



23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reservation Economic Summit & American Indian Business Trade Fair  
March 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Las Vegas, NV  
Sponsored by Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. and Raytheon

*“Going Global, Thinking Green, Generating Growth”*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development Celebrates 40 Years of Progress at RES 2009** *Commemorates Four Decades of Successful Business Development in Indian Country*

MESA, AZ (March 4, 2009) — Since its inception by a small group of American Indian community leaders more than 40 years ago, The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) has evolved into a significant economic resource for Indian Country, helping tribes earn more than \$4.5 billion in contracts and financing through its programs and services. Its accomplishments will be celebrated at the Reservation Economic Summit 2009 (RES 2009) next week in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dedicated to developing American Indian economic self-sufficiency through business ownership, over the years, NCAIED has assisted approximately 80% of all tribes in the United States and trained more than 10,000 tribal leaders in various aspects of business development.

“Our organization started with a simple, yet important vision of helping our Native American community achieve greater economic success through business development tools and training, Margo Gray-Proctor (Osage), President of Horizon Engineering Services Company and Vice Chair of the NCAIED Board of Directors said. “Through strong partnerships, training and perseverance, Indian Country has become a leader in the business world and our organization has a lot to celebrate.”

Originally named, the Urban Indian Development Association, NCAIED was founded in 1969 by seven American Indian community leaders in California who visualized a better

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development  
*Celebrating 40 Years of Bringing Business & Economic Development to Indian Country*  
[www.ncaied.org](http://www.ncaied.org)



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way of life for the Native population through economic development. This small, grassroots organization took root and evolved to meet the growing needs of the American business community throughout the United States. Recognizing its importance and potential in assisting tribal leaders and enterprises in Indian Country, NCAIED adopted its new name in 1980 becoming the oldest and largest American Indian specific economic and business development organization in the nation.

NCAIED has a network of offices throughout the country, each providing management and technical assistance to Indian businesses and tribes. NCAIED’s clients operate in a variety of industries supplying goods and services to the commercial and government markets.

In addition to their one-on-one client service and counseling, NCAIED is known for their networking and economic development events. NCAIED produces six annual events including the Reservation Economic Summit (RES) and the American Indian Business Trade Fair being the premier event. RES is the largest and longest running American Indian business event in the nation.

Attendees include American Indian entrepreneurs, tribal economic and business development decision-makers, tribal business leaders and government and corporate executive buyers seeking American Indian suppliers and contractors. More than 3,000 attendees are expected to this year’s RES, celebrating the theme, “Going Global, Thinking Green, Generating Growth.” The event is sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. and Raytheon.

As NCAIED continues to evolve and grow, the organization looks to foster important partnerships, bringing even more economic opportunity to Indian Country. In fact, NCAIED and the National Indian Gaming Association have teamed up to establish the



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Native to Native Indian Initiative (N2N) and the American Indian Business Network (AIBN). These new programs were created to increase the visibility of Native products and services to other Native and tribal businesses.

“When various facets of Native America join forces, our voices are even stronger,” Gray-Proctor said. “Keeping business and economic resources in Indian Country is part of our vision – a vision we will continue to foster and develop in the years to come.”

For more information about RES 2009, please visit our website at [www.ncaied.org](http://www.ncaied.org), email [events@ncaied.org](mailto:events@ncaied.org) or call 800-462-2433 ext. 243.

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