



NEWS RELEASE

California Tribal College Names Dr. Billie Jo Kipp College President

Will Lead Development of Campus, Curricula and Programs

(Brooks, CA) August XX, 2017 – The Board of Regents has appointed Dr. Billie Jo Kipp as the first full time president of the California Tribal College (CTC). Dr. Kipp was selected following a year-long nationwide search. In her new role, Dr. Kipp will lead the College in establishing a campus, expanding its programs, developing curricula, and earning accreditation.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Kipp as President of the California Tribal College,” said Leland Kinter, Chairman of the Board of Regents. “The California Tribal College is a unique project focused on offering rigorous courses of study that incorporate Native culture and values. Dr. Kipp’s academic background as an administrator, researcher and scientist combined with her longstanding commitment to addressing the chronic underrepresentation of Native Americans in higher education make her the unique person to successfully lead this effort.”

An enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe, Dr. Kipp has been the President of Blackfeet Community College in Browning, Montana for the past six years. She holds a Phd in Clinical Psychology from the University of Montana. She spent 10 years as a research assistant professor at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque, and maintained a clinical psychology practice. She was also co-director of the Center for Native American Health at UNM. (*Her complete curriculum vita can be found at www.CaliforniaTribalCollege.com.*)

“Increasing and sustaining the numbers of Native Americans accessing and completing higher education must be our mission, as it is critical for promoting long term economic prosperity, professional advancement and leadership development in tribal communities,” said Dr. Kipp. “Through the development and operation of the California Tribal College, we can offer Native students the challenging curriculum they need to succeed, incorporating tribal language, culture and tradition. I am honored and humbled to be a part of this important project.”

Development of the CTC began in 2009, and accelerated in 2012 following the completion of thorough feasibility studies that confirmed the demand among California’s Native American tribes and helped define the types of programs needed. California has the largest Native population of any state, but is not one of 14 states with a tribal college. More than 65 California tribes and Native organizations are now in support of the project.

CTC Names College President (cont.)

Incorporated as 501(c)(3), and overseen by an elected Board of Regents made up of academic, tribal, and business leaders, the CTC began offering educational programs in 2015, and has completed a series of five Certificate Programs in Tribal Leadership and Governance.

The CTC plans to develop a campus in the Sacramento region, but will also offer online learning programs to ensure access for students in remote areas. The College will first offer two-year degrees as it earns accreditation, then add four-year courses of study.

“Developing the CTC is an incredible undertaking,” added Dr. Kipp. “So much has already been achieved, and we will launch the CTC as a valuable resource for California’s native population. The California Tribal College can provide much needed access to higher education for Native students and communities in California. The CTC will actively honor language and culture as part of higher education. I know we will have the support we need.”

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For more information: www.CaliforniaTribalCollege.com

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