*Twenty-one of the colleges have already passed strict accreditation recquirements, and the others are candidates for accreditation. All the colleges have been audited by the General Accounting Office.

*American Indian colleges represent a major difference in the approach to higher education. Far from rejecting the Indian experience as part of the educational process, tribal colleges build on that experience as well as the needs of the wider society.

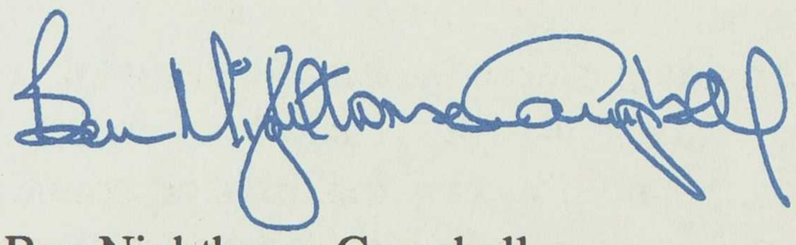
The most important thing tribal colleges offer to Indian communities is hope. They are bringing new life to the reservations in the form of education and training. But despite all their accomplishments, these colleges need help, and I appeal to you to help them by contributing to the American Indian College Fund. The enclosed letter I received from Ron McNeil, the president of the American Indian College Fund, states the case convincingly, and I hope you will take the time to read it.

Often situated in the heart of our nation's deepest poverty, the colleges have few financial opportunities. Even though the federal government is helping, the colleges have fewer options than other schools. Tuition, already difficult for students, has already been raised. Without additional support from the American people, hopeful students will have to be turned away. That would be a tragedy.

Your contribution will ensure that the basic tools of education are available: books, bookshelves, teachers, heated classrooms, scholarship and emergency aid. The extras - gyms, football teams, student lounges - will have to wait.

There are so many students hungry to learn in these unique educational environments. By becoming an honorary alumni of the American Indian College Fund and by making a contribution, you can help Indian students realize their dream to become contributing members of their communities. You can help them remain an inspiration to us all.

Sincerely,



Ben Nighthorse Campbell
United States Senator

P.S. Again, please read the enclosed letter from Ron McNeil, the president of American Indian College Fund.

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