



Carrie L. Billy
President & CEO

July 7, 2015

MEMBERSHIP:

ALASKA

Ilisagvik College

ARIZONA

Diné College
Tohono O'odham Community College

KANSAS

Haskell Indian Nations University

MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community College
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Leech Lake Tribal College
Red Lake Nation College
White Earth Tribal and Community College

MONTANA

Aaniih Nakoda College
Blackfeet Community College
Chief Dull Knife College
Fort Belknap College
Little Big Horn College
Salish Kootenai College
Stone Child College

NEBRASKA

Little Priest Tribal College
Nebraska Indian Community College

NEW MEXICO

Institute of American Indian Arts
Navajo Technical College
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

NORTH DAKOTA

Cankdeska Cikana Community College
Fort Berthold Community College
Sitting Bull College
Turtle Mountain Community College
United Tribes Technical College

OKLAHOMA

College of the Muscogee Nation
Comanche Nation College

SOUTH DAKOTA

Oglala Lakota College
Sinte Gleska University
Sisseton Wahpeton College

WASHINGTON

Northwest Indian College

WISCONSIN

College of Menominee Nation
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College

WYOMING

Wind River Tribal College

The Honorable Robert Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: America's College Promise Act

Dear Representative Scott:

On behalf of the 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) that collectively comprise the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), I am writing in support of the America's College Promise Act.

Enactment of this legislation will mean that more American Indians and Alaska Natives will be able to access – and most important, complete – a degree program in a field that will help our tribes grow their Native workforce.

Tribal colleges are locally-based, tribally-driven institutions of higher education that award predominately two-year associate degrees and certificates to Native students and others throughout Indian Country. TCUs serve some of the poorest communities in this country (seven of the 10 poorest counties in the U.S. are home to a tribal college). More than 70 percent of our students are first generation college students and almost 75 percent receive Pell grants. These students, their tribal communities, and the nation as a whole, will benefit tremendously from the America's College Promise legislation.

AIHEC looks forward to working with you and your excellent staff to secure passage of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Meg Goetz, AIHEC Vice President for Advocacy (mgoetz@aihec.org) to discuss how we might help to make the America's College Promise Act a reality.

Again, thank you, for your continued leadership on this and other important issues of excellence, access, and success for all students.

Respectfully,

Carrie L. Billy

cc: AIHEC Congressional delegation
AIHEC Board of Directors