



*Educating the Mind & Spirit*

## **American Indian College Fund & Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Leadership Fellowship Program In Science, Mathematics and Engineering**

### **The American Indian College Fund's 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.

**Fellowship Application Deadline:**

**February 17, 2012**

**Contact Information:**

Dr. Dawn Tallchief, Program Officer  
Sloan Leadership Fellowship Program  
Phone: (785) 550-6612  
E-mail: [dtallchief@collegefund.org](mailto:dtallchief@collegefund.org)



**American Indian College Fund**

8333 Greenwood Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80221  
1-800-776-3863  
Fax: 303-426-1200  
[www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org)

## Sloan Leadership Fellowship Program - \$36,000 Award

In 2010, the American Indian College Fund (the Fund) and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation established the Leadership Fellowship Program to increase and retain the number of credentialed, diverse, and under-represented faculty at the nation's more than thirty Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) working in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering.

The purpose of this fellowship is to provide current faculty members at TCUs the financial and intellectual support necessary to complete their graduate or terminal degree --- either a master's or a doctorate degree --- in science, math or engineering. Fellows are expected to take the knowledge and skills gained through their educational attainment back to their work as TCU faculty members, improving their teaching, research, and service to the TCU. In this way, the Sloan Leadership Fellowship Program contributes to both the academic advancement of individual TCU faculty members and to the institutional capacity of the TCU.

The fellowship will support degree candidates for the final year of study for doctoral candidates (1 year) and up to two years for master's degree candidates in science, mathematics and engineering programs. Sloan Leadership Fellows are expected to complete their degree requirements and be awarded their degree at the end of the term of the Fellowship. Sloan Leadership Fellows are awarded a total of \$36,000 toward completion of their degree.

Successful applicants shall be in good academic standing at their graduate institution and within one year of completion of their doctorate degree, or within two years of completion in the case of master's candidates. In addition, successful applicants will have a specific plan for completion of degree requirements that aligns with the term of the fellowship, and be able to clearly articulate a response to the question: *How will the knowledge gained and the work accomplished as a Sloan Leadership Fellow improve my work as a faculty member at my TCU and enhance my contribution to the academic community at my TCU?*

## Sloan Leadership Fellowship Guidelines

These prestigious and highly competitive awards offer substantial financial and mentoring support to selected Sloan Leadership Fellows. Fields of study eligible for Sloan Leadership Fellowship awards include science, math and engineering. Applicants must have the full approval of their TCU President to take the necessary time to complete the degree within the term of the Fellowship (one year for doctorate degrees and up to two years for master's degrees). This requires applicants to negotiate release time from their usual teaching and administrative duties at their respective TCUs.

Payments are disbursed four times over the term of the one-year Sloan Leadership Fellowship, and eight times over the term of a two-year Sloan Leadership Fellowship. Prior to disbursement, each Sloan Leadership Fellow and their advisor must submit a report detailing activities and satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree program and Sloan Leadership Fellowship goals. The final disbursement of the \$36,000 award will occur upon proof that all requirements have been met for graduation, and the degree will be conferred.

**Sloan Leadership Fellows are expected to pursue their degree full-time or substantially reduce their work load to a level that they are capable of completing all degree requirements within the term of the Sloan Leadership Fellowship. The Sloan Leadership Fellowship will not be renewed, and extensions are granted only on a limited basis in extenuating circumstances. Extensions must be requested in writing, be approved in writing by the American Indian College Fund and shall not exceed a period of six months.**

## **Sloan Leadership Fellowship Selection Process**

Fellowship applications are evaluated and ranked by a committee of senior scholars, the majority of whom are based in science, math or engineering disciplines. The committee evaluates applications on the following criteria:

- Originality and creativity of applicant's academic work
- Importance of the applicant's research to the applicant's respective field of study, to American Indian people and communities and to tribal college scholarship
- Potential of applicant's research to elevate, strengthen and expand tribal college curricula, and to contribute to the intellectual capacity of the TCU community
- Academic competence and cultural proficiency of the applicant
- Academically capable of completing the doctorate degree within the established one-year time frame, or the master's degree within a two-year time frame
- Demonstration of commitment to American Indian education and scholarship
- Demonstrated persistent and respectful engagement with communities served by the TCU

## **Sloan Leadership Fellowship Personal Statement**

Your personal statement will provide critical information about who you are, your academic work, your enthusiasm for and commitment to tribal college teaching and scholarship, and your plan for using the support provided by the Sloan Leadership Fellowship. Attach to your application a statement of up to 2,000 words addressing the following:

- Provide a brief introduction of your background and a summary of the work you are currently engaged in (i.e., research, teaching, and service) at your institution.
- What are your goals for the use of the Sloan Leadership Fellowship? How will you use the knowledge and skills gained through the Sloan Leadership Fellowship to improve your teaching, research, and contribution to the TCU community?
- How has your teaching experience at a tribal college influenced your growth as a scholar and as a member of your TCU community?
- Provide a brief timeline of objectives/goals to complete your doctorate degree program requirements within a one-year time frame, or your master's degree in a

two-year time frame, and your plan for reducing your teaching and administrative duties during the term of the Sloan Leadership Fellowship.

In addition, doctoral candidates working on a dissertation as part of degree requirements must also answer the following questions:

- How will your dissertation study contribute to scholarship in your chosen field of study, specifically, highlight the ways in which this research will benefit Native people and research at your tribal college?
- What is your philosophy of doing research with American Indian people, your understanding of the issues related to protection of human subjects and your plan for assuring such protection in your dissertation work?

## Application Checklist

### **To be considered complete, applications must include all of the following:**

- Completed application form
- Personal Statement (maximum 2,000 words)
- Current Curriculum Vitae (including faculty responsibilities at respective TCU)
- Official graduate transcripts, showing courses taken, dates of courses, and grades received
- Certification of candidacy status by your degree granting institution, indicating you have the ability to complete all requirements within the one-year fellowship period for doctorate degree candidates and up to a two-year term for master's degree candidates.
- The release form signed by your TCU president, allowing for necessary time off to complete your dissertation/thesis and graduation requirements within the one-year fellowship period for doctorate degree candidates and up to a two-year period for master's degree candidates
- Three letters of recommendation sent directly to the American Indian College Fund.
  - First letter from the TCU president indicating approval of research and supporting the necessary release time to complete degree within one year (two years for master's degree candidates)
  - Second letter from the TCU Academic Dean
  - Third letter from the dissertation/thesis advisor that speaks to the importance of applicant's work and the ability of the applicant to complete the degree in one year (up to two years for master's degree candidates)
- If applicable, an additional fourth letter from a separate research mentor indicating their role in the dissertation/thesis process

In addition, applicants who are doctorate degree candidates working on a dissertation as part of degree requirements must also submit the following documents:

- Completed dissertation proposal, including research questions, theoretical framework, and methodology, along with certification of approval of proposal by degree granting institution
- Documentation of approval by any and all Institutional Review Boards (degree granting institution, tribal nation, and/or TCU)
- Certification of advancement to doctoral candidacy from degree granting institution
- Evidence of the applicant's progress of the written dissertation to demonstrate that completion can be reasonably and realistically completed within the one-year time frame.

**Application and all required supplemental documentation must be sent directly to the Fund by either email or U.S. mail. Send by email in PDF format to [dtallchief@collegefund.org](mailto:dtallchief@collegefund.org) or by U.S. mail to Sloan Leadership Fellowship Program Officer, American Indian College Fund, 8333 Greenwood Blvd., Denver, CO 80221.** To meet the deadline, please arrange for transcripts, certification letters, and references to be written well in advance so they arrive by the deadline.

**Applications must be received by email or by U.S. Mail by January 13, 2012, 5:00p.m. MST.**

## Applicant Information

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Affiliation or Descendant (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(P.O. Box/Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal College or University: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Courses Taught: \_\_\_\_\_

Administrative or Other Duties: \_\_\_\_\_

List other grants or fellowships previously received, total amounts awarded, and the years during which you received funding:

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List other grants or fellowships for which you are currently applying:

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List academic honors and awards previously received:

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List previous publications: Please include title, publisher, and year published.

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### **Graduate Program Information**

Graduate School in which currently enrolled: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree sought: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic department: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed dissertation title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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### **List the date by which you completed or expect to complete degree requirements**

Course requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign language requirements (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Oral exams or qualifying exams (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Official approval of research proposal by dissertation committee (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approval by relevant institutional review boards (if applicable):

IRB \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal \_\_\_\_\_ TCU \_\_\_\_\_

List the date by which you expect to complete your dissertation (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Commitment to Teaching at a Tribal College / University**

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation supports the American Indian College Fund in our goal to increase and enrich the intellectual capacity at tribal colleges. Therefore we request your signature of commitment to teaching at a TCU for a minimum of two years following the completion of the degree. In addition to signing below, if you are selected as a Sloan Leadership Fellow, we will send you an official contract to sign assuring your commitment to complete the Sloan Leadership Fellowship in the allotted time frame as well as reaffirming your commitment to teach for two years at a TCU.

If I am chosen as a Sloan Leadership Fellowship recipient, by affixing my signature to this document, I hereby commit myself to continue serving as a TCU faculty member for a minimum of two years after completion of my doctorate or master's degree, and to fulfilling the requirements of the Sloan Leadership Fellowship within the allotted one-year term for a doctorate degree candidate or a two-year term for a master's degree candidate.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## References

Please provide the names and contact information of your Tribal College President, TCU Academic Dean and a third academic reference –all of whom agree to submit letters of reference on your behalf.

### Reference #1: Tribal College President

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reference #2: TCU Academic Dean or TCU Department Chair

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference #3: Dissertation/Thesis Advisor or Chair**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) Zip Code)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: If senior Faculty mentor is not the thesis advisor/dissertation chair, a fourth letter of reference should be submitted from the mentor indicating that a working agreement has been established with the thesis advisor/dissertation chair.*

**Reference #4: (Optional) Other Dissertation/Thesis Mentor/Senior Faculty Mentor**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) Zip Code)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Senior Faculty Mentor**

Please provide the name and contact information of the senior faculty member in your graduate department or elsewhere who has agreed to serve as your mentor should you be selected as a Sloan Leadership Fellow. Mentors will provide support and guidance, quarterly progress reports, and may be invited to travel with Fellows to an annual mentoring retreat to be held at a date to be determined.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

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(P.O. Box/Street)

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(City)

(State)

Zip Code)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Tribal College President Commitment Faculty/Applicant Release Form**

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation supports the American Indian College Fund's goal to increase academic and faculty capacity at tribal colleges. Therefore, as tribal college president, we request your signature of approval for appropriate release time for this faculty applicant.

The program requirements stipulate that the Sloan Leadership Fellows must dedicate the necessary release time to focus on completing their fellowship commitment (i.e., to complete a doctorate or master's degree), ultimately to benefit the intellectual capital of participating tribal colleges and universities.

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*Tribal College President's Commitment*

By affixing my signature, I hereby submit my approval for the faculty applicant, \_\_\_\_\_, to be provided necessary release time to complete all requirements for their doctorate degree program within one year, or their master's degree program within two years, including coursework, research, and dissertation (if applicable). I understand that the annual quarterly payments of the \$36,000 award will be made directly to the Sloan Leadership Fellow.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

TCU: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference Letter Format:  
TCU President and TCU Academic Dean**

**The Program**

In 2010, the American Indian College Fund and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation established the Sloan Leadership Fellowship Program in Science, Mathematics and Engineering.

**To the Recommender:**

We solicit your candid evaluation of the applicant's range of abilities and accomplishments, creative and intellectual promise, cultural competence, and projected ability to complete the applicant's degree requirements, **within a one-year time frame** for doctorate candidates and up to two years for master's degree candidates. To assist in the evaluation and selection process, we ask that your letter address the following areas:

1. Quality of the applicant's academic or creative achievements in science, math or engineering, including experience not apparent on the applicant's official graduate transcript.
2. Applicant's scholarly or creative potential and promise in relation to contributing to scholarship on behalf of tribal colleges.
3. Applicant's commitment to their tribal college community.
4. Degree and quality of administrative support related to taking the necessary time off during the term of the Fellowship to complete degree requirements.
5. If applicable, importance of applicant's proposed dissertation or thesis topic in relation to other scholarship produced in the field of study and its expected benefit to American Indian people.

Deadline for letter of recommendation: January 13, 2012

Address and mail your letter directly to:  
American Indian College Fund  
Attention: Sloan Leadership Fellowship Program  
8333 Greenwood Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80221

Or email to:  
dtallchief@collegefund.org

Reference Letter Format:

## **Dissertation Chair and/or Graduate Advisor and/or Mentor**

### **The Program**

In 2010, the American Indian College Fund and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation established the Sloan Leadership Fellowship Program in Science, Mathematics and Engineering.

#### **To the Recommender:**

We solicit your candid evaluation of the applicant's range of abilities and accomplishments, creative and intellectual promise and projected ability to complete all degree requirements, including completing and defending the dissertation (if applicable), **within a one-year time frame** (two years for master's degree candidates ). To assist in the evaluation and selection process, we ask that your letter address the following areas:

1. Quality of the applicant's academic or creative achievements in science, mathematics or engineering, including experience not apparent on the applicant's official graduate transcript.
2. Applicant's scholarly or creative potential and promise in relation to other master's or doctoral candidates.
3. If applicable, importance of applicant's proposed topic in relation to other scholarship produced in the field of study.
4. Offer your candid opinion articulating whether the applicant will complete all requirements for graduation within the one-year (up to two years for master's degree candidates in certain cases) time frame.

Deadline for your letter: January 13, 2012

Address and mail your letter of recommendation directly to:

American Indian College Fund  
Attention: Sloan Leadership Fellowship Program  
8333 Greenwood Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80221

Or email to:

[dtallchief@collegefund.org](mailto:dtallchief@collegefund.org)