



Evidence of Impact

A formal evaluation, led by Dr. Sharoni Little of the Strategist Company and the USC Marshall School of Business, found that the Fresh Tracks regional trainings contributed to participant growth in their value of their personal narrative and cultural identity, confidence in their abilities and strategies to create a community vision and action plan as community advocates and change agents, and the cultivation of critical cultural competency, collaboration, and communication skills needed to achieve social justice and equity for themselves, and others.

Building Power, Taking Action

About Fresh Tracks

Since 2016, Fresh Tracks – a program of the Center for Native American Youth at The Aspen Institute, operated in partnership with the Opportunity Youth Forum and the Children & Nature Network – has empowered more than 200 young leaders from across the country and is now convening stakeholders to address systems of inequity, celebrate cultural heritage, and support action plans focused on social and environmental justice.

Pathways to Leadership

Fresh Tracks brings together diverse young leaders (ages 18-25) from urban, rural, and tribal communities for shared experiences that blend outdoor exploration, cultural sharing, and leadership development. Through interactive workshops, participants learn to develop personal narratives, identify their unique leadership styles, and create community engagement strategies.

After the Training

Fresh Tracks alumni join a national network of like-minded leaders. Strategic partnerships with tribes, local governments, philanthropic organizations, nonprofits, and youth development initiatives like My Brother's Keeper and the National League of Cities (NLC) support recruitment efforts, ensure trainings are relevant, and help participants implement community action plans.

Participant Outcomes

Fresh Tracks uses a cultural immersion and experiential program model to promote the following core participant outcomes:

- **Cultural Competence:** Participants will gain an understanding of cultural and emotional intelligence and implicit bias to lead and thrive in an increasingly diverse, global world.
- **Civic Engagement:** Participants will become more civically engaged, empowering them to become active change-agents within their home communities.
- **Workforce Empowerment:** Participants will leverage experiences into career skills through training provided by workforce education partners and universities.

