



AMERICAN
INDIAN
COLLEGE
FUND

Flame OF HOPE

Foundations-Educating the Mind and Spirit

Message from the President



Spring is a time for new beginnings. As the earth awakens from its winter sleep, we are re-energized with new vigor. In late spring, we see our tribal college students preparing to emerge from their chrysalis, as graduates to fly off into the world as beautiful butterflies

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Student Profile Marie Kingbird Lowry (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe)

Marie, a second-year student at Leech Lake Tribal College in Minnesota in liberal studies with a STEM emphasis, was selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as one of its 105 best and brightest interns and fellows for the NASA Student Ambassador Program. She is the only student in the program from Minnesota and one from many well-known schools, including Harvard, Purdue, and other schools selected. NASA managers and mentors nominated the recipients from the hundreds of interns and fellows engaged in research and education opportunities across the agency.

Marie completed a 10-week summer internship with NASA in 2009, partnering with the late Leann Dick on a research project, in which she worked with Leech Lake Heritage sites to determine which of three possible routes would best serve the needs for the Leech Lake tribe to preserve its cultural resources. "I produced maps that would show where heritage sites have been found and surveyed and what areas were in need of survey. I used the ArcMap program to make maps of different soil drainage class and help determine where sites might be located using bathometric data of the paleo-landscape," Marie says. Marie and her partner then presented their research at conferences across the country.

As a member of the NASA Student Ambassadors virtual community, Marie will interact with the agency while sharing information, making professional connections, and collaborating with peers. The Student Ambassadors will also represent NASA in a variety of venues and help the agency inspire and engage future interns and fellows.

Marie was named to Leech Lake Tribal College's Dean's List for the fall of

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Foundations' Support Bolsters Tribal College Faculty Development

The American Indian College Fund is pleased that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation renewed their support with a grant of \$450,000 to continue the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Faculty Career Enhancement Fellowship Program. The program was launched by the Fund in 2004 to increase the number of faculty at the nation's 33 tribal colleges and universities possessing a terminal degree. Under the program, two to three fellows are selected annually and provided with financial assistance to complete the dissertation writing process. Fellowship funding allows tribal college faculty to focus on completing their dissertations by helping to reduce their financial and professional demands. To date the program has funded 18 tribal college faculty Ph.D. candidates, and as of this printing, 15 have completed their degrees.

In addition to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's continued support, the Fund is thrilled to announce that the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is granting \$100,000 to the American Indian College Fund to provide two fellowships to tribal college faculty pursuing their doctoral degrees in science, mathematics, and engineering fields.

Fellows in both programs will participate in an annual retreat as well as collaborate with other fellows to ensure the participants' success.

Richard B. Williams, American Indian College Fund President and CEO, said "We are delighted that we have the strong support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation with regard to American Indian faculty. Tribal college faculty not only provide a first-rate education to American Indian students in remote, rural locations, but they also serve as role models and mentors to Native youth. Our tribal college faculty is demonstrating

"Our tribal college faculty is demonstrating to Native students that they, too, can aspire to the greatest heights in their own careers."

—Richard B. Williams

to Native students that they, too, can aspire to the greatest heights in their own careers."

Dr. Ted Greenwood, Program Director for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, said, "It is important to the education of American Indian students that the mathematics and science faculty of tribal colleges and universities be well educated and fully credentialed. The Sloan Foundation, therefore, is pleased to partner with the American Indian College Fund to help tribal college faculty complete their Ph.D.s in these disciplines."

The American Indian College Fund values both foundations' dedication and significant investments in tribal college faculty and to American Indian higher education.

Student Profile: Marie Kingbird Lowry continued from page 1

2008 and the President's list for spring of 2009 and is a member of American Indian Science and Engineering Society. She is working on an internship with the Leech Lake Tribal College to study tree rings to determine if climate changes the growth of trees.

After graduating, Marie says, "I plan to continue my education at a four-year college to study math, computers, and science. My main goal is to achieve a master's degree in mathematics. I love the challenges that I face when working out equations and solving

for the unknown when working with mathematics. I feel that we need more Native Americans in the math and science fields. I want to bring my education back to the reservation to help my people meet the challenges of this rapidly changing world," she says.

Marie says succeeding academically is important to her because she serves as a role model to her five children, including Adriana (12), Alex (8), Jeremy (7), and twins Robert and ReAnn (6) as well as her reservation's youth. Marie plans a career as a teacher or a system

analyst. "Going to college for the first time after being out of school for 13 years is hard, but going to school and raising five kids is a challenge in itself. Thanks to the American Indian College Fund scholarships that I received throughout the years, I don't have to worry about expenses. Being a recipient of this scholarship has made going to college easier. I am able to focus on my class work and still provide for my children without struggling to make ends meet at home. Thank you to all the donors that contribute to this program," Marie says.

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

"After visiting the tribal colleges on the reservations and seeing firsthand the important work being done there, Native Americans will always have a special place in my heart. Education is the mission of The Tierney Family Foundation and I believe strongly in Indian education. We are delighted to continue to support this great cause."

- Susan Tierney of The Tierney Family Foundation and former board member of the American Indian College Fund.

Flame of Hope Gala

Date: Thursday, October 14, 2010
Denver, Colorado

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

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!



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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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with the knowledge that they have acquired serving as the wings that will take them aloft into the world.

It is thanks to your belief in our mission and our students, combined with your support, that American Indian students have this opportunity of a new beginning for a renewed and more hopeful life. I would like to personally thank you for all that you do to make our students' success possible.

The Fund is also embarking on new paths this spring. We are welcoming the Fund's new vice president for resource development, Eric Anderson. Eric will join us and help us to position the Fund to meet its strategic goals of increasing the number of scholarships and dollars it awards to Native students, expanding the circle and creating new beginnings for many more students. Take a moment to get to know Eric in the article above.

This year there are many ways you can stay involved with the Fund. If you haven't already traveled to Indian Country to see first-hand the work we are doing there, I encourage you to take advantage of one of our 2010 Journeys for the Mind and Spirit. Our tours will take you to tribal colleges to meet with tribal college students, faculty, and staff to see the work we are doing in Indian Country and how gifts of varying amounts make a big difference in the lives of Indian people. You can see our tour schedule on page 3. You can also get updates from the Fund by subscribing to one of our many social media outlets, which provide you with up-to-the-minute news about the Fund, our students, events, and

Indian Country, while sharing what is happening with your foundation, trust, or group.

I hope that as this spring unfolds, you, too, will find renewed purpose as you pursue your own goals and dreams. Thank you for helping to support the goals of American Indian students, and showing them that you believe in them, their dreams, and abilities.

In a good way,



Richard B. Williams

Our Accountability to You—Update

How Your Donations Are Used

- Fulfilling Our Mission: Scholarships, Programs and Public Education
- Mgt. & General
- Fundraising

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

