

Navajo Greeting

Ya'at'eeh'

(hello)

Institute for Disability Research, Policy, and Practice
Utah State University

Presents:

“An American Indian Perspective of Disabilities with an
Understanding of Native Culture”

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American Indians and Alaska Natives Today

Population:

2,475,956 AI/AN living in U.S.

BIA estimates **950,000** live on or adjacent to federal Indian reservations

Utah's AI/AN population is **1.5 %** of total state population;
42,829

American Indian Tribes:

574 federally recognized tribes, including **223** Alaska groups

8 federally recognized tribes in Utah (**8**)

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2000)

Reservations:

278 Indian land areas administered as reservations

Largest is the **16** million acre Navajo Nation

There are many small reservations less than 100 acres

Trust Land patterns vary

Trust Lands:

56.2 million acres held in trust by U.S. for Indians and tribes.

3,720,076 acres in Utah held in trust

Secretary of Interior serves as trustee

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2000)

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES in UTAH (8)

- *Northwest Band of Shoshone Nation
- *Confederated Tribes of the Goshute,
*Skull Valley Band
- *Navajo (Dine') Tribe (Az., N.M., Ut.)
- *Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
(Cedar Band, Kanosh Band, Indian Peaks,
Shivwits Band),
- *San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
- *Northern Ute Indian Tribe (Uintah and
Ouray Reservation)
- *Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, (Ut., Colorado)



Objectives

Provide a perspective and an understanding of how some traditional American Indian people view disabilities and their Native culture.

CULTURAL COMPARISONS

American Indian

**Extended family through clans/bands

Sharing, everything belongs to others

**Avoid eye contact

Carefree, unconcern with time

Face to face consultation

White

Genealogy

Ownership

Direct eye contact

Structured, time
oriented

Representative
democracy

****Questions for cultural identification**

No questions about
cultural identification

Dance is for religious expression

Dance is for pleasure

****Respect other religion(s)**

Convert other to
religion(s)

****Learning through culture**

Learning through books

Sources: Richard, E.H. (1981, 2000, 2019). “Cultural and Historical Perspectives in Counseling American Indians:”

D.W. Sue Counseling the Culturally Different. New York:

Perspective of Disabilities: A Traditional Native and Western Approaches

American Indian

Language barrier

Holistic, overall view

Metaphysical approach

Harmony with nature

Skepticism

Cause and logic

White

English as a universal
language

Linear & part to whole

Evidence and explanation

Conquering nature

Trust

Research and science

Ahe'hee'

(thank you)

Questions....



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