

### Our Mission

The American Indian College Fund transforms Indian higher education by funding and creating awareness of the unique, community-based accredited tribal colleges and universities, offering students access to knowledge, skills, and cultural values which enhance their communities and the country as a whole.



<sup>\*</sup> Percentages are based on average expenses over the past five years.

### Our Commitment to You

The Fund is committed to accountability. We consistently receive top ratings from independent charity evaluators.

- We earned the "Best in America Seal of Excellence" from the Independent Charities of America. Of the one million charities operating in the United States, fewer than 2,000 organizations have been awarded this seal.
- The Fund meets the Standards for Charity Accountability of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance.
- The Fund received an A- rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy.
- The Fund received its third consecutive four-star rating from Charity Navigator. Less than 10% of charities nationwide receive this distinction.

### Table of Contents

Introducing Cheryl Crazy Bull	
The Legacy of Richard Williams	Ź
2011-12 Board of Trustees	4
Scholarships: 2011-12 Statistics	5
Tribal Colleges and Universities Map	6
Meet Our Students	8
Meet Our Alumni	10
Annual Flame of Hope Gala	12
Planned Giving Profile	13
Foundation Supporters	14
Individual Contributors	15
Foundation Contributors	16
Corporate and Tribal Contributors	17
Independent Auditor's Report	18
Statement of Financial Position	19
Statement of Activities	20
Statement of Functional Expenses	21
Statement of Cash Flows	22
Summary of Significant Accounting Policies	23
Notes to Einancial Statements	76













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**Editor:** Dina Horwedel



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Photo page 13 courtesy of Dr. Hal Lassiter







# Message from the Incoming President



Dr. Cheryl Crazy Bull (Sicangu Lakota), whose Lakota name Wacinyanpi Win means "they depend on her," was named President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund.

Dr. Crazy Bull has more than 30 years of experience with Native American education institutions. She comes to the Fund from Northwest Indian College (NWIC), located on the Lummi Nation in Washington, where she served for 10 years. Prior to joining NWIC, she served as the superintendent of St. Francis Indian School and in several teaching and administrative roles at Sinte Gleska University, both on her home reservation of Rosebud in South Dakota.

Dr. Crazy Bull also served for four years as the Chair of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Board and four years as member-at-large of the AIHEC Executive Committee. She has served on the boards of the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center, and on the economic development committees of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the Lummi Nation.

It is my honor to have been selected as the new President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund (the Fund). In my 30-year career as a tribal educator, the inspiration for my work is the vision of the founders of the tribal college movement. Our founders, many who have gone on their journey to the Spirit World, wanted place-based, culturally rooted higher education institutions to lift up tribal peoples into abundant, prosperous lives. They knew that the cultural knowledge of our tribal people, combined with an understanding of and proficiency with western skills, would rebuild tribal nations.

As Rick Williams, outgoing President and CEO of the Fund has shared, "Tribal colleges have rewritten the history of Indian education." For many Native people, education did not represent opportunity or hope; it represented a loss of identity and important knowledge based in our languages and relationships. Tribal colleges and universities restore that knowledge and rebuild relationships.

Students at tribal colleges are among the most resilient, talented individuals in higher education today. They eagerly study, research, serve, and learn together. They overcome tremendous economic and personal obstacles in order to achieve their dreams of a higher education that provides them with both employment and the security of their rich tribal identity. Today this is even more important because economic policies and political approaches to social change are having a challenging impact on already impoverished tribal communities. Tribal college students can change the future of tribal nations.

Our students hold the promise of opportunity and prosperity in their hearts and hands. I have witnessed how the resources of friends and supporters of the Fund made higher education possible for tribal college students. I have seen the incredible improvements in human capital and physical capacity at the tribal colleges as a result of their investments in the Fund.

As the incoming President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, I look forward to creating more investment opportunities in our tribal colleges, and most importantly, in our students. I believe that the generosity of our contributors will continue to support the diversity of cultures represented by American Indian tribes that are such an important part of American democracy.

It will be a privilege to meet and work with our many friends and supporters and to continue to help tribal college students achieve their dreams.

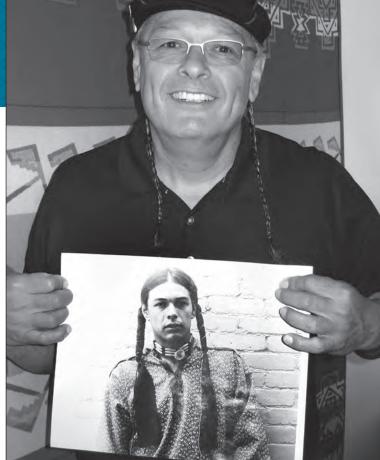
Pilamaya he, thank you, for your friendship,

Cheryl Crazy Bull

Wacinyanpi Win (They Depend on Her) Cheryl Crazy Bull

# The Legacy of Richard Williams





or the first time in many years, I found myself at a loss. I wasn't sure what to say when I was asked to provide a final word as the President and CEO for the American Indian College Fund, a position I have humbly served in for 15 years.

For those of you who know me personally, you know that serving American Indians so that they can pursue a higher education is my passion. Tasked with this final message to our supporters, I struggled. Should it be sentimental, reflective of the past, or a clever story? For those who know me well, you know that the latter would be truest to my Native culture and nature. For Native people, there is always a story, myth, legend, or tale that is just waiting to be told. And so...

Once upon a time, the world needed change. Those living then recall a time of poverty, scarcity of food, and few if any opportunities available to improve their lives and change what was happening in their world. Without some miracle, their world would cease to exist.

The Creator, *Wakan Tanka*, looked down on the people and felt pity that they were suffering, so he sent a Star down to the people. The great leaders of the people gathered and gazed into the Star. They put the Star in the center of the Great Lodge. As they looked at the Star they spoke about its beauty and what it meant to the people. Each offered his sage wisdom about how the Star was meant to help the people.

Page 2, Photo left: Richard B. Williams and several tribal college students at the Flame of Hope Gala.

**Page 2, Photo right:** Richard B. Williams displays a painting of himself as a young man.

Page 3, Photo left: Richard Williams takes the podium at a Flame of Hope Gala in Denver, Colorado.

#### Page 3, Photos, right, clockwise, from right to left:

Williams poses with his family; Williams (center) being presented with the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Colorado Board of Regents in recognition of his service to Native students and their communities with his wife, Sally Carufel-Williams (right); Williams with actor and Fund supporter Matt Damon; Williams and Navajo Technical College (NTC) President Dr. Elmer Guy (right) and NTC student Dwight Carlston (left).











For four days the people studied the Star and prayed. At the end of four days, the leaders took a part of the Star with them and traveled back to their homes and vowed to share its wisdom with their people.

When they returned home, each leader built a tribal college and summoned his people to enter so that they, too, could gain the wisdom of the Star. To this day, when you travel around Indian Country you will see the bright Stars and the shining hope in the faces of the people. The brilliant light of these Stars has guided Indian people to a new era of hope and prosperity. All we had to do was to believe in the power of minds and our determination, the potential of our young people for our future, the generosity of our supporters, and continue to offer thanks to the Creator.

It has been an honor to serve at the American Indian College Fund and help the tribal colleges nourish the gift of our young Indian people, helping them to fulfill their dreams of an education and a better life, while continuing in the footsteps of our ancestors. It has also been my privilege to meet the Fund's many supporters—our relatives in spirit.

The joy these past 15 years have brought me cannot be measured. The beautiful relationships with our students, their parents, and grandparents, and the good that I have been able to do for Native people will always live in my heart. I am proud to have served in this sacred mission.

From this day forward, when I look up at the night sky, I will remember this gift from the Creator. When I journey through Indian Country, I will continue to see those bright stars' rays of hope living on in the people as the American Indian College Fund continues its mission under the leadership of Dr. Cheryl Crazy Bull.

In Lakota we never say goodbye; we say *toksha:* until I see you again.

In a good way,

Rip B. null

Richard B. Williams President and CEO

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# Scholarships: 2011-12 Statistics

Total dollar amount of scholarships awarded: \$5,640,570

Average dollar amount of scholarship award per recipient: \$1,337



#### Front row, from left:

Dr. Elmer Guy, Carla Fredericks, Liesl Wilke, Kim Blanchard, Dr. Richard Littlebear.

#### **Back Row, from left:**

David Kennedy, Dr. James Davis, Dr. Carole Falcon-Chandler, Carrie Basgall, Dr. Laurel Vermillion, Gail Bruce, Dr. Cynthia Lindquist, Tammy Miller-Carlson, Barbara Gohr, Richard Williams, Casey Lozar, and Micheal Oltrogge.



### American Indian College Fund 2011-2012 Governing Board of Trustees

#### Chair:

Dr. Elmer Guy President Navajo Technical College

#### 1st Vice Chair:

Dr. Cynthia Lindquist President

> Cankdeska Cikana Community College

#### 2nd Vice Chair:

Dr. Laurel Vermillion President

Sitting Bull College

#### **Resource Development Chair:**

Arthur "Chuck" Hensley III Retired

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

#### Member At Large:

David W. Rogers Retired Cargill, Inc.

#### Trustees:

Richard Black President & CEO ECRM, Inc.

ECKM, Inc.

Kimberly Blanchard Partner

Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP

Dr. Carole Falcon-Chandler President

Aaniiih Nakoda College

Dr. James Davis President

Turtle Mountain Community
College

Dr. Verna Fowler

President
College of Menominee Nation

Carla Fredericks Partner

Milberg, LLP Cameron Geiger

Vice President, Sam's Club Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Dr. David M. Gipp President

United Tribes Technical College

Barbara Gohr Retired

Allstate Insurance Company

Daniel "Pancho" Gutstein
Director of Strategic Planning

PUMA N.A.

Dr. Richard Littlebear President

Chief Dull Knife College

Dr. Robert Martin

President Institute of American Indian Arts

Dr. Micheal Oltrogge President

> Nebraska Indian Community College

Liesl Wilke Author Number of students supported:

4,218

\*\*Total number of students we were unable to support:

7,850

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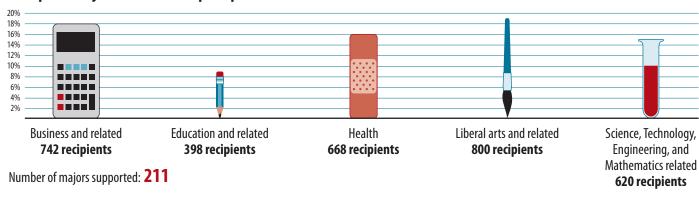
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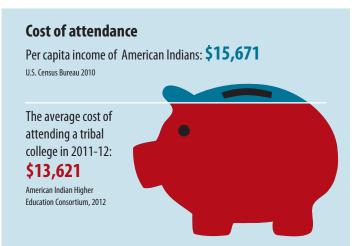
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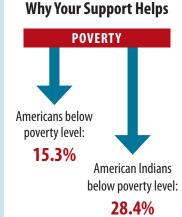
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#### Top five majors for scholarship recipients



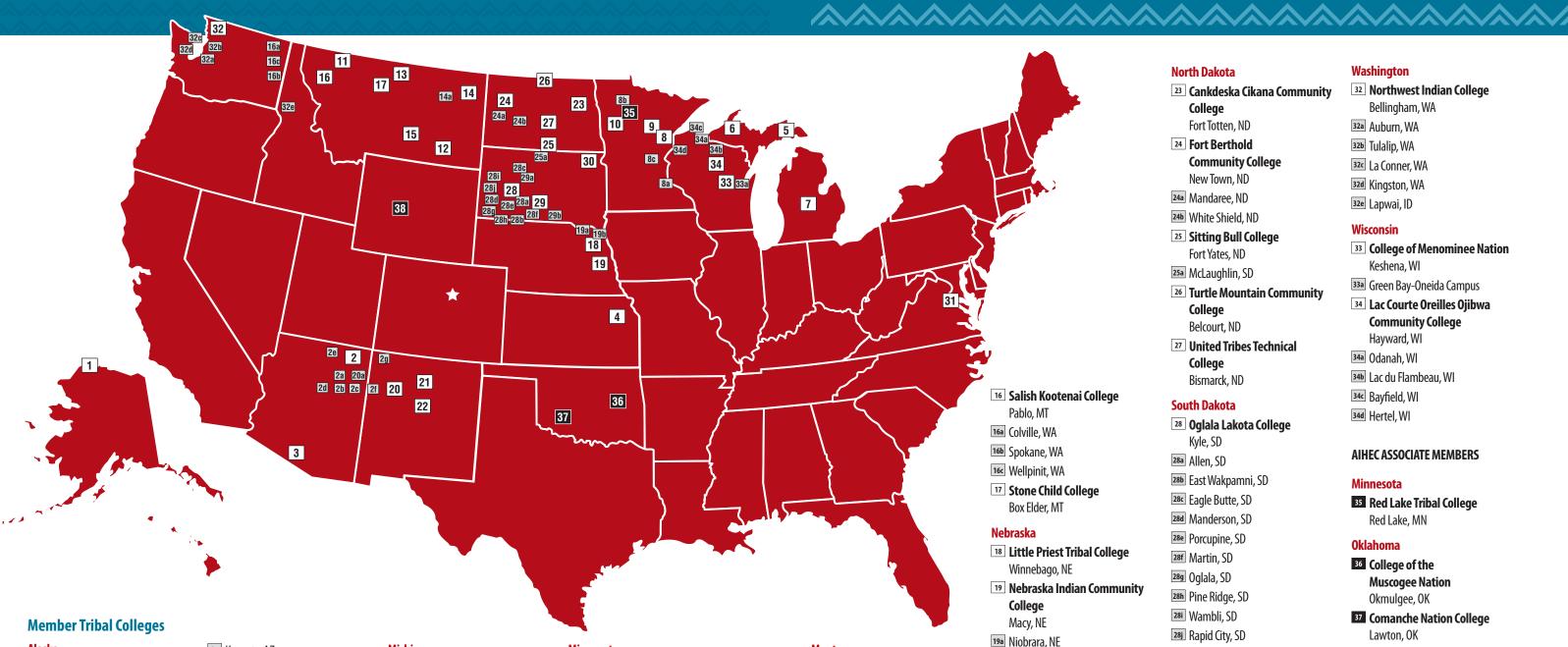






# Tribal Colleges and Universities Map

In 2011-12 the American Indian College Fund received applications from Native students from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia.



#### Alaska

1 Ilisagvik College Barrow, AK

#### **Arizona**

- 2 Diné College Tsaile, AZ
- <sup>2a</sup> Chinle, AZ
- **2**b Ganado, AZ
- 2c Window Rock, AZ
- <sup>2d</sup> Tuba City, AZ

- 2e Kayenta, AZ
- 2f Crownpoint, NM <sup>2g</sup> Shiprock, NM
- **3** Tohono O'odham **Community College** Sells, AZ

#### Kansas

4 Haskell Indian Nations University Lawrence, KS

#### **Michigan**

- **5** Bay Mills Community College Brimley, MI
- 6 Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa **Community College** Baraga, MI
- Saginaw Chippewa **Tribal College** Mount Pleasant, MI

#### Minnesota

- Fond du Lac Tribal and **Community College** Cloquet, MN
- 8a Minneapolis, MN
- Вы Red Lake, MN
- 8c Onamia, MN
- 9 Leech Lake Tribal College Cass Lake, MN
- 10 White Earth Tribal and **Community College** Mahnomen, MN

#### Montana

11 Blackfeet Community College Browning, MT

19b South Sioux City, NE

Crownpoint, NM

21 Institute of American

22 Southwestern Indian

Albuguergue, NM

**Polytechnic Institute** 

**Indian Arts** 

Santa Fe, NM

**20** Navajo Technical College

**New Mexico** 

20a Chinle, AZ

- 12 Chief Dull Knife College Lame Deer, MT
- 13 Aaniiih Nakoda College Harlem, MT
- 14 Fort Peck Community College Poplar, MT
- 14a Wolf Point, MT
- 15 Little Big Horn College Crow Agency, MT

### **North Dakota**

23 Cankdeska Cikana Community College

Fort Totten, ND

24 Fort Berthold **Community College** New Town, ND

- 24a Mandaree, ND White Shield, ND
- 25 Sitting Bull College Fort Yates, ND
- 25a McLaughlin, SD
- **Turtle Mountain Community** College

Belcourt, ND

27 United Tribes Technical College

Bismarck, ND

#### **South Dakota**

- **Oglala Lakota College** Kyle, SD
- <sup>28a</sup> Allen, SD
- East Wakpamni, SD
- 28c Eagle Butte, SD
- 28d Manderson, SD
- <sup>28e</sup> Porcupine, SD
- 28f Martin, SD
- 28g Oglala, SD
- Pine Ridge, SD
- <sup>28i</sup> Wambli, SD
- 28j Rapid City, SD
- 29 Sinte Gleska University Mission, SD
- 29a Lower Brule, SD
- <sup>29b</sup> Marty, SD
- 30 Sisseton Wahpeton College Sisseton, SD

#### **Virginia**

31 American Indian Higher **Education Consortium** Alexandria, VA

#### Washington

- 32 Northwest Indian College Bellingham, WA
- 32a Auburn, WA
- 32b Tulalip, WA
- 32c La Conner, WA
- 32d Kingston, WA
- 32e Lapwai, ID

#### Wisconsin

- 33 College of Menominee Nation Keshena, WI
- 33a Green Bay-Oneida Campus
- **Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College** Hayward, WI
- 34a Odanah, WI
- З4b Lac du Flambeau, WI
- 34c Bayfield, WI
- 34d Hertel, WI

#### **AIHEC ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

#### Minnesota

35 Red Lake Tribal College Red Lake, MN

#### **Oklahoma**

- 36 College of the **Muscogee Nation** Okmulgee, OK
- 37 Comanche Nation College Lawton, OK

#### **Wyoming**

- 38 Wind River Tribal College Ethete, WY
- \* American Indian **College Fund** 8333 Greenwood Blvd.

Denver, CO 80221 (303) 426-8900

www.collegefund.org

### Meet Our Students

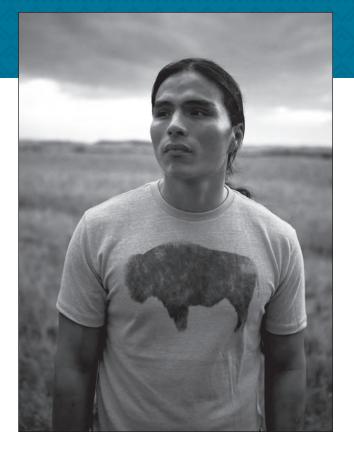
Name: Akisa

Tribe: **Oglala Lakota** 

Major: **Nursing** 

School: Oglala Lakota College,

Pine Ridge, South Dakota



#### **Inspiration for Getting a College Degree:**

hat really got me into medicine and nursing was my grandma. When my grandma got cancer I really wanted to understand it better and see how I could help her with her diet and things like that."

"I see a lot of people getting either bad health care or negligent health care, or maybe just health workers are just overworked around here. I've known people who've waited eight hours to see a doctor and had to be turned away because it was closing time and the doctor's schedule was too full and he didn't have enough time to see them. People have had to wait days, sometimes even weeks, to see a doctor for simple or even dangerous things like spider bites or snake bites. I actually know people who have almost lost limbs because of that."

#### **Career Goals:**

"I feel more of our people should not only learn medicine, they should come back to the reservation and practice, which I'd like to do...working with Native patients, helping the people, and helping my family," Akisa says.

#### **How the American Indian College Fund Helped:**

"Getting a scholarship and going to a tribal college gives me an opportunity to learn about nursing as well as learn my language and my culture."



Cancer is the second leading cause of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives over the age of 45.

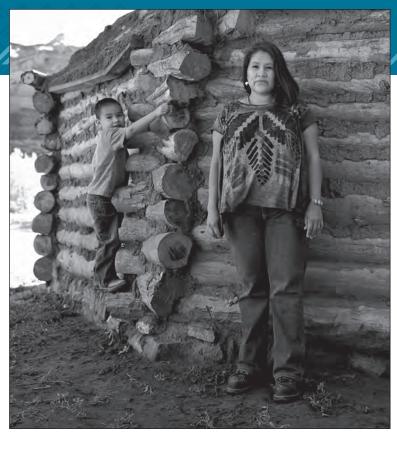
Intercultural Cancer Council (ICC).

Name: **Cheryl**Tribe: **Navajo** 

Major: Navajo/Diné studies

School: Diné College,

Tsaile, Arizona



#### **Inspiration for Getting a College Degree:**

heryl was a stay-at-home wife and mother to four-year-old son Kennedy and two-year-old daughter Ava when her husband lost his construction job in Las Vegas during a sharp economic and housing downturn. With no family nearby, they packed their belongings and family and returned home to the Navajo reservation, nine hours away, to start anew.

With no jobs or money, they settled in a remote area of the Navajo reservation in a one-room hogan, without electricity or running water, to save money while Cheryl, knowing that opportunities were limited without an education, enrolled in college.

"I knew that going to a tribal college would be beneficial to me, my people, and future Native generations. I have never regretted a single semester. My educational endeavors are built on self-determination and the

importance of education for my family and self. I have struggled far too long to go through any more hardships. I know life will always have its ups and downs, but there is always hope to learn, strive, endure, conquer, and succeed," Cheryl says.

#### **Career Goals:**

Cheryl is working towards a bachelor's degree in Navajo/Diné studies for a teaching career. She says she wants to teach young people "the heritage and beauty of the Navajo, culture, language, and arts."

#### How the American Indian College Fund Helped:

"A dream is built on the hope, faith, love, and generosity of the people who believe in the dream. Thank you."



Less than 1% of public school teachers in the U.S. were American Indian/Alaska Natives in 2007–08.

Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

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### Meet Our Alumni

Name: **Tammy** 

Tribe: Keetoowah

**Haskell Indian Nations University,** Alma Mater:

Lawrence, Kansas

#### **How the American Indian College Fund Helped:**

y parents would do anything to help me, but they didn't have the financial means to do so," Tammy says. They scraped together enough money for her to attend college that first semester, but "what would happen after that first semester was a leap of faith."

Tammy applied for an American Indian College Fund scholarship, and "scholarships paid for the rest of my school. I wouldn't have gone to college without them," she says.

#### **Tammy's Life Today:**

After earning an associate's degree in tribal management at Haskell Indian Nations University, Tammy transferred to the University of Kansas. Just 12 credits shy of her bachelor's degree, Tammy returned home to tend to a family emergency.



Back at home, she applied for an entry-level job at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. "After working for a year I realized I wanted to be there, not for a paycheck, but for a career. Since I hadn't finished my degree, I started meeting with leadership about where I wanted to go in the company and asked them to help me map a path to get there. They put me on that path," Tammy says.

Tammy finished her bachelor's degree and is now working towards a master's degree in business administration while working in a management position at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. She credits her tribal college education and American Indian College Fund scholarships for opening doors for her.



Eight out of 10 American Indian College Fund scholarship recipients say they want to use their education to help their cultural communities.

Name: Beau

Tribe: **Chippewa Cree** 

Stone Child College, Alma Mater:

**Box Elder, Montana** 



Photo, below: Beau Mitchell (right) enjoys working with his students at the College of Menominee Nation.

#### **How the American Indian College Fund Helped:**

ithout scholarships from the American Indian College Fund, Beau, who grew up on the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana, might not have been able to afford to stay in school.

"That was a vital time in my life that helped shape me into the person I am today. I received the Student of the Year award and scholarship [from the American Indian College Fund] for my tribal college. This recognition helped fuel my motivation to pursue a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) career."

#### **Beau's Life Today:**

After completing an associate's degree at Stone Child College, Beau moved to Wisconsin and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay. After working in the biofuels industry, he was hired for his "dream job" as the sustainability coordinator at the Sustainable Development Institute at the College of Menominee Nation, a tribal college in Wisconsin. The institute provides research and innovative activities to the Menominee Nation for sustainable forestry practices, health and wellness, and more. Beau says the job is a perfect fit for his education and professional background in environmental



protection, hazardous waste mitigation, building sustainable communities, and energy development. "I also love teaching and working with students, and giving them hands-on learning opportunities," he says.

Beau credits a tribal college education and American Indian College Fund scholarships for leading him to where he is today. Without them, he says he would not be in a position to give back to Indian Country.



Contaminants in subsistence foods, water, soil, and air threaten Native traditional lifeways by exposing American Indians to environmental contaminants.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2009.

### Annual Flame of Hope Gala



merican Indian College Fund supporters from around the country have attended the Flame of Hope Gala to raise money for scholarships and tribal college support for 16 years. This year's gala, held at the Denver Center of the Performing Arts on October 14, raised \$375,000.

Tribal college students attended the event to share their gratitude about how the Fund has made a difference in their lives. Haskell Indian Nations student Danielle Denton, a member of the Iowa nation, explained how a scholarship helped her to earn a business degree. Denton was chosen to participate in Wal-Mart Inc.'s first Native student cohort as a student intern at the company's headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas. After her graduation this spring, she joined Walmart full-time as an employee.

**Photo left:** Students and staff from Little Big Horn College in Montana attended the event in traditional dress.

**Photo right:** Student speaker Danielle Denton (lowa) addresses the audience about how scholarships have changed her life.



The Fund honored both the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for its support of culturally based early childhood education at tribal colleges and the late Elouise Cobell for her groundbreaking work to uphold American Indian contract rights and to ensure an education for Natives.

Native flutist R. Carlos Nakaí and The Jared Stewart Band entertained the assembled guests.

# Flame of Hope Gala sponsors contributing \$1,000 or more:

Anonymous P&G
Kimberly S. Blanchard Peskoff Foundation
CBS Television Network Sales Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Ford Motor Company of Michigan
Greenberg Traurig LLP The Tierney Family Foundation
IBM Tule River Indian Tribe

Jenzabar, Inc.

University of Phoenix
USA Funds

Lumina Foundation for Education

Nissan North America
Oneida Nation Foundation

The Sheryl and Harvey White Foundation

Wieden+Kennedy-Portland Liesl Wilke

# Planned Giving Profile



Dr. Hal Lassiter

r. Hal Lassiter first became interested in Native cultures early in his career after spending 10 years caring for children as a pediatrician on the Navajo and Wind River reservations.

"It was there that I developed a respect for Indian cultures," Dr. Lassiter said. He went on to work as a neonatologist at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, Kentucky, while heading a neonatal research lab for 17 years.

Dr. Lassiter's early experience working with Native communities piqued his interest in the American Indian College Fund, which he has supported for more than two decades.

Dr. Lassiter decided to contact the Fund to establish an endowed scholarship for Native students. Staff provided him with "all sorts of information about the Fund, its investment strategies, IRS Form 990s, and annual reports stretching a decade back. All of this information confirmed the Fund consistently receives high charity watchdog and Better Business Bureau ratings."

Next Dr. Lassiter spoke to Paul Schreder at Watershed Investment Consultants, the Fund's investment consultant. "The Fund had a pristine record, Watershed's fees were low, and everything was right in line with my intent. I had everything reviewed by my personal financial advisor and he confirmed everything I had found and there were no weaknesses."

Dr. Lassiter considered the national availability of scholarships to students when creating his endowment. He found there are limited vocational program scholarship opportunities for Natives. "When people finish a vocational education program, they can generate income immediately or go on to support themselves as they further their education," he says.

To achieve that end, Dr. Lassiter established the Lassiter Certificate and Vocational Education Endowment Fund with an initial gift of \$50,000 and another planned gift for 2013 of \$50,000 for endowed scholarships. Dr. Lassiter announced he is also leaving 80% of his estate with the Fund to ensure his legacy with Native peoples for generations.

# Foundation Supporters

Poundation supporters agree: the American Indian College Fund is an ideal charity to support because of the impact it makes in Native communities, its financial integrity, and work ethic.



Barbara Cushing, Director of Grantmaking at the Kalliopeia Foundation, said, "In terms of the American Indian College Fund's financials, we find them pretty impeccable. We receive an annual report every year along with the complete financial data that we request. It's obvious that there is a lot of thought and care put into the budgeting of dollars that are allocated.

You do what you say you are going to do and document it in a very detailed fashion.

Kalliopeia Foundation provides the American Indian College Fund with scholarships for students pursuing a teaching degree who want to serve as American Indian language instructors for the purpose of language preservation. We receive beautiful, detailed reports that illustrate the difference we make in students' lives and provide us with a glimpse of the personal connection we have with the students.

It's remarkable to have an organization as large as the American Indian College Fund in terms of the money you raise getting down to the level of detail of how this scholarship support is used. Your development staff is amazing, thoughtful, and caring, and it is a pleasure working with you."





Valorie Johnson, Program Officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, said, "After our initial grant to the American Indian College Fund, they ended up being a leader in the field. Later we gave funds to match for an endowment for scholarships in the late 1990s just as Rick Williams was taking his role as president, with our board's stipulation that the money would have to be matched in four years. The Fund matched the donation in 30 days, and in 90 days they doubled the amount. The board was really surprised and pleased. Out of that outstanding performance we were able to develop a stronger relationship with the Fund, its staff members, and people in Indian Country.

Whatever we have asked the Fund to do, they have done. They quickly gather information about tribal colleges for projects and turn around statistics and other research requests. We are able to fund the American Indian College Fund because of the information it is able to gather and assemble about the tribal colleges and universities and the communities they serve, the need that exists in Indian Country, and information that isn't always readily available about Indian Country. Their performance on projects is high quality. The Fund goes the extra mile."

**Photo above:** American Indian College Fund employees
Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz (left) and Jennifer Navarro (right) honor
Valorie Johnson (center), the program manager for the
W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

### Individual Contributors

### The following individual donors have generously given \$5,000 or more in support:

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# The following individuals have created a lasting legacy through the American Indian College Fund with their bequests of \$5,000 or more:

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