



AMERICAN  
INDIAN  
COLLEGE  
FUND

*Educating the Mind and Spirit*

# Wiyaka na Peta

Feather and Flame Newsletter

## San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Honors American Indian College Fund

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians recognized the American Indian College Fund at its inaugural Yawa' Awards Ceremony this spring. Yawa' is a word and concept in the tribe's language that calls for people to act on their beliefs.

The American Indian College Fund received the Yawa' Award for its work in transforming American Indian higher education by funding and creating awareness of accredited, community-based tribal colleges and universities and becoming the nation's largest provider of private scholarships for American Indian students.

*Continued on page 4*

## In this issue

Summer 2010

*Interactive Student Web Site to Debut in Fall 2010 . . . . . Page 2*

*Native Students Have Many Reasons for Attending a Tribal College . . . . . Page 2*

*Save the Date for These Events! . . . Page 2*

*Alumni Spotlight: Willie Carrillo Sr. Page 3*

American Indian College Fund  
8333 Greenwood Blvd., Denver, CO 80221  
(303) 426-8900 • [www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org)

## How the Fund Helps Your Tribe With Public Recognition

Becoming a tribal partner with the American Indian College Fund has its advantages. Just ask the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC).

As part of its commitment to higher education, the SMSC gave \$900,000 in 2001-02 to establish the Sovereign Nations Scholarship Fund Endowment with the American Indian College Fund. This generous endowment will provide scholarships for American Indian students in perpetuity. Since then, the tribe has given an additional \$800,000, with gifts for the endowment totaling \$1.7 million. The SMSC have also asked other tribes to invest in educating all Native people by issuing a challenge grant with the last three \$300,000 gifts it provided for scholarships, requiring that other tribes match their gifts at \$600,000.

In exchange for gifts, the American Indian College Fund actively pursues

publicity for its donors. The SMSC gift has been featured in newspapers, electronic media, national philanthropic media, and Native media nationwide. Our donors have been recognized for their contributions in *The New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Denver Post*, Colorado Public Radio, and more.

*"American Indians have the lowest levels of educational attainment and the highest rates of poverty of any group in the United States. High dropout rates and a low percentage of Indian college graduates nationwide show us how important it is to support higher education for our Indian students. We want to see not only Indian doctors and lawyers, but also dental hygienists, bookkeepers, and teachers, as well as those who can manage tribal affairs. Having a qualified Indian workforce for the future is very important for all tribes in maintaining their sovereignty."*

-SMSC Chairman Stanley R. Crooks

Scholars who benefit from these funds are featured on the Fund's web site, social media sites (including twitter, Facebook, youtube channel, and Myspace). Donors are also featured in our annual report, newsletters like this, and are recognized at our events through logo and program placement and speaking opportunities.

## Message from the President



Au. Mitaku Oyapi (Hello all my relatives),

American Indians have always been philanthropic peoples. Generosity and reciprocity are long-held and shared values in American Indian culture and tradition. The status of a Native family was raised not by who had the most resources, but by who distributed the most. During potlatches and giveaways, families would demonstrate their wealth by giving goods to others in need.

*Continued on page 4*

# Interactive Student Web Site to Debut in Fall 2010

The Fund is embarking on a major web site redesign, which will feature a portal for students and tribes to partner.

The portal will include a new, modern look and feel and interactive opportunities for students and alumni to share their stories, videos, and chat about their everyday concerns, giving our donors an unfiltered look into their lives. A major feature of the portal will include tribal donor opportunities to share internship and job information directly with the students, along with information about their scholarships

and tribal products and services. The benefit to you is the ability to directly reach potential employees who are Native and well-educated, as well as tribal customers—meeting your tribe's objectives while creating dialogue with your potential markets.

A request for proposals has gone out and the Fund is vetting web designers for a redesigned web site launch in the fall of 2010.

We look forward to working with you to include all of your tribe's news, job opportunities, and internships on the site!

## Native Students Have Many Reasons for Attending a Tribal College

This spring, the American Indian College Fund surveyed students about the reasons why they chose to attend a tribal college and university.

Reasons for attending a tribal college ran the gamut and included the following:

- To earn a college degree;
- To make life better for the respondent and his or her family;
- To improve life for the tribe;
- To prepare for a career;
- To update the students' skills;

- To learn about tribal history, customs and language;
- To receive personal attention that is not possible at a larger, mainstream institution;
- To prepare the student for transfer to another college;
- To get an affordable education with low-cost tuition; and
- To attend an institution with accredited, culturally relevant curriculum.

Tribal colleges are unique in America in that they are run by tribal communities and teach culture and language alongside typical college coursework. These

community-based and accredited higher education institutions offer students access to knowledge, skills, and cultural values. As a result, students report that they do not feel the sense of isolation or alienation that they often do when they leave their communities to attend a mainstream institution.

Surrounded by caring instructors from Indian cultures who are invested in their success, tribal college students succeed, going on to earn their degrees, advanced degrees, and professional certifications, and return to Indian Country to enhance their communities and the country as a whole.

## Save the Date for These Events!

**Tickets and sponsorship opportunities available for:**

### Flame of Hope Gala

Thursday, October 14  
The Denver Center for the Performing Arts  
Seawall Ballroom  
Denver, Colorado

**Be sure to visit us at the following Indian Country events:**

### National Congress of American Indians 67th Annual Convention

November 14-19  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

### Native American Finance Officer's Association 28th Annual Finance Conference for Indian Country

September 14-16  
The Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey

## Interested in Partnering With the Fund?

Contact:  
Casey Lozar (Kootenai)  
Director of Corporate  
and Tribal Development  
303-426-8900  
e-mail:  
clozar@collegefund.org



# Alumni Spotlight: Willie Carrillo Sr.

(Tule River Tribe of California)

Community Development Major, D-Q University

Willie Carrillo Sr. admits that his path was not a straight one when he set out to get a tribal college education. Carrillo, who now serves as the secretary for the Tule River Tribal Council, says, "At the time I was working with the tribe doing youth outreach and was working with Native American clubs. I took a group of kids to D-Q University and was motivated myself to enroll and complete my associate's degree."

"I entered school at 23. I had a few small children and worked part-time as a financial aid assistant to support them. I also received an American Indian College Fund scholarship. We lived in an off-campus apartment. It was hard, but I'd do it all over again," Carrillo says. "It was a life-changing experience being at D-Q."

Carrillo, who has been attending classes at Fresno State University (he recently took a hiatus to attend to his new duties on the tribal council) to earn a bachelor's degree in recreation administration, says the benefits of tribal colleges include the small class size and individual attention students receive from instructors. "There was a lot of one-on-one and time to discuss things with our teachers," he says. "In our teaching sessions it was more like talking with a friend or a grandparent."



In addition to writing reports about his own culture and people, the Tule River Tribe in California, which occupies "one of the oldest and largest reservations in California, with a population of 16,000," Carrillo says he enjoyed history classes taught by Lehman Brightman, the first American Indian to earn a master's degree at the University of California-Berkeley. Brightman was an activist who taught from a Native perspective, and "spoke the facts about Indian people were treated across the country. It was very enlightening."

Carrillo says his education was invaluable because in his work with his tribe "a lot of other tribal people from across California that I work with today went to D-Q. We share best practices about funding, grant information, and work together in a good way. It's all because of D-Q."

"My advice to students today would be to really look at different tribal colleges and the opportunities out there, because they might be better off being around American Indians, whether they are urban Indians or reservation Indians, especially if they want to work in Indian Country," Carrillo says.

Carrillo continues his work with youth today. He coaches Little League and plans events for his community. He is also an advisor for the Tule River Unity Youth Council, which provides leadership, spiritual, cultural, and wellness training to grow the tribe's next generation of leaders. Carrillo proves a tribal college education builds American Indian leaders that give back to their communities in a good way.

## Thank You to Our Recent Donors

- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
- Oneida Nation Foundation
- Fond Du Lac Reservation Enterprises
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation
- Gila River Casinos/Gaming Enterprises, Inc.
- Barona Band of Mission Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
- Pechanga Resort and Casino
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
- Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

## Did You Know...

- Total percentage of administrative costs for fall 2009-spring 2010 programs is 5.35%.
- The American Indian College Fund was awarded the highest four-star rating by Charity Navigator, the nation's top charity evaluation system, for sound fiscal management.
- The number of business students at the tribal colleges is 1,601. Business graduates are starting businesses in their communities and are managing and running tribal enterprises.
- Seventy-two percent of scholarship applicants participating in a mandatory survey said they would be interested in internship opportunities.

*San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Honors American Indian College Fund continued from page 1*

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has provided more than \$330,000 to the American Indian College Fund for Native student scholarships.

“The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has been a longtime supporter of the American Indian College Fund and Native scholarships, and is supporting Native education in perpetuity through our Sovereign Nations Scholarship Fund Endowment,” said Richard B. Williams, President and CEO of the American Indian College

Fund. “We are honored by this award and vow to merit it by continuing our work to ensure that every Native student that wants a college education can attain one, providing hope to Indian Country, one student at a time,” Williams said.

San Manuel Chairman James Ramos said, “San Manuel awarded its inaugural 2010 Yawa’ Charitable Giving Award to the American Indian College Fund because we believe that education is fundamental to sustaining this era of

economic and social progress for Indian Nations. Through our relationship with the American Indian College Fund we are contributing to the goal of moving all of Native Americans forward. The Fund is helping Native communities develop by positively impacting individual tribal members, giving each person an opportunity to attain personal goals and become role models for their families and their nations. Our partnership is helping to set Indian Country on the path to a brighter future, one graduate at a time.”

*Message from the President continued from page 1*

This Native tradition of giving has continued to today. American Indians are committed to the well-being of their communities through modern philanthropic efforts. At the American Indian College Fund we have seen first-hand the generosity of tribes that have donated generously to ensure that American Indian students have the opportunity to earn a college education to build a more promising future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Our work as American Indians in educating our people is even more important today, in light of the fact that more than 30 percent of the American Indian and Alaska Native population is under the age of 18 (the second-youngest ethnic group in America after Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders), and American Indians are one of the fastest-growing groups in the country, according to U.S. Census Bureau Statistics (2008). As a result, the American Indian College Fund plans to provide even more scholarship support. With more American Indians graduating from college in record numbers, tribal communities can expect a better educated and more professional workforce.

The demographic shifts and continued financial need of our aspiring students, who can learn about their own and other Native cultures at the tribal colleges while earning a degree, offer our tribal partners the opportunity to build a pipeline of diverse, educated Native college graduates for their employee base. Tribes can also strategically align their giving programs with the important work the American Indian College Fund is doing.

Our tribal donors fund scholarships and programs at the nation’s 33 accredited tribal colleges, as well as mainstream institutions. As a result, American Indian students are prepared to address the issues specific to their communities, while also developing invaluable career skills.

There are many ways for tribes to get involved with the American Indian College Fund to serve the broader Native community. The Sovereign Nations Scholarship Fund Endowment allows your tribe to invest dollars that will provide scholarships

in perpetuity to Native students. Sponsorship of special events, such as our Flame of Hope fundraising gala, supports scholarships while also allowing tribes to build a public profile. Sponsoring our annual Elder’s Dinner helps you give back during the winter holidays.

I would like to thank you for your current and prospective support of our communities and all that you do today to further the cause of education and American Indian people for the next seven generations. We are blessed and humbled by your support, and urge you to give to continue our path of building opportunities with our communities through higher education.

Ocankuye Wasté Yelo,  
*(In a good way)*



Richard B. Williams

**Follow us on twitter, myspace, and facebook!**

Follow us on twitter at [collegefund](#)  
[myspace/aicf](#)

facebook: Join our American Indian College Fund cause and group

Blog: [www.collegefund.org](#)

