



AMERICAN
INDIAN
COLLEGE
FUND

Flame OF HOPE

Educating the Mind and Spirit

Message from the President



Over the past 25 years, we have seen great progress in education in Indian Country. The number of associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees conferred to Native students has doubled, according to the *National Center for Education Statistics, 2005*. Yet in a 2008 study, research done by the Nation Center for Education Statistics showed that

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How the Fund Helps Your Company with Public Recognition

Becoming a corporate partner with the American Indian College Fund has its advantages—just ask the Coca-Cola Company.

As part of its commitment to higher education, the Coca-Cola Foundation provides \$250,000 per year for \$5,000 scholarships for first-generation American Indian scholarships. Provided that the students earn a minimum 3.0 grade point average the year after receiving the scholarship, the scholarships are renewed throughout the student's academic career to graduation. The Coca-Cola Foundation also underwrites an annual banquet to honor the scholarship recipients, and is a sponsor of the Fund's annual Flame of Hope fundraising gala.

The Fund actively pursues publicity for its donors. Coca-Cola's 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.

The Fund also featured a story and photos of the recent Coca-Cola Scholars banquet on the Fund's web

site and social media sites (including twitter, Facebook, youtube channel, and Myspace). Donors are also featured in our annual report and newsletters and are recognized at our events through logo and program placement and speaking opportunities.

Glaze said, "The Banquet for the Coca-Cola First Generation Scholars provides us with the opportunity to match the



Kirk Glaze, the Community Affairs Manager of the Coca-Cola Foundation, enjoys the opportunity to meet with students at the Coca-Cola Scholars Banquet.

names on the scholarship recipient list with faces, and the chance to hear the personal stories of how the education our scholarships provided have changed lives in very specific and special ways. This event for us is the visual payoff of the investment we have made through the American Indian College Fund to create access to higher education for students who are the first in their families to attend college." Glaze added, "The American Indian College Fund Gala is an opportunity to meet other

corporate partners, funders and supporters of the Fund, and provides a chance to hear from students, staff members, and leadership about the great work that is going on at the 33 tribal colleges. It's also a great way to support the Fund in a fun and entertaining environment."

Fund Hybrid Programs Assist TCU and Mainstream Students

The Fund has implemented “hybrid” programs to ensure that both tribal college and mainstream students have the opportunity for scholarship support for all levels of education when pursuing their education goals. The programs assist Native students attending both tribal colleges and mainstream higher education institutions.

Nissan North America, Inc.’s Corporate Scholars Program is one example of a successful hybrid program. Nissan provided 10 scholarships for tribal college students and five scholarships for mainstream students for the 2009-10 academic year, along

with funds for administering the program. To be eligible for the program, students had to be enrolled full-time in college, have earned a minimum 2.5 grade point average, and have demonstrated leadership and commitment to the American Indian community.

The program not only assists American Indian college students with many educational backgrounds, it also helps Nissan North America Inc. meet its corporate giving goals.

Interactive 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 corporations 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 donor opportunities to share internship and job information directly with the students. The benefit to our donors is the ability to directly reach potential employees and corporate customers—meeting hiring and diversity 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 corporation’s news, job opportunities, and internships on the site!

Did You Know...

- Total percentage of administrative costs for fall 2009 -spring 2010 general and special programs is 5.35%.
- Scholarships awarded to students in the STEM and health fields number 1,333 of 6,208 scholarships awarded.
Source: 2009 American Indian College Fund data.
- The number of Native students entering the STEM fields overall is increasing, and tribal colleges are growing their STEM programs to meet the demand. Thirty-one of the 33 tribal colleges offer STEM programs.
- Seventy-two percent of scholarship applicants participating in a mandatory survey said they would be interested in internship opportunities.

Thank You to Our Recent Donors

The Coca-Cola Foundation	\$ 250,000
UPS Foundation	\$ 132,000
USA Funds	\$ 100,000
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	\$ 80,000
National Indian Gaming Association.	\$ 71,997
General Mills Foundation	\$ 60,000
Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company	\$ 50,000
ExxonMobil Foundation.	\$ 40,000
Pendleton Woolen Mills	\$ 39,354
Morgan Stanley Foundation	\$ 20,000
Target Corporation	\$ 20,000
AT&T Foundation	\$ 20,000

Interested in Partnering With the Fund?

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



Student Profile: Jason Thomas

Tribe: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

School: Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)

Major: Engineering

Jason Thomas has overcome many obstacles to succeed in college. "Alcoholism has consumed my family for as long as the Thomas family has existed; however, I intend to change that vicious cycle, as I am a first-generation college student and high school graduate," he says.

Focused and determined, Jason says he knew at a young age that he liked building things. He used to play with his grandfather's tools and laughs about the many failed attempts at dog houses he built for his family's dog. But he did not quit until he succeeded. It was after high school that Jason knew that he wanted an engineering degree in his future. Jason worked at a company called Innovative Composite

Engineering, where he got hands-on experience prototyping and working with process engineers and mechanical engineers.

Jason continues to remain focused on attaining his career goals. He is earning high grades at college, where he plays on the SIPI basketball team, and was selected for the President's and Dean's List at SIPI every year, earning a cumulative 3.79 grade point average. "My goal is to receive a master's degree in mechanical engineering. In the fall of 2010, I hope to be accepted to Oregon State University, where I will pursue my bachelor's degree," Jason says. He plans to work in

an engineering firm or corporation after graduation.

As the first in his family to go to college, Jason says he wants to set an example for his siblings and many cousins who are going through the same hardships that he did as a young boy, while making his older brother, who has encouraged his dreams, proud of him.

"A lot of people have never expected me to come this far; even some of my own family have said that I would just continue the same trend of not going to college, or in some instances, not succeeding beyond the tenth grade. But I am still here and doing my very best in school and making sure that I am working as hard as I possibly can to stay on the right path towards success!" Jason says.

Jason's advice to others who have dreams of a college education is, "With hard work you can do anything you put your mind to. Even if you haven't seen success, it's out there and it's possible."



Save the Date for These Events!

Tribal College Tours

Menominee Eco-Tour

College of Menominee Nation

Tour is focused on Native sustainability efforts: a visit to the old-growth Menominee forest; Menominee traditional dances, basket weaving, and flute demonstrations.

Dates: June 13-16, 2010

Arrival and Departure City: Green Bay, Wisconsin

South Dakota Tour

Sinte Gleska University and Oglala Lakota College

Tour throughout the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations; the Black Hills and Badlands National Parks; Native perspectives on the Crazy Horse Memorial and Wounded Knee Massacre Site.

Dates: Sept. 12-18, 2010

Arrival and Departure City: Rapid City, South Dakota

Custom Tours

We offer tours tailored to your region and area of interest (for example, schools in the Southwest and STEM programs). We will also build in cultural activities of interest. Give us a call to build a custom tour of your choosing today!

Flame of Hope Gala

Date: Thursday, October 14, 2010

Denver, Colorado

For more information on our tours and other special events, please contact Abigail Whiteing at 303-426-8900 or awhiteing@collegefund.org

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Follow us at twitter at collegefund

[Myspace/aicf](http://myspace/aicf)

Facebook: Join our American Indian College Fund cause and group

Blog: www.collegefund.org



Meet the Fund's New Vice President for Resource Development, Eric Anderson

Please join the Fund in welcoming its newest team member, Eric Anderson, who will serve in the newly created role as Vice President for Resource Development. Anderson oversees the Fund's fundraising operations to increase the annual revenues needed to meet the growing demand for scholarships and support for our TCUs. The Fund currently provides an average of 6,000 Native student scholarships valued at more than \$4 million annually. Through your support, the Fund also provides financial support for the nation's 33 accredited tribal colleges and universities.



where he served as the Director of Major and Planned Giving and was a member of the team that executed a \$100 million campaign—the largest in the university's history. He has 28 years of experience in fundraising for nonprofits, 19 of which are in higher education.

Anderson earned a bachelor's of art degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and pursued graduate studies at Roosevelt University in Chicago. He is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and is active in numerous fundraising and civic organizations. Anderson enjoys spending time with his family, running, biking, skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, hiking, traveling, and photography, and is a Tae Kwon Do black belt. You can reach Anderson at eanderson@collegefund.org.

Anderson brings more than 20 years of experience in planned giving, major gifts campaign, and management experience. He comes to the Fund from the University of Wisconsin,

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American Indians were less likely to earn a bachelor's degree or higher degree than their non-Native peers. We still have work to do.

Our work in educating American Indians in the future is going to be more important, 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 on 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 will have even more students to reach with scholarships and even more American Indians will be graduating from college and entering the workforce in record numbers.

These demographic shifts combined with the continuing need for assistance in Indian Country offers our corporate partners the opportunity to build a pipeline of diverse, educated college graduates for their employee base; encourage employee volunteerism through employee giving

programs; increase public recognition for your civic involvement with underserved populations; and strategically align your corporate giving programs with the important work we are doing in Indian higher education.

Our corporate donors fund scholarships and programs at the nation's 33 accredited tribal colleges, while also funding scholarships for mainstream students. As a result of our scholarship programs, Indian students are prepared to address the issues specific to their communities, while also developing the skills to work at major corporations, such as IBM, ExxonMobil, and Morgan Stanley.

President Obama's recent gift of \$125,000 of his Nobel Prize money will allow us to provide even more scholarships, ensuring that young American Indians have the opportunity for an education that will prepare them for today's workplace. The Fund was chosen because of its outstanding record of providing funds directly to the communities it serves.

Thanks to you, our loyal donors, American Indian students have the

opportunity of a new beginning for a new career and more hopeful life. I would like to personally thank you for all that you do.

As we continue to work towards meeting the needs of our students and American Indian communities, we have created a new position at the Fund to oversee our resource development efforts. Please help us welcome the Fund's new vice president for resource development, Eric Anderson. Eric is helping us to position the Fund to meet its strategic goals of doubling scholarships, changing Indian Country by developing engineers, scientists, doctors, and entrepreneurs who give back to their communities and change the economic and political landscape. I hope that as this year unfolds, you, too, will find renewed purpose as you pursue your corporation's mission. Thank you for helping to support the goals and dreams of American Indian students!

In a good way,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard B. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard B. Williams