



AMERICAN  
INDIAN  
COLLEGE  
FUND

# Flame

## OF HOPE

*Educating the Mind and Spirit*



## Help Us Celebrate the Fund's 20th Anniversary in Denver!

The American Indian College Fund will mark its 20th anniversary on Wednesday, October 28 at the Seawall Ballroom of the Denver Center for Performing Arts with a star-studded gala evening in Denver, Colorado. Irene Bedard, Benjamin Bratt and L.A. Lakers coach Phil Jackson are the celebrity co-chairs of the celebration.

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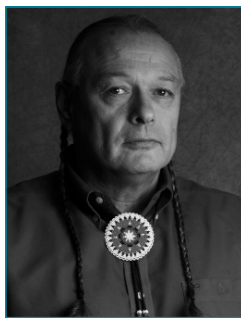
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## Message from the President



2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the American Indian College Fund. Founded in 1989, the Fund was established with the mission of

supporting American Indian students by providing them with scholarships and supporting the nation's tribal colleges. We have provided more than 60,000 scholarships in 20 years and have touched numerous lives.

People are not numbers, however. Each scholarship distributed represents not just one life that has been changed due to a college education, but several lives. As our students graduate, they touch the lives of many, inspiring them and helping them to achieve their dreams as well. Students like Sherry Shabani (Yupik Eskimo) took a chance to leave her community and a job to develop her skills further in health care. She not only touches the lives of those she helps in her community after graduating from Haskell Indian Nations University, but she also served as a profound influence on her young son's life. As he watched her struggle to earn a college degree with honors (Sherry graduated cum laude), her son decided to follow in her footsteps. He enrolled at Haskell and is beginning his sophomore year this fall.

The American Indian College Fund has come a long way since 1989, when we raised a little more than \$30,000 to benefit Native students' education. Last year we raised \$15 million and provided 6,288 scholarships to Native

students and supported the nation's 33 tribal colleges with funds for buildings, libraries, science labs, and more. There are real people behind the number of scholarships we distribute and the students and schools that we support. There are also corporations, foundations, and tribes, filled with people who support us and understand the importance of supporting education for all people. Thanks to you, the American Indian College Fund has grown and can meet its goal of providing a college education to so many more people in Indian Country.

Many of our supporters have been with us since the very beginning. Other supporters like our foundations have provided multi-year gifts for specific educational purposes. And others, like the Shakopee Mdewakanton tribe, have established an endowment and challenged others to give. Whether you are a long-time supporter of the Fund or have recently joined us on our path, we are delighted that you value Native education and the results it achieves in Indian Country. Your support is helping to build lives.

Your dedication inspires me to work even harder to expand our reach to help even more students. I encourage all of you to consider increasing your support so that we can touch even more lives as we embark on the next 20 years of our journey.

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

Richard B. Williams

## Student Profile: Fray Gray

Life threw Fray Gray (Navajo) a curveball when his partner was seriously injured in a car accident, forcing him to leave school and temporarily abandon his goal of becoming a teacher to take care of her and his family. Yet Gray knew he could not abandon his dream.

“My goals have changed a bit, only now I plan on finishing school for my family to show no matter how hard life can become at times, it is God that makes all things possible. It was and is very difficult to show strength during trying times, but I have to find the strength for my young son and daughter. Their mother will not fully recover from injuries, but she is here with us to show what she truly possesses within her as a survivor,” Gray says.

Gray says, “I am attending college to show my kids the importance of a good education and how important it is to have a very dedicated work ethic.” In his third year at Diné College, Gray credits his father for his drive to continue striving towards his goals in the face of adversity. “He always told me to never think anything is out of reach but to try harder and the rewards are great. There isn’t a day that goes by when I don’t think of all the teachings he has shared and how I have already applied them today without even realizing I have done so,” he says.



Gray hopes to make a difference in the lives of young children by encouraging them to enter the academic fields. “If I have taught one thing to one child then I have succeeded in my personal goal,” he says.

Gray competes on the Diné College archery team and serves as its captain.

“Even though Diné College is considered a junior college, we still compete against Division I schools such as Stanford”, he says. “I intend to teach these qualities to my future students so that they may stand tall at each and every obstacle in front of them. I have tried my best to lead my teammates by example and to let each and every one of them know I am there for them. I have shared my experiences and how they can utilize this information not only in archery but how it can be applied to everyday life.” Gray’s leadership has earned him the position of assistant coach on the team.

Gray says that many college students struggle. He credits the Fund with helping him to continue to achieve in school and go on to his next step—transferring to a four-year college to earn a bachelor’s degree.

### Help Us Celebrate the Fund’s 20th Anniversary in Denver!

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The event will feature a live performance by “The Empress of Soul” Gladys Knight. Hattie Kauffman of *The Early Show*, CBS, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies. Fine food, Native dancers and drum groups, a fine Native arts auction and a special program about the history of the Fund will also be featured.

Sponsorships and tickets are still available. Sponsorship pricing is as follows: 20th Anniversary Sponsor- \$40,000- 20 tickets and two reserved tables; Keeper of the Flame Sponsor- \$25,000- 15 tickets to the event and two reserved tables; Vision of Hope Sponsor- \$10,000- 10 tickets to the event and one reserved table; Circle of Hope Sponsor- \$5,000- Six tickets to the event; and Sponsor- \$1,000- two tickets to the event. Individual tickets are priced at \$200.

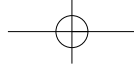
All proceeds from the evening will provide scholarships to American Indian students and help support the 33 tribal colleges.

Attire is black-tie or Native dress.

For more information or to register by phone, please contact Lucia Novara at 303-426-8900 ext. 308 or [lnovara@collegefund.org](mailto:lnovara@collegefund.org).



*Top: Gladys Knight, Bottom: Denver Center for Performing Arts*



## The Fund Celebrates New and Longtime Supporters

As the Fund celebrates its 20th year anniversary, we are thankful for our old and new supporters that walked with us on our path to educate the mind and spirit of Native students.

A new friend to the Fund is Cargill, Inc., which last year provided \$100,000 for American Indian scholarships in 2008 and has pledged another \$100,000 for 2009. Cargill's gift has benefited 25 \$2,500 student scholarships each year and funded a "Backpacks to Briefcase" professional development initiative which ensures the successful transition of students to their professional lives by giving them a first-hand look at business operations at a Cargill location.

Cargill scholarship recipients must be enrolled at a tribal college or university in Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, or Wisconsin, and working towards a degree in business, finance, agricultural studies, science, technology, engineering, or math, with a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. and demonstrated leadership, service, and commitment to the American Indian community.

"At Cargill, we recognize that our continued success depends on the growth and health of our communities and partners. The Native American community has a long and rich history in areas across the U.S. where Cargill does business. We're pleased to provide this grant to help create opportunities for higher education, nurture students' potentials and help them succeed," said Kayla Yang-Best, director of The

Cargill Foundation and corporate contributions in education.

One old friend, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota has been the American Indian College Fund's largest overall tribal donor since 2001. The nation has given combined gifts for scholarship and tribal college support of \$2.7 million. This led to the creation of the Sovereign Nations Scholarship Fund Endowment (SNSFE), a permanent endowment to provide Native students with educational opportunities in perpetuity, with the goal of also inspiring new donations from other tribal nations and Native individuals, foundations and businesses. With the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's initial gift of \$900,000, (in addition to a \$100,000 scholarship gift) the Fund created the endowment with a goal of raising \$10 million from the Native community.

In 2005, the Shakopee community made an additional \$600,000 challenge grant, offering to match the funding if Indian nations, businesses, foundations, and individual donors supported the SNSFE.

The challenge was met by many new friends in the Native community. In 2007 and 2008, The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians granted \$100,000 to the Fund, with \$50,000 for the Endowment and \$50,000 for a The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Scholarship. In 2006, the

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## Two Foundations Provide Grants for Colorado Native Student Scholarships

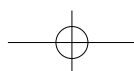
Our donors often hear about Native students who live on reservations needing help, but there are also many Native students struggling to pay for college who live in urban areas. Colorado has a large population of American Indians that live in both urban areas as well as reservations located in the southwest portion of the state.

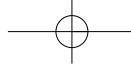
This year the American Indian College Fund was honored to receive grants from two foundations that will support scholarships for American Indian students who are Colorado natives.

The Dallas, Texas-based Embrey Family Foundation granted the Fund \$25,000 to support scholarships for American Indian students from current or historic Colorado tribes. The Embrey Family Foundation was established by J. Lindsay Embrey, who was strongly focused on the importance of education. Embrey's belief was that education helps people increase their ability to be economically self-sufficient and prosperous, according to Gayle Embrey, the Vice President of the Embrey Family Foundation.

The Denver, Colorado-based The Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson

Foundation granted \$10,000 to the Fund for general scholarships for students from Colorado or the Southern Ute or Ute Mountain Ute tribes. The Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation is a nonprofit, private foundation that was incorporated in the State of Colorado in 1948. The Foundation directs its philanthropic resources primarily to Colorado nonprofit organizations that relieve suffering, promote self-sufficiency, meet basic human needs, and enrich the quality of life.





## The Fund Celebrates New and Longtime Supporters

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Viejas Band of the Kumeyaay responded to the challenge with a gift of \$25,000 for the endowment.

AT&T\* is another long-time friend of the Fund, and has supported American Indian education for 16 years. Over the years, AT&T has provided the Fund with \$284,509 and \$9,509 in matching funds, with a focus on scholarships for students earning degrees in the STEM fields – science, technology, engineering, math and/or business. AT&T is not only helping American Indian students to earn a college education, they are helping America remain competitive by educating students in areas that are important in fields that are vital to energy, science, and technology.

“We congratulate the American Indian College Fund for the great work they have done over the last 20 years to help American Indian students achieve



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success in higher education,” said Laura Sanford, president of the AT&T Foundation. “The Fund’s commitment to helping American Indian students earn a college degree is playing a vital role in helping to ensure America remains

competitive in the future. We applaud them on this milestone anniversary.”

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PLACE FOR  
INDICIA

## Our Accountability to You - Update

### How Your Donations Are Used

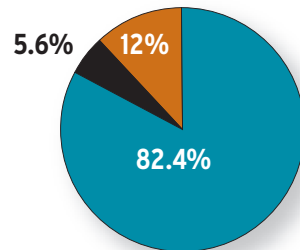
- Scholarships and Programs
- Mgt. & General
- Fundraising

\*Percentages are based on average expenses over the past five years.

If you would like a copy of the Fund’s Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements, visit our web site at [www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org) or call (303) 426-8900.

The Fund is committed to accountability to donors and transparent operations. We consistently receive top ratings from independent charity evaluators.

- We earned the “Best in America Seal of Excellence” from the Independent



Charities of America. Of the one million charities operating in the United States, fewer than 2,000 organizations have been awarded this seal.

- The Fund meets the Standards for Charity Accountability of the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance.
- The Fund received an “A-” rating from the American Institute on Philanthropy.
- The Fund received three stars from Charity Navigator.



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