

Developing Reservation Private Sector Economies

Feb. 18, 2022 – Vibrant Tribal Economies Webinar

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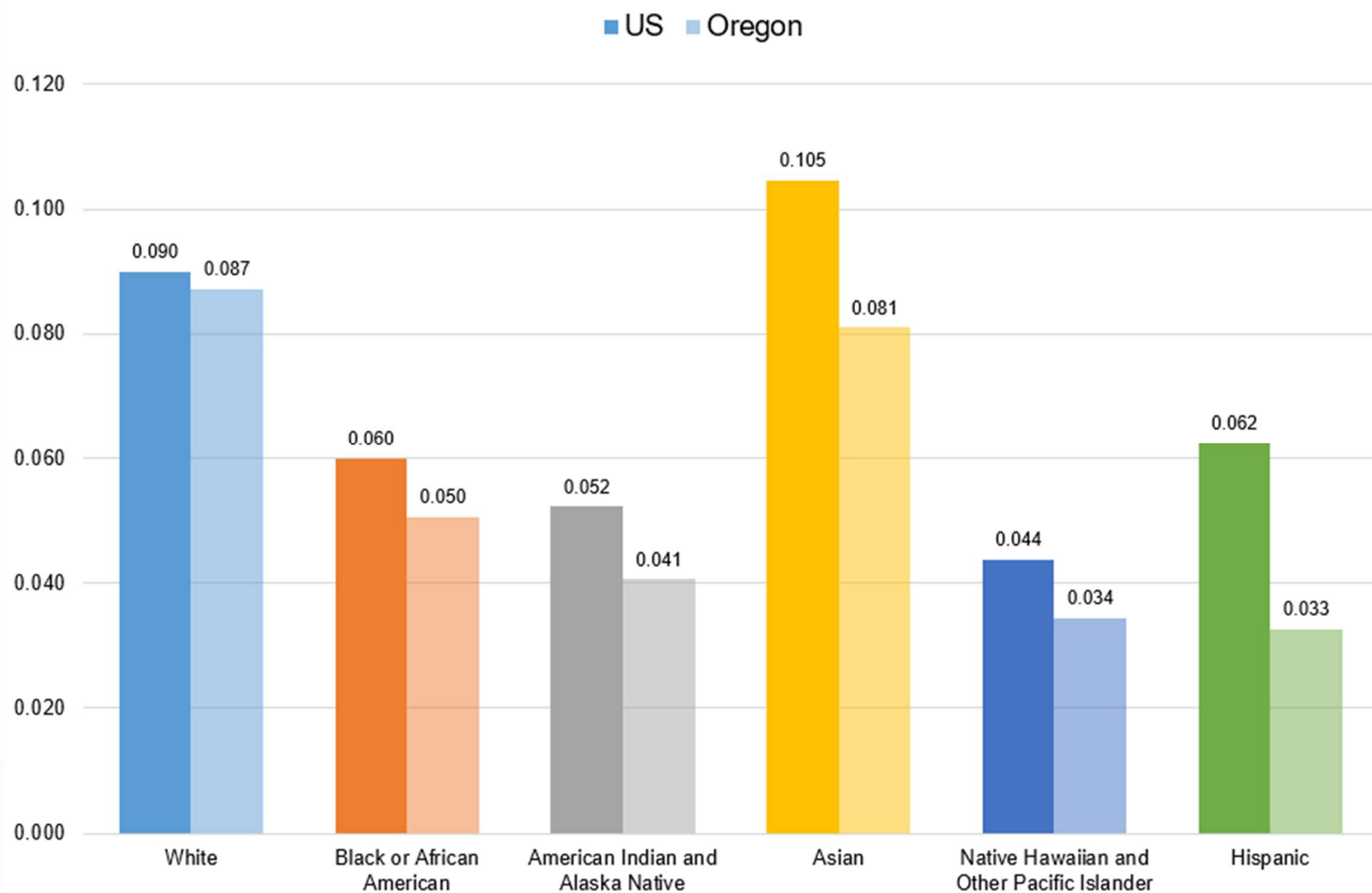
Chief Justice, Pascua Yaqui Court of Appeals

Member, American Philosophical Society

Traditional American Indian property regimes & rights

- Successfully supported for centuries with agriculture, trade, hunting, fishing, gathering
- Private & community property rights
- Trade networks & economic systems
- Intellectual property rights
- Self-sufficiency = self-determination

2012 Firm Ownership per capita, US and Oregon



Source: Census Bureau 2012 Survey of Business Owners, American Community Survey 2012 1-Year Estimates Table DP05

DAYS \$\$ STAYS IN COMMUNITIES

OPTIONS

40

30

20

10

ASIAN

JEWISH

WHITE

BLACK

02:32

23:06

memorex

OPTIONS

6 HOURS

BLACK



02:37

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Truth and Reconciliation

Navajo Nation
money leaking
off the
reservation
each year

\$4.7B

amount spent off of the Navajo Nation



\$.35

amount per dollar spent on the Navajo Nation

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Stop Video



10

Participants



Chat



Share Screen



Reactions

DELL



National Congress of American Indians

77th Annual Convention & Marketplace

Truth and Reconciliation

**Navajo
Nation sales
tax revenue**
lost to border
towns each
year

PHOENIX
\$7M

FARMINGTON
\$133M

\$219M

FLAGSTAFF
\$23M

WINSLOW
\$4M

HOLBROOK
\$3M

GALLUP
\$49M

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Participants 10



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Reactions

DELL

Possible Community Benefits

- Earned Income
- Containing “Leakage”
- Benefiting from the “Multiplier Effect”
- Employment and Training
- More recession proof
- Influence

Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development

- 1. Sovereignty matters

Self-determination and tribal sovereignty is the only anti-poverty program that works

- 2. Governing institutions matter

Tribal governments and bureaucracies have to be able to govern effectively

- 3. Culture matters

Tribal governing and economic institutions have to match Indigenous ideas

What does effective governance involve?

- Stability in the rules & laws (Rule of Law)
- Separation of politics from business mgt (400%)
- Effective and independent dispute resolution = 5% more employment, with separation of powers = 15% more e'm
- A bureaucracy that can get things done

Private development obstacles

- Attracting investments, human and financial capital
- Laws [absence thereof?] – U.C.C. & comm'l codes
- Rural areas
- Land in “trust” & federal approvals
- Credit & job histories
- Tribal & U.S. courts & bureaucracies
- Political instability
- Lack of economic education, experience, mentors

My Elements of Private Sector Dev

- 1. *Financial literacy*
- 2. *Develop human capital*
- 3. *Create entrepreneurs*
- 4. *Funding private businesses*
- 5. *Tribal and federal Buy Indian acts*
- 6. *Legal infrastructure*
- 7. *Physical infrastructure*
- 8. *Attracting human & financial capital investments*
- 9. *Non-Profit and NGO social welfare orgs*
- <https://digitalcommons.law.byu.edu/lawreview/vol2018/iss6/7/>

Reservation Business Surveys?

- CRST 4 Bands Community Fund multi-page analysis of the DOZENS of privately operated businesses that were viable but absent on that reservation.
- <https://fourbands.org/product/business-opportunities-in-the-cheyenne-river-reservation-market/>
- Would this kind of information for every reservation be useful and perhaps motivate entrepreneurs to create those businesses on those reservations?



NATIVE AMERICAN "WESTERN" AND TODAY

Reservation "Capitalism"

Economic Development
in Indian Country



ROBERT J. MILLER

Foreword by John F. Kennedy
Foreword by William F. Buckley, Jr.
Foreword by William F. Buckley, Jr.

"This book offers a variety of unique perspectives on the challenges of developing an entrepreneurial culture in Indian Country. Each chapter takes a different approach, ranging from big-picture issues to success stories. The book is full of both high-level knowledge and practical information and will spark new ideas among readers on how to approach the unique problems of private sector development in their own reservations or communities."

Lance Morgan, *CEO, Ho-Chunk, Inc.*

"Where was this book when I started First Nations Development Institute in 1980? I can't tell you how many donors back then would tell me 'Assets is a white man's word', meaning clearly that Native peoples had no economic basis but buckskin and beadwork. The authors not only dispel but destroy this myth, with insights into how our traditions and cultures set the foundation for strong vibrant economies, private property, and wide spread prosperity."

Rebecca Adamson, *Founder and President, Indigenous Economist, First Peoples Worldwide*

"A growing number of Native nations are working to build sustainable economies that are no longer dependent on outside decision-makers and funders. The chapters in this book outline both the challenges those nations face and the strategies – particularly private sector ones – they are using. The result is sobering, for the challenges are big ones, but also hopeful, because the strategies they are coming up with are often creative and productive. The book provides essential perspective on an essential effort."

Stephen Cornell, *Faculty Chair, Native Nations Institute, James E. Rogers College of Law, The University of Arizona*

Miller, Jorgensen
and Stewart

Creating Private Sector Economies
in Native America

Creating Private Sector Economies in Native America

Sustainable Development through
Entrepreneurship

Edited by Robert J. Miller,
Miriam Jorgensen and Daniel Stewart



Why??

- We need ALL KINDS of economic development!
- Diversify reservation economies
- Make reservations more livable and sustainable communities
- Develop middle-class jobs, wages & housing, and better schools
- Mentor and employ Indian youth
- Act for the Seventh Generation