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NEWS RELEASE

***ASU Stardust Center and ASU Architecture Students Present Design Proposals
for a Native American Business & Cultural Center in Central Phoenix***

PHOENIX, AZ – A group of graduate students and faculty affiliated with the ASU College of Design and the ASU Stardust Center for Affordable Homes and the Family presented three design proposals for a Native American Business and Cultural Center that members of the Native American community expect to develop in Central Phoenix.

The design team was led by the ASU Stardust Center’s Design Director, Daniel J. Glenn, a noted Native American practitioner specializing in culturally and environmentally responsive architecture. The ASU Stardust Center works towards increasing the quantity and quality of affordable housing through innovative education, research and design projects and through technical assistance to housing providers. Much of the Center’s work addresses the needs of the Native American community including their recently completed design/build demonstration house for the Navajo Nation.

The Business and Cultural Center would be one component of a larger vision of creating a Native American “geographic center” within Central Phoenix. Three veteran Native American community service organizations – Native American Connections, the Phoenix Indian Center and Native Health – have joined together with the vision to build this new place: an intentional community of Native American businesses, services, and housing anchored by a central gathering place celebrating Native traditions and culture. These three organizations asked the Stardust Center for Affordable Homes and the Family and the School of Architecture’s Integral Studio to assist them in creating a physical expression of this vision.

The Phoenix Metropolitan region ranks second in the nation for the highest number of Native American tribal members with over 90,000 from more than a dozen different tribes. Currently, the Valley lacks a “geographic center” for this community; a place where tribal members can gather together to express and share their cultural traditions with fellow tribal members or with the community at large. The Valley also lacks a central location for access to needed services – health care, social services, recreation and community resources. Neither is there a place where Native-owned businesses can flourish with the benefit of mutual support and proximity. And, perhaps most importantly, according to Daniel Glenn, “the Native community lacks a visible presence in the city, a symbolic center that proclaims to the larger community that despite

hundreds of years of domination, the Native American community continues to grow and thrive both on and off the reservation.”

2-2-2 ASU Students Present Designs for Native Business & Cultural Center

Collectively, the three agencies -- all based in Central Phoenix -- have provided almost 120 years of service to the urban Native Americans community in Greater Phoenix. Native American Connections has over 33 years of experience working with the urban Native American community, focusing on behavioral health and the development and management of affordable housing with supportive services. Native Health has operated for over 25 years focusing on providing primary healthcare and medical services while the Phoenix Indian Center has an almost 60 year history focusing on education, workforce development, family counseling and supporting Native American language and culture throughout the valley.

“The urban Native American community has dreamed of establishing such a geographic center for over 10 years,” said Diana Yazzie-Devine, President/CEO of Native American Connections. She says, “Our three agencies collectively have decided that the time is right for taking the first steps at making this vision of a geographic center a reality.”

“We can’t say enough about the work which the ASU students have done this semester to put together three high quality design proposals which truly incorporated the ideas and input of the urban Native community, any of which could have an opportunity to be built,” said Patti Hibbeler, President/CEO of the Phoenix Indian Center. “We are working towards seeing that this vision becomes a reality.”

The participating ASU graduate students who worked on developing the three design proposals included: Michael Darrah, Joseph David, Ernesto Fonseca, Brandt Knapp, Lora Moulton, Paul Heikens, and Ziad Quereshi with ASU Research Assistants Tanya Yellowhair and Candita Woodis.

The students’ final presentations were made at ASU’s Phoenix Urban Research Lab (PURL) Center, located at Central and Van Buren, and which is one of many new sites which ASU expects to operate in Downtown Phoenix as it continues to move many departments, schools and research facilities to its Downtown Campus.