AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND

"Educating the mind and spirit" www.collegefund.org a nonprofit working for tribal colleges

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WHAT

- **A non-profit working for America's tribal colleges, raising private support for scholarships, endowments and public awareness.**
- The American Indian College Fund's credo is "Educating the Mind and Spirit."
- **Tribal colleges give Indian students a dual academic and cultural form of higher education--combining traditional degrees like Liberal Arts with those in Native language and culture.**
- The Fund distributed $3 million to the colleges in 1998, directly supporting more than 5,000 students.
- **Since 1986, the College Fund has raised a total of more than $35 million.**

WHO

- **30,000 students attend tribal colleges. About 26,000 are American Indians.**
- About 85 percent of students live in poverty.
- **Most of the students are women. Many are single parents. Their average age is 30.**
- Some students are enrolled to learn job skills. Many pursue bachelor's or master's degrees. All students study Native culture.

WHERE

- **Most colleges operate on reservations with high rates of poverty and unemployment.**
- Tribal colleges are located in 12 states from Michigan to California, with most in Montana and the Dakotas.
- **Students come from 250 different tribes across the country.**

WHY

- **Tribal colleges don't have successful casinos to rely on for funds. The colleges mostly are located in poor, isolated areas. With little tax base, tribes can provide few dollars. The schools receive no state support, and Federal monies are limited.**
- Fewer than 10 percent of Indians successfully graduate from non-Native colleges. However, more than 40 percent of tribal college graduates pursue further education, and another 53 percent find employment.
- **Most tribal college students dropped out somewhere else. Tribes founded their own colleges because too many Indians were failing at other schools.**

WHEN

- **The American Indian College Fund has fully operated since 1989.**
- The first tribal college, Diné (or Navajo) College was founded in 1968.
- **New tribal colleges open regularly. The newest one, Little Priest, started in 1997.**

HOW

- **The College Fund's support comes from corporations, foundations and 90,000 individual donors.**
- Besides scholarships, the Fund supports the colleges' shared endowment, cultural preservation efforts, Indian teacher training programs and public awareness.
- **Millions of Americans see "Educating the mind and spirit" public service messages in magazines and on television. The awareness campaign is created by ad agency Wieden & Kennedy, which is known for work for Coca-Cola, Nike and Microsoft.**
- A board of trustees (a majority of whom are tribal college presidents) directs the Fund. Other trustees include Native author/screenwriter Sherman Alexie, Vanguard mutual funds founder John Bogle and the actress Winona Ryder.
- **A majority of the College Fund staff is Native American. Executive Director Richard Williams is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.**

The 30 Tribal Colleges & Universities

Arizona
Diné College, Tsaile

California
D-Q University, Davis

Kansas
Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence

Michigan
Bay Mills Community College, Brimley

Minnesota
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Cloquet
Leech Lake Tribal College, Cass Lake

Montana
Blackfeet Community College, Browning
Dull Knife Memorial College, Lame Deer
Fort Belknap College, Harlem
Fort Peck Community College, Poplar
Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency
Salish Kootenai College, Pablo
Stone Child College, Rocky Boy's Agency

Nebraska
Nebraska Indian Community College, Niobrara
Little Priest Tribal College, Winnebago

New Mexico
Crownpoint Institute of Technology, Crownpoint
Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque

North Dakota
Fort Berthold Comm. College, New Town
Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten
Sitting Bull College, Fort Yates
Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt
United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck

South Dakota
Cheyenne River Comm. College, Eagle Butte
Oglala Lakota College, Kyle
Sinte Gleska University, Rosebud
Sisseton Wahpeton Comm. College, Sisseton

Washington
Northwest Indian College, Bellingham

Wisconsin
College of the Menominee Nation, Keshena
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, Hayward

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