Growing Resilience and Leadership on the Wind River Indian Reservation: The Struggles and Victories of Community Leadership Development in a Federally-Funded Research Partnership

Growing Resilience Community Advisory Board (CAB) members:
Clarisse Harris (Northern Paiute) and Pat Harris (Northern Arapaho), Growing Resilience CAB Members, Ethete, WY; Darah Perez (Eastern Shoshone/Blackfeet), CAB Member, Fort Washakie, WY; Rhonda Bowers (Northern Arapaho), CAB Member, University of Wyoming Extension on the Wind River Indian Reservation, Kinnear, WY; Katherine Lone Fight (Eastern Shoshone) and Nelson Pat White (Northern Arapaho), CAB Members, Fort Washakie, WY
Growing Resilience and Leadership on the Wind River Indian Reservation: The Struggles and Victories of Community Leadership Development in a Federally-Funded Research Partnership

Clarisse Harris (Northern Paiute) and Pat Harris (Northern Arapaho), Growing Resilience CAB Members, Ethete, WY; Darah Perez (Eastern Shoshone/Blackfeet), CAB Member, Fort Washakie, WY; Rhonda Bowers (Northern Arapaho), CAB Member, University of Wyoming Extension on the Wind River Indian Reservation, Kinnear, WY; Katherine Lone Fight (Eastern Shoshone) and Nelson Pat White (Northern Arapaho), CAB Members, Fort Washakie, WY
The way it was

• The Wind River Reservation is in the middle of a fresh produce desert. Where the produce is high in price and not as fresh and colorful.
• The nearest affordable shopping center is 20 to 30 minutes away.
• Commodities in the beginning were readily available, but lacked fresh produce.
• Most survived on berries, wild game, and roots.
Local tribal fair in 1960

Northern Arapaho Tribal Fair
How it was back in the day.

The Wind River Mountains

Tribal fair judging was big thing back then

Map of the Wind River Reservation
The beginning of change

• The school system is introducing more fresh fruits and vegetables.
• They are using the farm to plate concept.
• Bountiful Baskets was one affordable source of fruits and vegetables each week.
• Farmers Markets is another source.
• Gardening is being brought as food source.
• Food Preservation class are offered.
• More families are more health conscious.

The Dodge Family
How the change start happening

Veggies out the Boys and Girls club

Salsa making class with some local ladies
Making A Difference

• The pilot program began on the Reservation two years ago.
• Then Growing Resilience begins with ten new gardens the first two years, Now have thirty-two gardens this year
• Children find fruits and vegetables more readily available
• Families are more in tuned with their health
• Growing Resilience Board made up of seven members

The beginning of a high tunnel at Arapahoe Farms June 2006
Our Vision for the Future

• The community garden
• Sustainability
• More gardens
• Instilling more participation/interest in gardening
• Green House/ Hoop Houses
The gardens are bringing change to our communities

Local Farmers Market at Fort Washakie

Harvest of vegetables

Pat Bergie and family
Our vision and future will be

Ina Weed Hurley and Family
Kids and families growing their own Gardens

4-H kids picking vegetables at Wind River Tribal College garden

Ty Harris picking Radishes out the Tribal College Garden

Just one of the garden beds
Kids having gardens for 4-H and for their families and learning how to preserve their own food.

Camyrn Williams and Alondra Estrada at the Garden show in Lander making money of their plants.

Talon Gardner preserving berries and making jelly.

Ty Harris and his friend helping in the High tunnel planting Pepper.
Preservation Classes and more community people get involved in gardening

Velma Rhodes, Nadine Meeks and Mrs. Aragon making Salsa for a preservation Class

Rhonda Bowers and Pat Harris helping with the High Tunnel

Summer Squash from the Farmers Market

Rubena Tillman Garden 2017
A Glimpse Into The Past
Our Future will be.

Herbs gardens in containers
just be involved in making our lives better and knowing how gardens and vegetable are important to our future

Preservation class making sauerkraut
This explains the harvest our community will have!
Growing Resilience is supported by NHLBI with NIGMS at the National Institutes of Health with grant no. R01 HL126666-01. (www.growingresilience.org)
Thank You!