The Indigenous Roots Teacher Education Program (ROOTS) is a distance delivered program. UNL classes are taught on-line and/or in a hybrid format, and interested students live in their home communities, completing practicum and student teaching semesters in American Indian schools and communities in Northeast Nebraska.

The ROOTS program is currently seeking American Indian applicants with a strong desire to be a teacher and work with American Indian students.

For More Information
Contact: Karen Albert or Nancy Engen-Wedin
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Website: [http://cehs.unl.edu/roots](http://cehs.unl.edu/roots)

The Indigenous Roots Teacher Education Program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Indian Education.
The Initial Certification Program

Interested undergraduate or post-bac students apply for the Initial Certification Program. Ten (10) students will be selected to participate, which will result in a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education and/or teacher certification (K-8 Nebraska teaching certificate), and ESL K-12 concentration. This is a competitive application process.

This program is open to students who have earned an AA or BA/BS degree, or have completed at least 42 credits from a community college. All students selected to participate will sign a pay-back agreement, a requirement of the ROOTS program and of the U.S. Department of Education.

Students accepted into the ROOTS program will be eligible for the following benefits:

• $1300 monthly stipend for full-time enrolled students.
• Course and tuition fees will be covered.
• Book costs will be covered.
• Student fees, test fees and application fees will be covered or reimbursed.
• Accepted students will receive a laptop computer.
• Accepted students are eligible to work up to 50% time in paid positions, such as area schools or other educational settings.

Application for Initial Certification Program

The application deadline is February 29, 2012. Applicants will be notified of their status by March 30, 2012.

All applicants to this program must have registered for the PPST (reading, writing, math) prior to the application deadline. Applicants are also required to complete a Criminal History Check. All accepted students will be reimbursed for the PPST and Criminal History fees, once admitted into the program.

The application process is extensive and also requires: Oath of Honesty; official transcripts from post-secondary institutions; essays addressing diversity, commitment to teaching, accomplishments; and three letters of recommendation from individuals who attest to the applicant’s qualifications/interests in working with children.

The application for the Initial Certification Program is available to download at http://cehs.unl.edu/roots. Please contact Karen Albert at karen.albert@huskers.unl.edu for questions about registering for the PPST and Criminal History Check. Students accepted into the program will be reimbursed for these fees. Students who are not accepted will not be reimbursed. (To be reimbursed, students must include copies or original receipts as part of your application.)

The GRADUATE-level Program

In addition to the undergraduate program, current teachers placed in Northeast Nebraska schools serving Native American students are eligible to apply for graduate level programs and/or additional certification. This program is open to Native American teachers who have completed the requirements for teacher certification and are currently teaching. This is a competitive application process.

The two graduate programs include:
• Additional certification/Masters in English as a Second Language (ESL)
• Additional certification/Masters in Special Education

The 10 teachers accepted into the graduate program will be enrolled in graduate coursework part-time, while also continuing their teaching positions in area schools. All students selected to participate will sign a pay-back agreement, a requirement of the ROOTS program.

Students accepted into the Graduate Program are eligible for the following benefits:

• Course and tuition fees will be covered.
• Book costs will be covered.
• Student fees, application fees will be covered or reimbursed.
• Accepted students will receive a laptop computer.

The application process and/or links for the Graduate Program are available at http://cehs.unl.edu/roots. Please feel free to contact Karen Albert at karen.albert@huskers.unl.edu if you have questions regarding the application process.

Application for the GRADUATE Program

or Initial Teacher Certification

The application deadline is February 29, 2012. Applicants will be notified of their status by March 30, 2012.

Program activities begin in April and UNL courses begin in May, 2012.

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska to not discriminate based upon age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender, sex, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran’s status, marital status, religion or political affiliation.