

Nation Building

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THE HARVARD PROJECT ON AMERICAN INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Images and Realities

- The Images
 - Mired in Poverty or Rolling in Dough?
 - Dependent Ethnic Enclaves or Little Economic Powerhouses?
 - Stressed and Vanishing Cultures or Isolated Islands of Tradition?
- The Realities



Dimensions of Intertribal Diversity

- Size – Geography and Population
- Location – Urban v. Rural
- History
- Social & Economic Conditions
 - Gaming v. Non-Gaming
 - Agriculture, Tourism, Manufacturing, Subsistence
- Culture – Historic and Contemporary
 - Language
 - Religion and Ceremony
 - Arts
 - Social Relations
- Governmental Form



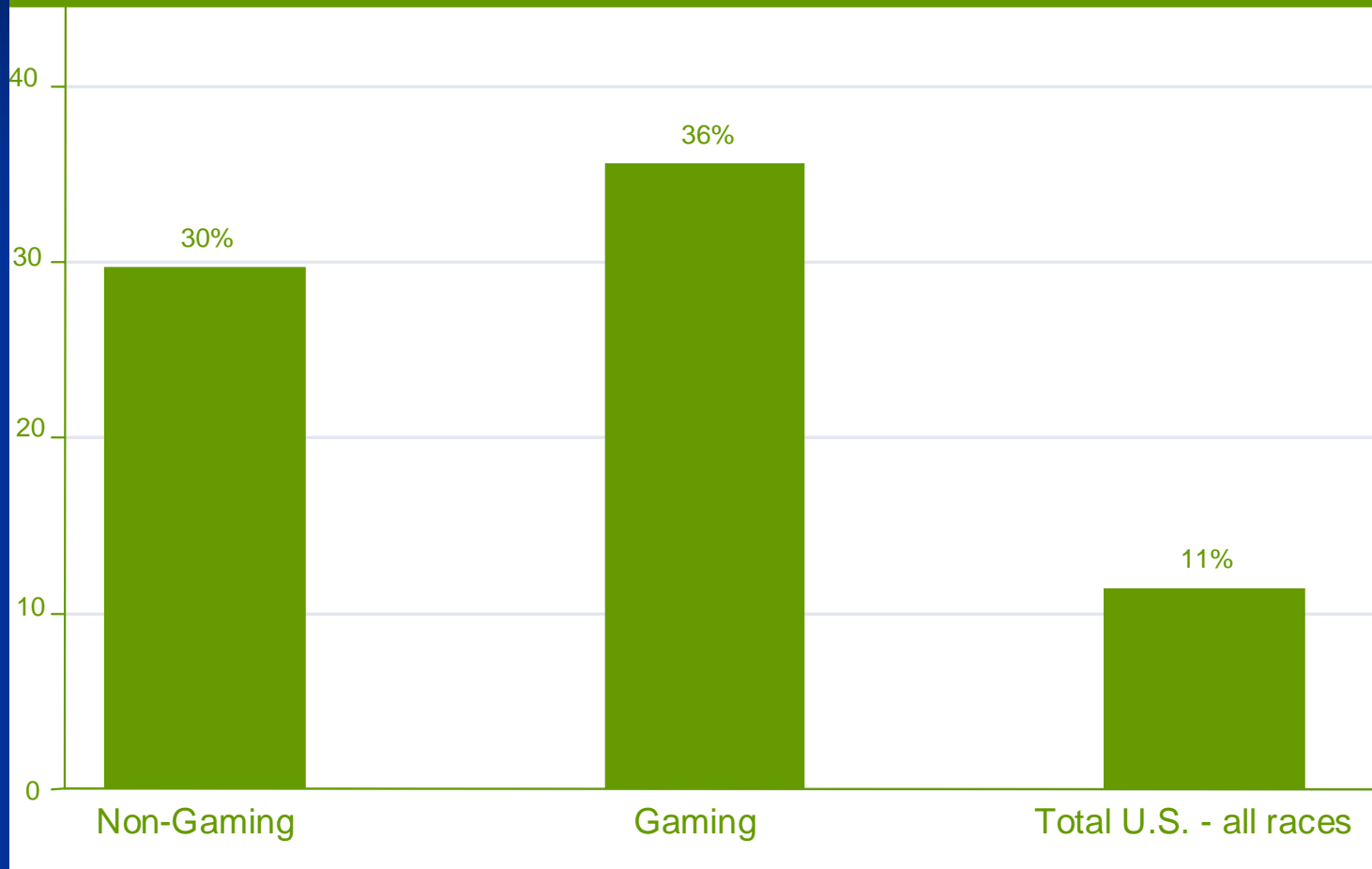
Common Challenges

- Political Self-Determination
 - Defending and Expanding Sovereignty
 - Exercising Powers of Self-Rule
- Social and Cultural Self-Determination
 - Continuity of Shared Identity
 - Collective Commitment to the Nation
- Economic Well-Being
 - Reversing the Centuries of Deficits
 - “A Place Where People Can and Want to Live”



The Challenge is *Nation Building*

Percent Change in Per Capita Income: 1990-2000 Outside Oklahoma Statistical Areas



Realities of Indian Country

- An Overall Economic Boom
- The Haves and Have-Nots
- The Drive for Economic, Political, and Social Self-Determination
- The Struggle for Political Self-Rule



The Two Approaches

- The Standard Approach
- The Nation Building Approach



The Standard Approach

- Short-term, non-strategic
- Economic development is an economic problem
- Looks for “home runs”
- Development agenda is driven by others
- Indigenous culture is perceived as an obstacle



Typical Standard Approach Results

- Failed enterprises
- Brain drain
- Outside perceptions of incompetence that undermine the defense of sovereignty
- Inside perceptions of incompetence
- Continuing poverty



The Nation Building Approach

- Sovereignty in Practice
- Capable Governing Institutions
- Cultural Match
- Strategic Orientation
- Leadership



Honoring Nations

Examples of Excellence in
Tribal Governance



Innovations

- Little River Band's Migizi Business Camp
- Red Lake's Walleye Fish Recovery Project
- Sisseton Wahpeton's Professional Empowerment Program



Thank You

For more information, please visit the
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