Dear Alaska, Arizona, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin Congressional Delegations:

On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, and administrators of the 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), which operate more than 75 campuses in the 15 states within whose geographic boundaries 80 percent of American Indian reservations and federal Indian trust land lie, [we/I] [are/am] writing to respectfully request that you urge President Obama to honor tribal sovereignty by signing a new Executive Order on Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

TCUs are chartered by their respective federally-recognized Indian tribes or the federal government and have a unique relationship with the federal government, which demands special attention. Unfortunately, over the past several years, the federal commitment to tribally-controlled higher education has waned at times, and while providing high quality culturally relevant higher education opportunities to some of the most impoverished and isolated areas in the nation, the majority of TCUs remain the most poorly funded institutions of higher education in the country.

TCUs still cannot fully participate in many federally-supported higher education and research programs, and their funding lags far behind even that of other Minority Serving Institutions. A new Executive Order and a revitalized White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities would be one of the best ways to ensure that the first Americans are included in new and existing federal programs, strategies, and funding opportunities.

To support the important work of TCUs, both President William J. Clinton and President George W. Bush signed Executive Orders on Tribal Colleges and Universities, recognizing the essential role TCUs play throughout Indian Country. We hope that President Obama will renew this vital national effort by signing a new Executive Order on TCUs, as soon as possible.

Thank you for your past support of the Tribal Colleges and Universities and for your serious consideration of this very important request.

Respectfully,

February 2013

Alaska Congressional Delegation
Arizona Congressional Delegation
Minnesota Congressional Delegation
Montana Congressional Delegation
Nebraska Congressional Delegation
New Mexico Congressional Delegation
North Dakota Congressional Delegation
Oklahoma Congressional Delegation
South Dakota Congressional Delegation
Washington Congressional Delegation
Wisconsin Congressional Delegation
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Cass Lake, MN

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Cass Lake, MN

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Harlem, MT

Darrell Standing Soldier
Chief Dull Knife College
Lame Deer, MT

Brooklyn McGarry
Fort Peck Community College
Poplar, MT

Christian Big Hair
Little Big Horn College
Crow Agency, MT

Kana Wuttenee
Little Big Horn College
Crow Agency, MT

Rudolph Old Crow, Jr.
Little Big Horn College
Crow Agency, MT

Sasha Rivers
Salish Kootenai College
Pablo, MT

LaDonna Carrillo
Nebraska Indian Community College
Macy, NE

Alli Moran
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Crownpoint, NM

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Terry Poitra
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Fort Berthold Community College  
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