



Future Pathways in *CTE, STEM, and STEAM*

#10 - January 2024



Happy New Year and welcome to the January issue of *Future Pathways in CTE, STEM, and STEAM*. This edition features updates about technical issues and delays occurring with the new FAFSA website, a free digital FAFSA assistant, exciting scholarship opportunities, information about the benefits of early reading, suggested book lists by Native American authors, and an exciting opportunity for those interested in writing careers in television and film. Best wishes to you all!



AISES Scholarship Opportunities

The AISES (Advancing Indigenous People in STEM) organization helps students move forward in their educational journeys by providing a wide range of program and scholarship opportunities. AISES scholarships help students acquire skills and training that will help them meet the unique STEM needs of our communities. AISES encourages students to apply for all the scholarships they are eligible for - there are 18 scholarships listed here. If you're an interested client and don't qualify for the fee waiver, please let us know. [Link https://shorturl.at/bvJ03](https://shorturl.at/bvJ03)



FAFSA Update and Delays

The Department of Education (DOE) released the long-anticipated new FAFSA website on January 2nd. Due to technical issues common with new websites of this scale, the site has only been accessible for an hour or two each day. This is causing delays and frustration for students and families attempting to access the FAFSA site. The DOE is advising applicants to remain patient as final adjustments to the system

are being performed. Here's an informative up-to-the-minute report on the FAFSA situation and what to expect in the following weeks. **FAFSA Update:** <https://shorturl.at/fvyS4>



Meet Wyatt, a Free Digital FAFSA Assistant

A free, online digital adviser designed to help students and families apply for the FAFSA is now available. The app is called Wyatt, and to date, has helped over 30,000 students complete the FAFSA and secure over \$40 million in federal grant aid.

"Wyatt is a scalable solution to help more students, especially students from low-income backgrounds and first-generation college applicants, navigate the FAFSA and secure college

financial aid," says Wyatt CEO, Trooper Sanders. Sign up for **Wyatt** at www.GetFAFSAHelp.org.



Native American Writers Lab Opportunity!

Here's an exciting opportunity for aspiring writers! The 9th Annual Native American Writers Lab has 10 open spots for the 2024 workshop in April and May. This intensive scriptwriting program prepares Native Americans for writing careers at major television networks. For additional information, an informative video, and the workshop application, follow the link below. The application deadline is coming up soon so best of luck if you're planning to apply. **Apply here:** <https://rb.gy/iye9uw>



Kids Who Read for Pleasure Grow into Better Adjusted Teens

A recent study suggests that old-fashioned book-reading may help children grow into better adjusted middle schoolers. Potential benefits include enhanced memory, speech development, and self-esteem. The study also showed a decrease in behavioral problems and depression. "Reading isn't just a pleasurable experience, it's widely accepted that it inspires thinking and creativity, increases empathy and reduces

stress," said one researcher. For more information about the study and reading tips for children, click on the link below. **Article Link:** <https://t.ly/BBlpV>



20 Exceptional Native American/Indigenous Books for Kids Ages 8+

Book publisher Harper-Collins recently announced a new imprint by Native American authors for kids 8+ called **Heartdrum**. Heartdrum publishes children's books that are "heartfelt, groundbreaking, and unexpected." These children's books emphasize the present and future of Indian Country and the strength of young Indigenous heroes. Have fun with these! **Link:** <https://shorturl.at/agLR3>



30 Picture Books About Native American Families and Cultures

If you're looking for books for younger readers, here is a collection of 30 children's picture books that portray Native North American and Native Canadian cultures, history, tradition, and language in the past and present day. To access the list, click the 2nd link below. For detailed descriptions for each book, scroll to the end of the article then click on the "Get the Book List" button.

- **Article Link:** <https://imaginationsoup.net/picture-books-indigenous/>
- **Book List:** <https://shorturl.at/jDE49>

Thank you for reading this issue of Future Pathways!

For information and assistance with CTE, STEM, STEAM and General Education, please contact CTE Navigator, James Wark: Email: jwark@spipa.org, 360.463.7509