

## **Rural Community Assistance Corporation**

### **Tribal Housing Excellence Academy**

#### **Accomplishments (RCB FY 2012 and RCB FY 2015)**

##### **Short Blurb 1:**

In 2014, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) launched the Tribal Housing Excellence Academy (THE Academy), which is a multi-year training and technical assistance initiative to work with innovative Native organizations in the rural West to increase housing built on Native lands. As a result, participating tribal housing organizations have secured over \$8 million in expanded federal funds and \$13.8 million in non-federal funds to leverage against their Indian Housing Block Grant funding. To date, 141 new affordable homes have been completed, and 52 affordable homes rehabilitated.

##### **Short Blurb 2:**

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) has offered the Tribal Housing Excellence Academy (THE Academy), which served two cohorts of Native housing organizations, from 2014-2017 and 2017-2021. Thirty staff from 15 tribal housing organizations have graduated from THE Academy.

“THE Academy has assisted the Craig Tribal Housing Department tremendously.” – Kari Mackie, Housing Coordinator, Craig Tribal Association, Alaska.

Mackie told her fellow THE Academy participants at the [graduation ceremony](#) in July 2018 that it is challenging to build in Alaska, where materials are hard to get and building in a cold climate is not very easy. THE Academy helped her and the Tribe with market analysis, appraisals, procurement, funding sources and phases of construction.



*Photo by Dustin Love, RCAC*

During the class, participants discussed the complicated organizational structures used for tax credit financing and used hats to demonstrate the “many hats” a tribal housing agency might wear. The participants later supplemented the training hats with silly graduation hats and tiaras for the graduation celebration. There is a mix of both in the group photo.

Left to right: Eileen Piekarz, RCAC (top hat); Greta Armijo, RCAC; Jamie Navenma, Hualapai Housing Department (graduation cap); Angela Keiffer, CCRH Intern; Clyde Raymond, Puyallup Tribal Housing Department; Andreas Tziolas, Native Village of Barrow (hard hat); Audrey Gachupin, Pueblo of Zia Housing; Sheri Bozic, Pueblo of Zia Community Infrastructure (tiara); Katy Morgan, Cheyenne River Housing Authority; Sam Okakok, Native Village of Barrow (red hat); Kari Mackie, Craig Tribal Association; Michelle Running Wolf, Cheyenne River Housing Authority; Moriah McGill, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority; Kevin Davidson, Hualapai Planning Department; Eunice Brower, Native Village of Barrow; Sonny Matheson, Puyallup Tribal Housing Department; Anna Guthrie, Craig Tribal Association; David Murray, Native Capital Access; Cielo Gibson, Trainer. *(Photo by Dustin Love, RCAC)*