

Digital Stories of Resilience: A Community Partnership Serving American Indians with Disabilities

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Background – Goals - Method

Background:

Four American Indian individuals and their families were brought together to create digital stories of resilience about their experiences living with a disability. A collaborative process engaging participants in storytelling, reflected illuminating narratives of the intersections between culture, education, and disability. Through the storytelling format participants also experienced coping with the process of acceptance, loss, denial, and diagnoses of having a disability. Each individual was then trained how to use technology to produce their narrative into a digital story. The stories produced are narratives that counter the deficit based, stigmatizing ideologies of disability and speak of personal assets that each individual found to identify resilience. Each participant increased their awareness of their resilience, thus increasing self-advocacy.

Goals:

- ❖ Identify asset-based resilience
- ❖ Increase awareness about the intersection between culture education and disability
- ❖ Produce digital stories
- ❖ Identify family and community protective factors
- ❖ Increase self-advocacy of individual participants.

Project Method:

- ❖ Utilize community based participatory research (CBPR) principals
- ❖ Recruit participants through public forum (i.e. community centers, organizations serving individuals with disabilities, radio station).
- ❖ Small group (4 participants and 2 parents)
- ❖ Recruit university students to volunteer their time to the project
- ❖ Resilience Training
- ❖ Digital Story Workshop (create narratives)
- ❖ Digital video software training
- ❖ Disseminate digital stories

Participants--Outcomes



Participants and Digital Story Titles:

- ❖ Shawn Namoki Sr., Mentor, Hopi Substance Abuse Prevention Center Team
 - ❖ Title: "Hak Navasngwu, Kush Hintak Katsi" (Take Good Care of Yourself, You Don't Know What's Going to Happen)
- ❖ Aaron Preston, KUYI radio announcer and Bucky Preston, Father
 - ❖ Title: Hongvi's Story
- ❖ Kellen Polingyumtewa, Hopi Community Health Representative
 - ❖ Title: My Invisible Life
- ❖ Ivy Sahneyah, Student, Galladet University and Madeline Sahneyah, Mother
 - ❖ Title: Welcome to My World

Outcome:

- ❖ Digital Stories
- ❖ Enhanced Self-Advocacy
- ❖ Increased Technical Computer Skills
- ❖ Educational Material for Community
- ❖ Collaboration between Organizations
- ❖ Keynote presenters

Evaluation Results

Knowledge of Resilience

*"To say something with deep meaning and truth."
"We told our story by digging deep within ourselves to do a good job so that others could help themselves to understand & to educate"*

Best and Most Challenging Aspects of Creating a Digital Story

BEST: Sharing my story; Using the computer; Writing my story

CHALLENGING: Using the computer; Telling my story

Self-Awareness

"I learned that not many people on the reservation understand ADHD."

"I learned that technology (the computer) can help in many ways to reach people by seeing & hearing voice and video."

"That I need to learn about and enhance my ability to use technology/computer to create digital stories."

"I am resilient"



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