educating and creating in our  
Indigenous Communities

Angelina Magerl & Miranda Roberts  
Native Community Project Associates, Center for Rural Affairs



CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS



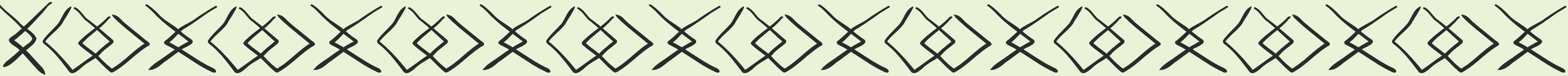


# Mission Statement



## CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

Establish strong rural communities, social and economic justice, environmental stewardship, and genuine opportunity for all while engaging people in decisions that affect the quality of their lives and the future of their communities.



# Native Communities

We work alongside community members in four tribes: Winnebago Tribe, Umonhon Tribe, Ponca Tribe, and Santee Tribe. We also work to nurture food systems with the Nebraska Indian Community College and Little Priest Tribal College. We offer activities to foster cultural traditions, improve diets, better health, and support families growing fruits and vegetables.



# Native Communities

We also aid in rural business development by offering 1:1 business coaching, business planning assistance, and hosting two community makerspaces.



One is located in Walthill, Nebraska, inside the Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center.



The other is located in Santee, Nebraska, at the Nebraska Indian Community College campus.



# Introductions

## Angelina Magerl



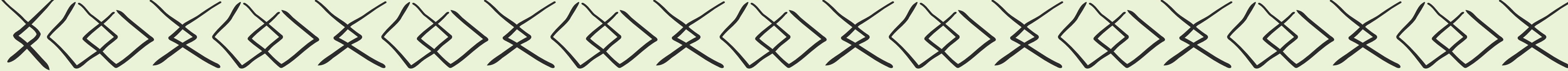
- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Background in sustainability & food systems
- Crafty, creative mind, small business experience

## Miranda Roberts



- Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska
- Background in business, entrepreneurship & marketing
- Paraprofessional
- On-Site Coordinator/Teacher 21st CCLC





# Santee Makerspace, Est. 2021



Santee, Nebraska, at Nebraska Indian Community College campus



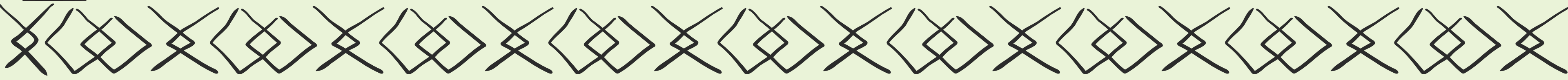
## How we got started:

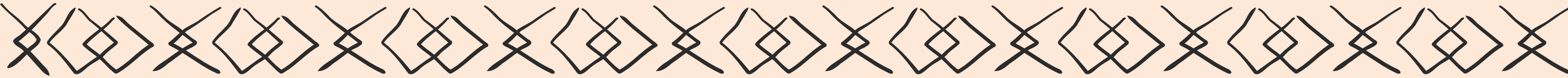
After some research was conducted, the community was polled on needs and how they would be met.

Grant was awarded in 2021. As the years went by, additional equipment has been added, workshops, business trainings and staff.

- Cricut
- Sublimation Printer
- Silhouette
- Glowforge
- Quilter
- Embroidery Machine

- Serger
- Sewing Machines
- Heat Press
- Cameras
- Button Maker
- Creation Station

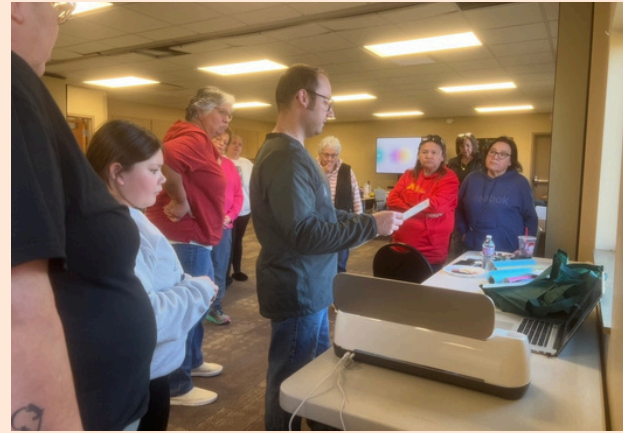




# Makerspace Classes

Cricut 101 with  
Tyler Wilson

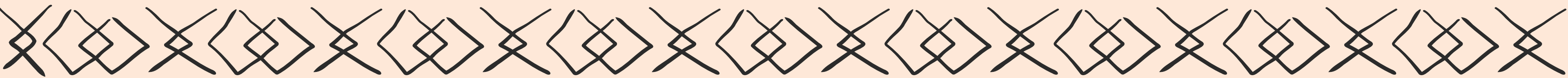
Sublimation with  
Carlos Cariaga

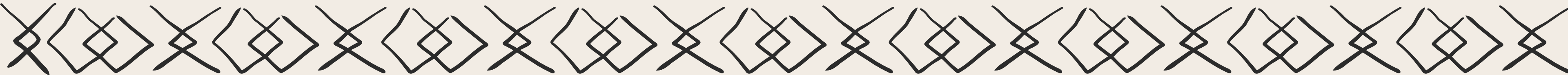


**Tres Cactus Western Design**



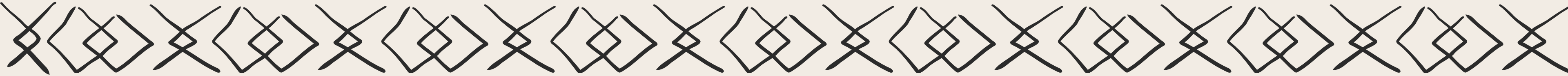
**Sioux Tumblers**  
[www.ikceapparel.com](http://www.ikceapparel.com)





# Makerspace Open Hours

Open hours are available for community members to work on projects or stop in and learn how to use the equipment.



# Walthill Makerspace



- Est. 2022: NICC, Macy Campus
- 2024: moved to Walthill
- 2025: moved to the Picotte Center

Second floor, Dr. Susan Laflesche Picotte Center, Walthill, Nebraska



# Inside Our Space

## What do equipment do we offer?

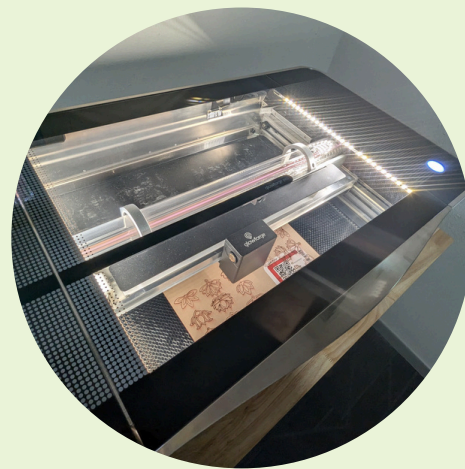


**Bernina quilting  
machine**



**Creality 3D Printer**

**Sewing Machines  
Sergers  
Cricut Maker 3  
Creative Station  
Sublimation Printer**



**Glowforge Pro**



**Heat presses**



**Brother embroidery  
machine**



# Freeze Dryer

In 2024, we incorporated a freeze dryer into our Walthill Makerspace to assist local growers in preserving their harvests.

Local growers can bring prepared fruits and veggies to freeze dry for personal use or for a food business.





# Empowering Our Youth

## Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Day

- 10 local youth participated in a hands-on business workshop.
- Youth developed business plans, budgets, and inventory plans to launch their own small businesses.
- Carlos Cariaga, owner of Sioux Tumblers, shared his experience as a local entrepreneur.
- Participants received a stipend upon completing their business plans.
- Lunch provided by Anthony Warrior, owner of Warrior's Palate.





# Empowering Our Youth

## Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Day

- Focused on developing youth business ideas and plans
- Local entrepreneurs shared real-world experiences and challenges in rural, tribal communities
- Community college representatives discussed business and agriculture programs
- Presentation on value-added products and sustainable use of natural resources
- Makerspace demonstration: tools and opportunities for small business innovation
- Hochunk Farms highlighted Ag-related business options, such as trucking



# Cultural Revitization

Through our Makerspace, we are able to offer workshops that teach community members traditional Native textile skills, which they can use as potential small business ventures.

**\*History**

**\*Cultural significance**

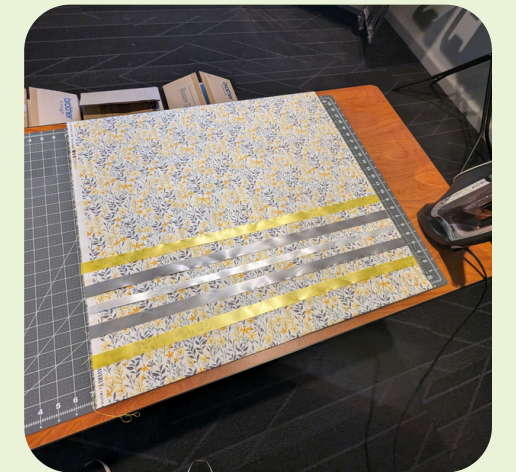
**\*Skills**

**\*Traditions in a modern world**

**\*Business advice**

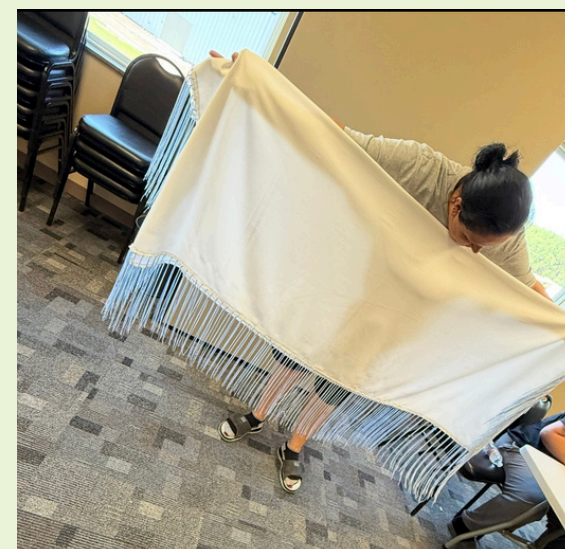
**\*Marketing strategies**

**\*Pricing your creations**



# Cultural Revitization

- \*Quilling
- \*Ribbon Skirts
- \*Dentallium
- \*Star Quilt
- \*T-Dresses
- \*Shawls
- \*Parflece
- \*Applique
- \*Beadwork



# Community Partnerships

Through community partnerships, we have been able to offer more classes and trainings. Supplies, instructor costs, and meals are split by all partners. With these partnerships, we can allow for more participants.

We have been able to reach a wider range of participants.



**INDIGUCATION**  
HONORING TRADITIONS, EMPOWERING HEALING



**NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**



**society of care**

Suicide  
Prevention



**CHEF**

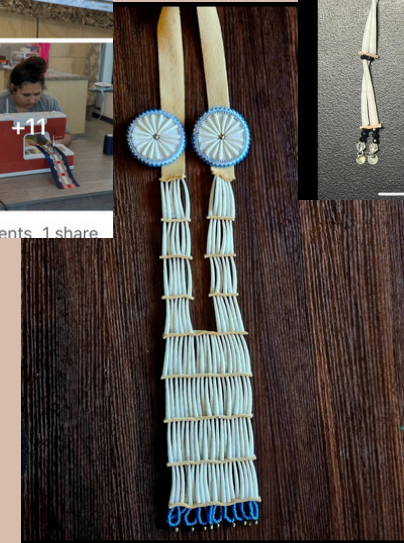
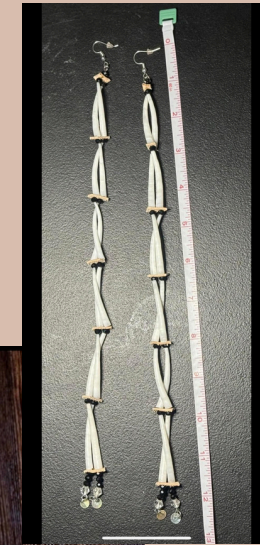
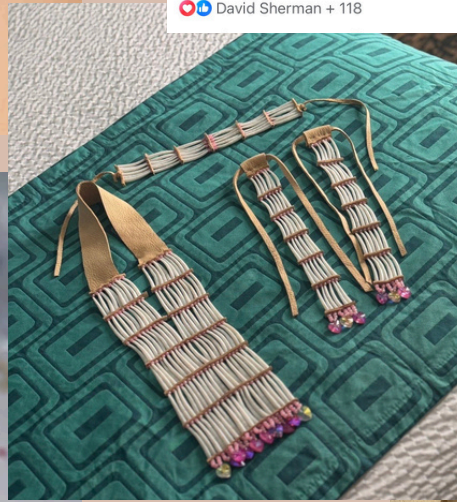
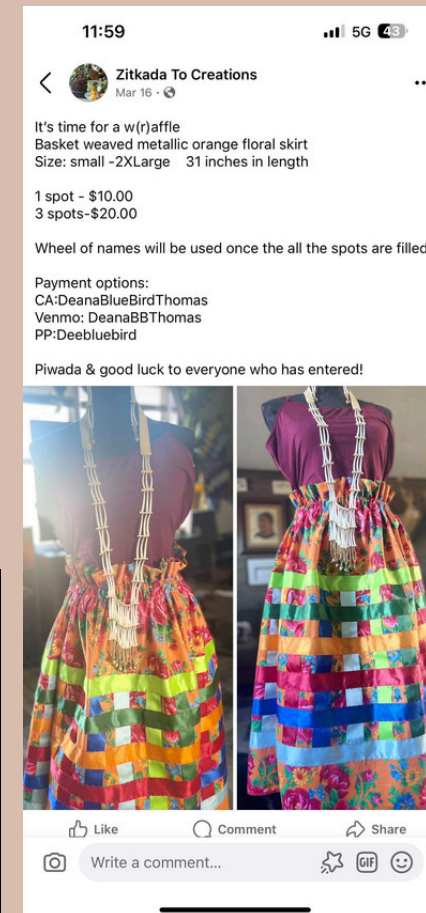
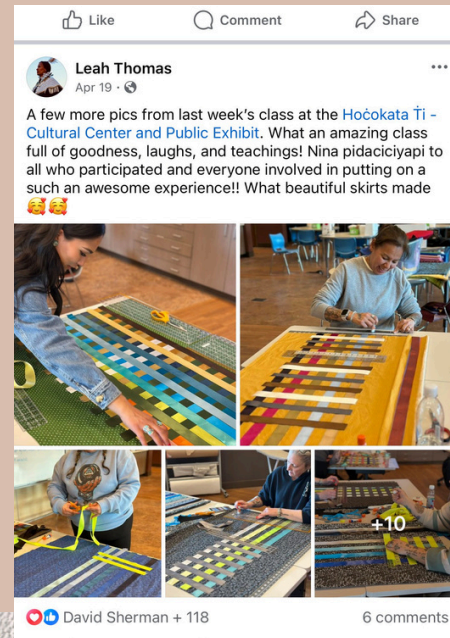
Culinary Health Education & Fitness



Winnebago Public School



# Creating Business Opportunities



# Community Impact



- \*Community involvement increased
- \*Requests for classes
- \*Confidence
- \*Family time
- \*Community building



Your workshops have benefited the community in so many positive ways! — Such as bringing relatives together to learn about our culture's history, which helped me learn new techniques, such as dentalium, quill, and sewing skills! I'll forever be thankful for the workshops!  
- Shania RedOwl





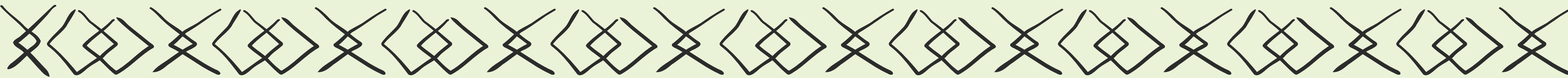
# Community Impact

By learning and creating meaningful cultural attire, we can not only create for ourselves, but these classes have created a great “mother/daughter” time with my daughters. As we create together, we also get to enjoy listening, laughing and being a part of a group of women who are eagerly wanting to learn.

My daughters and I look forward to each class Miranda has hosted and made it possible for our community. My 10 year old daughter has attended multiple classes Miranda has held, such as ribbon skirt making, dentalium necklace and most recently working on dentalium hairties. She has also created a ribbon skirt for online raffle to raise money to purchase her own sewing machine, so she is able to create more items as she wishes.

These classes have shown my daughter there are people out there who are willing to support your artistic designs, help you understand and grow your business. I have always loved to learn about our adornments and how such items were made. Unfortunately, I did not grow up with a grandmother or mother who knew how to create such things. These classes have shown me a lot and look forward to each class and try to get signed up as soon as possible due to the high demand of people wanting to learn and create. These classes always have such a great, fun-loving atmosphere.

-Roni Starlin



# Community Impact



I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to attend the business and indigenous textile/craft classes offered through the Center for Rural Affairs.

As someone who creates and sells crafts at home, these classes have not only expanded my skills—teaching me techniques like working with parfleche, porcupine quills, sewing, and other traditional Native crafts—but they've also given me something even more valuable: a sense of community.

Being in a space where I can learn alongside others, sharing stories and knowledge, brings a strong feeling of kinship that I cherish. I travel about one hour each way just to attend these classes. The reservation I live on doesn't have many classes like these, so I am more than willing to travel for them. These classes are more than just educational—they are healing, empowering, and vital to keeping our traditions alive. Pidamayaye!

- Jane St. John



# Community Impact



Miranda has encouraged me to conduct community classes aimed at sharing traditional knowledge and skills.

In these sessions, we not only explore various cultural practices but also emphasize the importance of safety protocols, especially for participants interested in starting their own businesses.

By equipping them with both traditional insights and practical safety measures, we aim to empower the community to embrace entrepreneurship while respecting and preserving heritage.

-Jamie Saunsoci



# Future Plans

**SHINE ONLINE**  
Directories for Indigenous Entrepreneurs

**WHY ONLINE DIRECTORIES MATTER**

-  Expand your reach beyond local markets
-  Connect directly with buyers looking for authentic Native-made goods
-  Build visibility for your brand and community

**Where to List Your Business**

-  **#BuyNative** (PWNA)  
National movement promoting Native-owned businesses.
-  **Native Grown and Gathered**  
Marketplace highlighting Indigenous food, art, and goods
-  **Turtle Island Trade Coalition**  
Connects Native entrepreneurs with broader trade networks

- Attracting more interest in the more technical machines
- Classes for male interests/skills
- Continuously updating Google Classroom
- Assistance with Ecommerce




# Upcoming Workshops

SOCIETY OF CARE & CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS PRESENT

## Belt MAKING

with Jamie Surovici



LIMITED SPOTS FIRST TO PEOPLE TO REGISTER

SUPPLIES AND INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED

OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> 2025 | 5-8PM  
 SANTEE HEALTH CLINIC- TRAINING ROOM  
 SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED

Center for Rural Affairs is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Rural Development funds this work.

for information contact Brandy Henry, Tori Tuttle, or Miranda Roberts  
 402-857-2300 or on FB messenger


CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS society of care

SOCIETY OF CARE & CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS PRESENT

## Umbilical Pouch MAKING

& cultural teachings

WITH LEAH THOMAS



LIMITED SPOTS FIRST 15 PEOPLE TO REGISTER

SUPPLIES AND INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 | 12-2PM  
 SANTEE HEALTH CLINIC- TRAINING ROOM  
 LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Center for Rural Affairs is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Rural Development funds this work.

for information contact Carrie Rouillard, Brandy Henry, Tori Tuttle, or Miranda Roberts  
 402-857-2300 or on FB messenger

CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS society of care

SOCIETY OF CARE & CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS PRESENT

## Bread Plate MAKING

& cultural teachings

with Leah Thomas



LIMITED SPOTS FIRST 15 PEOPLE TO REGISTER

SUPPLIES AND INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> 2025 | 12-2PM  
 SANTEE HEALTH CLINIC- TRAINING ROOM  
 LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Center for Rural Affairs is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Rural Development funds this work.

for information contact Brandy Henry, Tori Tuttle, or Miranda Roberts  
 402-857-2300 or on FB messenger

CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS society of care

## FALL GARDENING WORKSHOP

The growing season has come to an end. Now what?

Join us to learn how to prepare your garden space for the winter. From cover crops to crop rotation, we will discuss how to get your garden ready for next year.

Monday, Nov. 10  
 5 to 7 p.m.

Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center  
 503 Mathewson St.  
 Walthill, Nebraska


Questions? Please contact Angelina Magerl at 402.260.9850 or angelinam@cfra.org.



CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS

This event/program is supported by USDA Local Food Promotion Program. The Center for Rural Affairs is an equal opportunity provider and employer. All Center for Rural Affairs events and activities are open to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities and/or persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) will be made if requested in advance.

## YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM



Weekly on Wednesdays: Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, & 19


3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

Winnebago Public School  
 7-12 Multipurpose Room  
 202 Osborne St | Winnebago, Nebraska


Do you have a savings account? Do you know the difference between a debit card and a credit card?

If not, join us and learn how to save and manage your money. The skills you will gain will help you to navigate your financial future and attain financial stability into adulthood.

Questions? Contact Sandy "Macky" Scott at sandy.scott@indigucation.org or Angelina Magerl at angelinam@cfra.org.

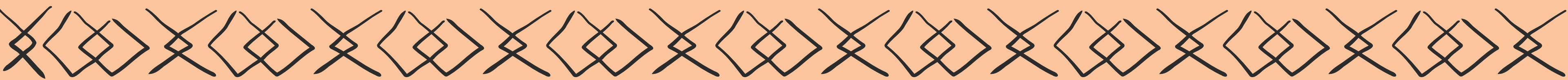
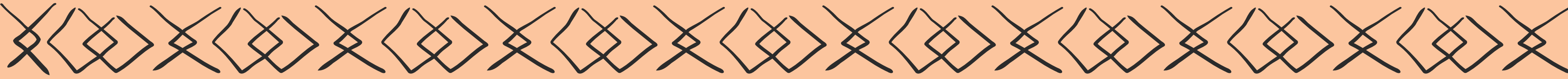


Hosted by:



The Center for Rural Affairs is an equal opportunity provider and employer. All Center for Rural Affairs events and activities are open to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities and/or persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) will be made if requested in advance.



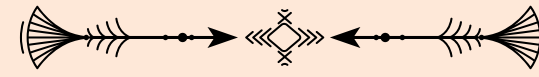




Pinagigi



Pidamaya



Wi' Btha ha

**Angelina Magerl**

**Miranda Roberts**

**Native Communities Associate**

**Native Communities Associate**

**angelinam@cfra.org**

**mirandar@cfra.org**

**402.260.9850**

**402.870.2710**



**Omaha Nation Community Food Project**

**Santee Community Foods Project**