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October 2008

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News Release

AIHEC Board Elects New Officers

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Board of Directors elected Dr. David E. Yarlott, Jr. as the Chair of its Board of Directors at the organization's Fall meeting in Seattle, WA on October 22.

Yarlott, a member the Crow Tribe, is a graduate of Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency, MT and has served as president the college since 2002. He has worked with the college in various positions since 1996. In addition to attaining an associate degree in Business Administration from Little Big Horn College, Yarlott earned three degrees from the University of Montana – Bozeman, including a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Business Management and Business Education and an Education Doctorate focusing on Adult, Community, and Higher Education. Yarlott serves on the American Indian College Fund Board of Directors, the Montana Correctional Enterprise Advisory Committee, and is president of the Montana Indian Fire Fighter organization. In September, Yarlott was named by the Council for Opportunity in Education as one of its 2008 National TRIO Achievers.

In addition to Yarlott, the board elected three other members to its executive committee: Dr. Cynthia Lindquist Mala is the new vice chair, Mr. Ferlin Clark is the new secretary, Dr. James Shanley was re-elected as treasurer, and Ms. Cheryl Crazy Bull, as the immediate past chair is the new member-at-large.

Lindquist Mala, a member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation, has been president of Cankdeska Cikana Community College in Fort Totten, ND since October 2003. She received her doctorate in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor of Arts in Indian Studies/English from the University of North Dakota; she has

a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of South Dakota. Lindquist Mala currently serves on advisory boards to the Kaiser Family Foundation, The National Institutes of Health, and the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. She is also the current chair of the American Indian College Fund Board of Directors.

Clark (Navajo) has served as president of Diné College in Tsaile, AZ since 2003. Diné College has multiple campuses throughout the Navajo Nation with seven sites in Arizona and one in Shiprock, NM. Clark earned a bachelor's degree from Fort Lewis College (Colorado), a master's degree from Harvard, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Arizona. Clark currently serves on the Board of the American Indian College Fund and the College Board.

Shanley (Assiniboine) first became involved in the tribal college movement in 1971. He is currently serving as the president of Fort Peck Community College in Poplar, MT, a position he has held since 1984. A veteran of the Vietnam War, Shanley earned a doctorate in educational administration from the University of North Dakota. He was a founder of the American Indian College Fund and a past board chair of the AIHEC.

Crazy Bull, the president of Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, WA, served three terms as chair of the AIHEC Board. A Sicangu Lakota woman, Crazy Bull grew up on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. She is a former vice president of Sinte Gleska University on the Rosebud Reservation and has more than 20 years experience with the Tribal College Movement. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of South Dakota.

AIHEC is a 501(c)(3) organization that was chartered in 1973 by six tribal colleges and now has 36 members in 14 states plus one institution located in Alberta, Canada. Enrollments in AIHEC member institutions include American Indian students from over 250 federally recognized tribes as well as an estimated 20 percent non-tribal reservation community resident students. AIHEC is headquartered in Alexandria, VA.

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