



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON DC 20420

APR 18 2008

Ms. Deborah J. Cavett
Executive Director
White House Initiative on
Tribal Colleges and Universities
Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW, Room 7010
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Cavett:

Enclosed is a copy of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Annual Performance Report on Executive Agency Actions to Assist Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. VA is proud to announce that \$2,630,918 was awarded to TCUs in FY 2007. The annual performance report shows that:

- VA supported clinical training while students pursued their academic degrees. Funding slightly increased from \$151,631 during FY 2006 to \$228,700 during FY 2007.
- Educational assistance payments awarded to eligible beneficiaries attending TCUs increased from \$2,314,008 in FY 2006 to \$2,351,549 in FY 2007. This represents a 1.6 percent increase. These payments help to defray the cost of their tuition and fees, as long as they are enrolled in approved educational institutions or programs.
- The number of eligible veterans' and dependents enrollments at TCUs decreased from 506 in FY 2006 to 491 in FY 2007. The amount of reporting fees awarded to TCUs decreased from \$3,148 in FY 2006 to \$2,979 in FY 2007. These fees are based on a formula and are paid to TCUs to cover administrative costs for processing reports and certifications of veterans' enrollments.

The Department fully supports Executive Order 13270 and will continue to champion education, training, internships, and employment opportunities in the American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Questions regarding this submission should be directed to Ms. Meghan K. Flanz, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity, at (202) 461-4131.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Hager

Enclosures

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Federal Agency Awards to Tribal Colleges and Universities
FY 2007**

Executive Summary:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) fully supports Executive Order 13270 through programs designed to increase the participation of Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) in VA-sponsored programs. One of VA's goals is to create a workforce that reflects the diversity of our Nation and the veterans we serve. TCUs enable opportunities to achieve diversity by providing VA facilities with a broader recruitment pool of trained and qualified applicants.

According to the TCU Fiscal Years 2006-2008 Plan, VA projected awarding \$2,772,926 to TCUs. VA's total contribution to Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) in FY 2007 was \$2,373,174,179. Of that amount, \$2,630,918 was awarded to TCUs.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) supported and implemented internship programs and academic affiliations with TCUs through attendance at various recruitment forums and education and training programs.

VHA's Healthcare Recruitment and Retention Office (HRRO) provides VA facilities with a unique opportunity to promote diversity while simultaneously providing college students with paid Federal government work experiences. The Student Educational Employment Program (SEEP) guides and fosters partnerships between the TCUs and VA facilities. SEEP allows undergraduate and graduate students in high-demand career fields to obtain a viable work experience while pursuing their academic degree.

HRRO provided a total of \$34,093,568 to IHEs for various VA affiliations. Twelve students from TCUs were funded totaling \$183,602 (.54% of funds to IHEs) for Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid. These students attended Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, the *University of Iowa. (*Indicates a school which was granted an exception and is a non-TCU).

As part of VA's community outreach commitment, HRRO represented the Department at national meetings, conventions, job fairs, and other recruitment forums held throughout the country which targeted minority students and institutions. The forums included the National Alaska Native Indian Nurses Association, Student National Medical Association, National Medical Association, and the National Student Nurses Association. Representatives from HRRO provided information about VA's mission, employment opportunities, and other issues.

The Office of Academic Affiliations provides the VHA Health Professions Education and Training Programs. This program does not provide awards to colleges or universities; however, it provides direct support to VA facilities for students receiving training in the VA. Direct support includes salary and fringe benefits paid directly to medical residents and associated health trainees. Indirect support is the reported cost by VA Medical Centers of VA staff who are instructors for trainees and other administrative costs associated with the program. The majority of the students participated on a without compensation (WOC) basis but incurred indirect support associated with the training program.

The Education and Training Budget for FY 2007 totaled \$1,082,706,000 (\$574,581,000 was stipends or direct cost and \$508,125,000 was in in-direct cost). The total in direct cost for education and training given to TCUs was \$45,098. These funds were used to provide clinical training to 9 WOC students from Oglala Lakota College. Funding to TCUs from the Offices of Academic Affiliations and HRRO slightly increased from \$151,631 during FY 2006 to \$183,602 during FY 2007.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides educational benefit payments to veterans or their dependents on the basis of their eligibility for such assistance. These payments help to defray the cost of their tuition and fees, as long as they are enrolled in approved educational institutions or programs. VBA participates in numerous outreach programs to assist eligible veterans and their dependents with the use of their education benefits.

VBA makes payments to TCUs in formula-driven awards referred to as reporting fees. These fees are paid to TCUs that cover administrative costs for processing reports and certifications of veterans' enrollments, as required by Title 38 USC Section 3684[c]. The total amount of reporting fees awarded varies from year-to-year at each educational institution and is based on the number of veterans and other eligible beneficiaries who are enrolled there. Educational assistant payments awarded to eligible beneficiaries attending TCUs increased from \$2,314,008 in fiscal year 2006 to \$2,351,549 in fiscal year 2007. This represents a 1.6 percent increase. The number of eligible veterans' enrollment at TCUs decreased from 506 in FY 2006 to 491 in FY 2007, a 3.0 percent decrease. The amount of reporting fees awarded to TCUs decreased from \$3,148 in FY 2006 to \$2,979 in FY 2007, a 5.7 percent decrease.

In addition, VBA sponsored two summer interns in partnership with the American University's Washington Internships for Native Students. The total contribution toward summer internship programs was \$19,800.

VA's Central Office (VACO) sponsored two summer interns in partnership with American University's Washington Internships for Native Students and the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. The total contribution toward summer internships was \$27,890. Of the two interns, one student applied and was selected to participate in the VA Human Resource Specialist Internship Program.

During the National Native American Indian Heritage Month, VA collaborated with the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian dance troupe. In addition, the Native American Indian Medal of Honor exhibit was displayed. Also, during the Veterans' Day observance, an exhibit at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial was displayed and provided information on VA benefits to Native Americans.

B. SUMMARY OF TOTAL AGENCY AWARDS, BY CATEGORY: FY 2007

1. Agency/Organization: **Department of Veterans Affairs**

2. Name, Title, Phone, Fax, and E-mail address of agency representative preparing report:

Name: Ms. Meghan S. Flanz

Title: Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity

Phone: (202) 461-4131 **Fax:** (202) 501-2145

E-mail: meghan.flanz@va.gov

3. FY Year 2007 Total Funding for all Institutions of Higher Education: **\$2,373,174,179**

Category	Total \$ Awards to IHE+	Total \$ Award to TCUs*	% of Awards to TCUs
1. Research & Development	0	0	0
2. Direct Institutional Subsidies	\$3,733,887	\$2,979	0.08%
3. Program Evaluation	0	0	0
4. Training and Technical Assistance	\$1,082,706	\$45,098	4.2%
5. Facilities & Equipment	0	0	0
6. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, IPAs	\$2,976,508	\$119,915	4.0%
7. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid	\$2,365,381,078	\$2,462,926	0.10%
8. Economic Development	0	0	0
9. Administrative Infrastructure	0	0	0
10. Other Activities	0	0	0
Total	\$2,373,174,179	\$2,630,918	0.11%

Michael W. Hager
Assistant Secretary
Office of Human Resources and Administration
Agency Head (Typed)


Agency Head (Signature)

4-17-08
Date

Summary of Fiscal Year 2007 Agency Awards to Individual Tribal Colleges and Universities

Agency: Veterans Health Administration		St.	Research & Development	Technology-Related Activities	Direct Institutional Subsidies	Program Evaluation	Training & Technical Assistance	Facilities & Equipment	Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment IPAs	Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships and Other Aid	Economic Development	Administrative Infrastructure	Third Party Awards	Private Sector Involvement	Construction	Other Activities	Grand Total
Tribal Colleges and Universities		MI															
BAY MILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE		MI															
BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE		MT															
CANKDESKA CIKANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE		ND															
CHIEF DULL KNIFE COLLEGE		MT															
COLLEGE OF MEOMINNEE NATION		WI															
CROWNPOINT INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY		NM															
DINE COLLEGE		AZ															
D-Q UNIVERSITY		CA															
FOND DU LAC TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE		IN															
FORT BELKNAP COMMUNITY COLLEGE		MT															
FORT BERTHOLD COMMUNITY COLLEGE		ND															
FORT PECK COMMUNITY COLLEGE		MT															
HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY		KS															
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS		NM															
KEWENAW BAY OJIBWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE		MI															
LAC COURTE OREILLES OJIBWA COMM. COLLEGE		WI															
LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE		MN															
LITTLE BIG HORN COLLEGE		MT															
LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE		NE															
NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE		NE															
NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE		WA					45,098										45,098
OGLALA LAKOTA COLLEGE		SD															
SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBAL COLLEGE		MI															
SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE		MT															
SI TANKAHURON UNIVERSITY		SD															
SINTE GLESKA UNIVERSITY		SD															
SISSETON WAHPETON COMMUNITY COLLEGE		SD															
SITTING BULL COLLEGE		ND															
SOUTHWEST INDIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE		NM															
STONE CHILD COLLEGE		MT							41,344								41,344
TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE		AZ															
TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE		ND															
UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE		ND															
WHITE EARTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE		MIN															
AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER ED. CONSORTIUM		VA															
Exceptions: Non-TCUs																	
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA*		IO															
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO*		NM							30,881	\$111,377							\$142,258
Category Totals					0	0	45,098	0	72,225	111,377	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$728,700

Notes:

Name of Agency Liaison: Meghan K. Flanz Title: Acting DAS for Diversity Management and EEO

Phone: 202-461-4131 Fax: 202-501-2145 Email:

Signature:  Agency Head:

Michael W. Hager
Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration

Date: