



Executive Memo

To: Jessica Sotelo, Executive Director, Partners for Prosperity
From: Christelle Edmo, Fort Hall Liaison/Program Specialist, Partners for Prosperity
Date: March 11, 2005
Subject: Fort Hall Activities

Partners for Prosperity, New Beginnings for Eastern Idaho, Inc. (P4P), continues to build relationships and collaborate with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to cultivate prosperity for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and its regional partners. Members of the Fort Hall Community continue to be active participants in local and regional poverty reduction initiatives. This summary provides an update of my activities to develop relationships and activities in Fort Hall and to encourage relationships amongst regional neighbors between October 2004 and the present.

I began my employment with P4P in August 2004. After an orientation period and following diversity training, I began networking with community members in Fort Hall. I met frequently, one-on-one with tribal members to introduce myself and my role with P4P. During September, I set out to get the Tribal Council's endorsement on allowing P4P to become an active participant in the Fort Hall community. This was accomplished by meeting with the Tribal Business Council to ask their permission to present a P4P overview at a tribal manager's meeting and to set up a learning session with managers, including a tour of the Reservation. Permission was granted by the Business Council.

As a result of the Council's endorsement, Jessica and I gave a presentation to over 50 tribal program managers. We explained the purpose of P4P and how the organization benefits the tribes. I also organized a two day learning session between Shoshone-Bannock Tribal government program managers and P4P staff. The purpose of the session was to build relationships with program managers and for P4P staff to learn about tribal sovereignty and the tribal government. I worked closely with the Tribal Personnel Director to schedule the event. The learning session took place in October 2004. P4P staff met one-on-one with 20 tribal program managers who were selected based on their potential and ongoing interaction with P4P. On the third day, P4P staff participated in a tour of the Fort Hall Reservation led by elder Rusty Houtz. The tour included many stops to historical landmarks and visits to tribal programs. Mr. Houtz shared his life experience growing up on the Reservation with P4P staff.

In September, I was asked to participate on the Fort Hall Drug Task Force. The task force was formed by Council resolution to look at developing plans to decrease alcohol and drug abuse on the Reservation. I continue to be a member of the task force as a representative from P4P, providing technical assistance and resource information when requested by the task force chair. I most recently have been asked to serve on the Tribal Planning Working Group. This group was formed by Council resolution to review and finalize the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Comprehensive Plan.



I have volunteered with several community service events in Fort Hall including the Thanksgiving basket give-away for members in the lowest economic quartile and led an Adopt-a-Family project for a Fort Hall family over Christmas. I also participated in the Tribal Health Diabetes Dinner in November. In February, I was part of a core group of community members who organized a community social to promote community building and culture sharing. There were over 100 people in attendance, including non-native community members. Several tribal members donated food and drinks. A number of local Fort Hall businesses, including arts and craft vendors, donated items for a raffle to help raise money for the youth leadership conference in Boise. Members were taught history of Sho-Ban traditional dancing as they performed dances with each other; Sage Point Group provided drumming; Miss Sho-Ban spoke to crowd and, along with Wayne Crue, gave a dance presentation to the group. Due to the success of this event, future dinners are being planned. I continue to promote local Fort Hall businesses and tribal member services by utilizing local talents such as catering, drumming groups and traditional dancers. These individuals have participated in several P4P meetings and functions held on the Reservation.

Beginning in November 2004, I began efforts to engage tribal members in the Prosperity Creation Working Group. I personally invited key members of the community and tribal programs to attend the first working group meeting and five tribal members attended. Subsequently, I scheduled the first community meeting in November 2004 to engage community members in becoming involved in the Fort Hall Sub-committee of the Prosperity Creation Working Group. I used word of mouth, flyers and articles in the Sho-Ban Newspaper to inform the community about the meeting. Over 30 tribal members attended this first meeting. Community members shared their ideas and concerns relating to community and economic development. Since November, the Fort Hall Sub-committee has met monthly with a diverse membership including community members, regional partners from Idaho State University and Brigham Young University-Idaho, tribal program representatives and local small business owners. There are approximately 20 core members on this sub-committee which has divided into sub-groups to focus on specific community and economic development projects. The projects that are under development include a Native American business association; community healing; culture preservation; business development education programs; native marketplace; and a small business incubator. In response to a request by the Business Association sub-group, I contacted Mr. Tom Hampson of ONABEN to organize a conference. In March 2005, Mr. Hampson, and two representatives from the Warm Springs Area Tribes who helped develop a Native American business association, met with members of the Fort Hall Sub-committee to provide technical assistance for developing a Native American small business association.

Efforts have been made by the P4P Latino Liaison, Sonia Martinez, and me to foster relationships between the Native and Latino communities and these communities with the Anglo communities. We have encouraged Latino and Native community members to attend other P4P working groups. As a result, members of the Prosperity Creation Working Group are a diverse group and include a core group of 5-10 tribal members. The Prosperity Creation Working Group members are in the process of developing a project to foster referrals and partnerships between small business owners from the Native, Latino and Anglo communities. I have been involved with efforts by Sonia Martinez to sponsor conferences for community members that promote relationship-building between traditionally stressed cultures. A diversity conference is scheduled in April to be facilitated by members of the Women of



Color Alliance. Sonia and I continue to engage community members from the Native and Latino communities by attending each other's community functions.

In January 2005, two NAAF representatives, Juan Linares and Viki Kimsal, visited P4P. I organized a Fort Hall tour for Juan and Viki and invited members from the Fort Hall Small Business Sub-committee to participate with the NAAF representatives. Twelve members from the sub-committee participated in the tour. Juan and Viki met Fort Hall community members and toured the Reservation, visiting with Sho-Ban Junior/Senior High School, visiting small businesses owned by tribal members, meeting Tribal Business Council members, and attending dinner on their behalf. Juan and Viki were introduced to traditional singing and drumming and participated in traditional dancing with tribal members. They also met with the Fort Hall Sub-committee members to hear the accomplishments of the group. A total of 15 committee members attended the meeting with Juan and Viki. Sub-committee members were invited by the NAAF representatives to visit a Minneapolis Native American small business program.

I have also been actively involved in getting participation from tribal youth in P4P activities. I visit the Sho-Ban Jr/Sr High School on a regular basis to meet with faculty and students on a social and professional level. I made a presentation at the Fort Hall Elementary School and have met with the Sho-Ban Head Start Director to foster relationships. There are currently 3 students from the student government at Sho-Ban Jr/Sr High School who participate in the Prosperity Preservation Working Group. I personally drive the students from school to the meetings. Participation from the Fort Hall community continues to increase as I build trust with tribal members.

I continue to be an active participant on tribal committees and in community service activities. I spend a great deal of time conversing informally with community members at sports events, restaurants, and visiting their homes. As a tribal member, I understand the importance of building intentional relationships in order to receive support and respect from fellow community members.