

You can help shape the future of Native America. The American Indian College Fund wants you to know the facts.

FACT: The American educational system has failed Indian people.

Many Indian students don't finish the ninth grade. Over 50% drop out of high school. Less than 20% of graduates go on to traditional colleges, and nearly all drop out their first year.

FACT: American Indian colleges are critical to Indian survival.

The failure of education has spelled disaster on America's Indian reservations. Unemployment reaching 80%, rampant alcoholism, poverty and hopelessness are the legacy of America's failed Indian education policies.

FACT: American Indian colleges bring hope and opportunity.

The colleges support Indian pride, teaching tribal history, language and culture as well as math, computers and Shakespeare—a successful bridge between cultures. The proof: enrollment has increased over 60% in the last nine years, and continues to grow.

FACT: American Indian colleges are working for the Indian people.

Indian college retention rates are nearly 90%. As many as 90% of graduates have jobs or pursue higher degrees. Graduates stay on the reservations to contribute to their communities.

FACT: "Impossible" conditions remain a reality.

Students and staff work in the poorest and most isolated areas of the country. Most facilities are inadequate, public transportation and student housing are non-existent.

FACT: American Indian colleges are in a battle for survival.

Devastating conditions on reservations force tribal colleges to survive on grants and appropriations that are unpredictable and frequently threatened. Because while

enrollments have increased, federal support per student has declined almost 40% since 1980.

FACT: Tuition increases are not the answer.

The annual per capita income of families is \$1500-\$5000! Already students make immense sacrifices to attend class. There are just not enough scholarships to go around.

FACT: After 500 years, you can finally help.

The American Indian College fund was created for individuals like you who believe in justice and equal opportunity. After 500 years, the tribes have designed something that works. They need your support now.



Navajo Community College student

Help save a culture that could save ours.