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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

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AIHEC Announces Retirement of Executive Director

ALEXANDRIA, VA: After more than seven years as Executive Director of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), Gerald E. Gipp (*Hunkpapa Lakota*) will retire from AIHEC on June 1, 2008. Gipp made the announcement at the AIHEC Board of Director's meeting on October 24, 2007.

"I consider it a privilege to have served the Tribal Colleges and Universities and the AIHEC Board of Directors over the past seven years," said Gipp. "However, after 46 years of public service, I feel that it is time for me to give greater focus to my family and other outside interests. I believe my time has arrived to step aside; it is time for new leadership to take on the ongoing challenge of moving the tribal college movement forward at the national level."

Gipp has had an extensive career in the field of American Indian education starting with his service as a K-12 school administrator and teacher in the Dakotas and Montana. He served as the first Deputy Assistant Secretary of the newly created U.S. Department of Education's Office of Indian Education and as the first American Indian president of Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas, where he served for nearly nine years. Gipp served on the faculty of the Graduate School of Educational Administration and Cultural Foundations at the Pennsylvania State University and as director of its American Indian Leadership Program.

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Immediately prior to joining AIHEC, Gipp served as a program director at the National Science Foundation in the Division of Educational System Reform, Directorate for Education and Human Resources. In 1984, the National Indian Education Association named Gipp its "Indian Educator of the Year."

AIHEC Chair Crazy Bull expressed appreciation for Gipp's service and commitment to American Indian education. She said, "Dr. Gerald Gipp spent his career working to improve the lives and educational status of all American Indians. We are grateful that he has been an integral part of the tribal college movement for many years."

A search committee has been organized to identify and hire a new executive director. The committee, chaired by Crazy Bull, is comprised of members of the AIHEC Board of Directors. Gipp will assist in providing input and advice during the process. It is expected that the AIHEC Board of Directors will finalize the selection decision by early spring 2008.

About AIHEC:

Founded in 1972 by the presidents of the nation's first six Tribal Colleges, as an informal collaboration among member colleges, AIHEC is comprised of 36 colleges in the United States and one Canadian institution. AIHEC is the collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation's Tribal Colleges and Universities. AIHEC provides leadership and influences public policy on American Indian higher education issues through advocacy, research and program initiatives; promotes and strengthens Indigenous languages, cultures, communities and tribal nations; and through its unique position, serves member institutions and emerging Tribal Colleges and Universities. For additional information, please visit www.aihec.org.

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