



AMERICAN INDIAN
HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

AIHEC CENTRAL UPDATE

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The AIHEC Central Update is a brief weekly (or as needed) update on key issues and activities relevant to Tribal Colleges and Universities and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium.

FY 2009 APPROPRIATIONS

Congress has adjourned for a week long Independence Day recess. The following is a summary of actions taken to date by the various House and Senate appropriations sub/committees with regard to TCU program funding. Actions having taken place since the prior update was distributed are marked as *(New)*.

- I. **INTERIOR:** The House Interior appropriations subcommittee marked up its FY09 spending bill with the following results for TCU specific programs:
- **Tribal College Act: \$56,821,000** - Once again the House concurred with the President's budget recommendation for funding of the programs under the Tribal College Act.
 - **Haskell and SIPI: \$16,852,000** – same as the President's FY09 Budget recommendation
 - **IAIA: \$7,900,000** –same as the FY09 Budget Request
 - **NTC and UTTC: \$5,906,000** – The same as FY08 enacted. The House subcommittee echoed its FY08 position and rejected the President's recommendation to again eliminate Department of the Interior funding for UTTC and NTC, and included language regarding the importance of these two programs to Indian education. The level included in the mark-up is as the FY 2008 enacted, after the 1.56% across-the-board rescission was applied.

The Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittee is expected to mark up its bill in mid-July.

- II. **AGRICULTURE:** On June 19, 2008, the House Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee marked-up its FY09 spending bill , with the following result for TCU specific programs:
- **Extension Grants:** \$3,321,000 (same as FY08; \$48,000 above the budget request)
 - **Equity Grants:** \$3,342,000 (same as FY08; \$1,115,000 above the budget request)
 - **1994 Research Program:** \$1,544,000 (same as FY08; \$477,000 above the budget request)
 - **Endowment Payment:** \$11,880,000 (same as FY08 and the budget request)
 - **TCU-RD community facilities:** \$3,972,000 (Same as FY08 post imposing of across the board cut; President's FY09 budget eliminated program funding)

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III. LABOR-HHS (Education):

House: The House Labor-HHS Appropriations subcommittee marked-up its FY09 spending bill, rejecting the President's recommendation to eliminate funding for TCU-Title III Program and for NTC and UTTC Perkins funding. The House subcommittee mark includes \$23,158,000 for TCU-Title III, strengthening institutions program – level funded with FY08, and \$8,000,000 for tribally controlled postsecondary vocational institutions program (NTC and UTTC), an increase of \$454,000 over FY08.

Senate: *(New)* The Senate Appropriations subcommittee marked-up its FY09 Labor-HHS spending bill with unusual, albeit not unexpected, results with regard to Title III and V programs funding. The Senate Committee parroted the President's budget recommendations and justifications and reduced each Title III and V – Strengthening Institution's programs by the amount included in the FY08 Reconciliation Bill. While we will continue to our efforts to secure a reversal of this position, we continue to receive assurances that Title III program funds will be restored. With regard to NTC and UTTC Perkins funding, the Senate Committee did reject the President's recommendation to eliminate funding and included \$7,546,000 for tribally controlled postsecondary vocational institutions program (NTC and UTTC) in its mark. The same level appropriated in FY08.

OTHER CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & ISSUES

Indian Law Enforcement: Draft Legislation

AIHEC is drafting legislation language to ensure that Tribal Colleges and Universities are included in a major bill aimed at addressing violence and law enforcement in Indian country, which will be introduced by members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs next month. In particular, we are hoping to secure Congressional support for BIA law enforcement training at TCUs and authorization for TCU-led youth outreach and crime prevention programs.

Higher Education Act Reauthorization

For the 13th time in five years, the House and Senate have passed an extension of the Higher Education Act, this time through July 31, 2008. (Congress sent the bill to the president for his signature on Thursday.) We are still hoping for final passage of legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act before the end of this session of Congress, but we cannot make any predictions at this point.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Law Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding with BIA

Just prior to his retirement from the Department of the Interior, former Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Carl Artman signed a memorandum of understanding with AIHEC and UTTC to establish a partnership that could lead to BIA-approved law enforcement training at TCUs. The MOU also establishes a cooperative framework for BIA and TCUs to work together to provide job training and other career building programs for American Indians.

NASA-AIHEC Summer Research Experience Program

This summer, faculty and students from ten TCUs (Diné College, Haskell Indian Nations University, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Leech Lake Tribal College, Little Big Horn College, Navajo

Technical College, Northwest Indian College, Oglala Lakota College, Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, and United Tribes Technical College) are participating in the NASA-AIHEC Summer Research Experience Program. We are piloting the SRE Institute concept, which includes a 3-week hands-on research training program at a TCU and then work on locally-based research projects, with support from their NASA mentors, at their home campuses.

New USDA National Liaison & Search for Regional Liaisons

USDA recently appointed Lawrence Shorty, former with the National Indian Health Board, as the National 1994 Liaison in Washington, D.C. AIHEC staff have met with Lawrence and are working with him on various USDA-AIHEC Leadership Group matters. The two Regional 1994 Liaison positions (to be housed at Little Big Horn College and Sitting Bull College) should be filled soon. USDA is conducting interviews during the next few weeks.

OTHER ACTIVITIES & ISSUES

Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges & Universities

On Thursday, I met with the incoming president of the Higher Learning Commission, Dr. Sylvia Manning. We had a good meeting and Dr. Manning has made a commitment to meeting with TCU presidents soon, possibly this fall if her schedule permits.

Tribal College Journal Wins Prestigious Awards

Tina Deschenie, Editor of the Tribal College Journal, along with TCJ writer Michael Thomas, were honored by the prestigious Society of National Association Publications (SNAP), in a Washington D.C. ceremony last month. Deschenie's editor's essay ("Why We are Sticking to Our Stories") won the Bronze EXCEL Award in the editorial award category and Thompson's article ("Honoring the Word: Classroom instructors find that students respond best to oral tradition") won the Gold EXCEL Award in the feature article category.

The EXCEL awards program judges over 1,000 magazines, newsletters, scholarly journals, electronic publications, and websites each year. Congratulations to Tina and the entire Tribal College Journal staff!

Partnerships for Indian Education 2008 Conference

I will be participating in a plenary panel and conducting a workshop on the AIHEC Indigenous Evaluation Initiative at the upcoming Department of Education-Office of Indian Education's annual conference in Rapid City, SD. AIHEC's presentations will be on the morning of July 9. Hope to see many TCU folks there!

AIHEC Summer Retreat (July 21-23): **RSVP!**

We have an exciting line-up for the AIHEC Summer 2008 Board of Directors Retreat and Meeting, which will be held next month in Polson/Pablo, Montana, cohosted by Salish Kootenai College. In particular, Jamie Merisotis, Lumina Foundation, and Vincent Tinto, Syracuse University, will be speaking to presidents. We hope you will join us! Please do not forget to complete and return your RSVP form, if you have not done so. If you did not receive detailed information, including the RSVP form, from me, please call me or send an email to cbilly@aihec.org.

AIHEC AIMS UPDATE

Some TCU Reports are Seriously Delinquent

Several TCUs are seriously past due in submitting AIHEC AIMS reports (Parts A and B) for 2007 – six schools have not submitted Parts A or B, and five schools have not submitted Part B. The [reports were due in mid-November 2007](#). These delinquencies cannot continue as they increase costs, create enormous delays for all TCUs (and AIHEC), hinder our ability to fully share your story with key funders, and ultimately result in an incomplete and flawed picture of TCU successes.

Please check with your staff to make sure your reports have been submitted. Beginning next week, we will publish the names of delinquent institutions and information on the status of your reports will be forwarded to the American Indian College Fund. (Under AIHEC Board motion and bylaws, institutions that do not submit timely reports are deemed to be not in good standing and are ineligible for funding from AIHEC and AICF.) I am not publically disclosing the names of delinquent institutions today because I have been in close contact with the staff of *most* – but not all -- delinquent schools and those staff members promised to submit reports immediately (however, few have been received). Again, please check with your staff to be sure that your report is in. You may be surprised.