

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Native American Contractors Association announces briefings on efforts to protect Native 8(a) Program**

**Washington, DC – March 9, 2010** – The Native American Contractors Association (NACA) is pleased to announce briefings specifically for Indian Country at several upcoming Native conferences.

Sarah Lukin, Executive Director of the Native American Contractors Association stated, “Native participation in the 8(a) program amounts to less than 1.3% of the overall contracting budget. Native 8(a) contractors provide valuable services to the US Government at no extra cost to the taxpayer. Yet we consistently face challenges on Capitol Hill.” This program is currently underutilized by many tribes but as we more become involved in economic development, government contracting is a great economic option. Unfortunately, like many Native programs, it is constantly under attack by Congress and special interest groups. Lukin noted that, “NACA’s presence at these important Native Conferences is designed to engage Native leaders and business executives, arming them with the most up-to-date information available on the Native 8(a) legislative and regulatory climate.” Having an open dialogue about this issue will help educate Tribal leaders and business executives about how they can become more involved as well as the urgency required to keep Native 8(a) viable and protected.

NACA will speak at the following conferences on Native 8(a), current trends and challenges and provide a case study of success in the program:

Business Development in Indian Country Conference  
Phoenix, Arizona  
March 8-12

Next Decade Finance Conference for Indian Country (NAFOA)  
New Orleans, LA  
March 16-17

University of Wisconsin Conference  
Madison, WI  
March 18-19

NIGA Annual Convention  
San Diego, CA  
April 20-21

NACA 8(a) Workshop  
Tulsa, OK  
April 19-20

4<sup>th</sup> Annual New Mexico Native American Economic Summit  
Albuquerque, NM  
May 26-28

To learn more about the NACA or join our organization go to [www.nativecontractors.org](http://www.nativecontractors.org).

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NACA is a 501c(6), national Native organization based in Washington, DC that advocates for the rights of Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations and Native Hawaiian Organizations participation in government contracting, and in particular the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program.