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

AUG 0 3 2009

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

Dear Ms. DeRensis:

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) 2008. VA is proud to announce that $2,350,684 was awarded to TCUs in FY 2008. The annual performance report shows that:

- VHA funding for awards to TCUs during FY 2008 totaled $236,004.

- Educational assistance payments awarded to eligible beneficiaries enrolled at TCUs decreased from $2,351,549 in FY 2007 to $2,071,890 in FY 2008. This represents a 13.5% decrease. The number of eligible veterans and dependents enrolled at TCUs decreased from 491 in FY 2007 to 420 in FY 2008, which marks a 16.9% decrease. The decreases are attributed to a decrease in the number of students enrolled at TCUs.

- During FY 2008, VA funded four TCU summer interns in partnership with the American University's Washington Internships for Native Students for a total of $39,600.

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. Georgia Coffey, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Diversity and Inclusion, at (202) 461-4131.

Sincerely,

John U. Sepúlveda

Enclosure

Department of Veterans Affairs
Federal Agency Awards to Tribal Colleges and Universities
FY 2008

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.

The 2008-2011 VHA Workforce Succession Strategic Plan lists various strategies that emphasize VHA's commitment to establishing affiliations with various colleges and universities. These strategies, which include the affiliation with TCUs, are geared towards fostering a culture that encourages innovation in the workplace, recruitment of trainees into the permanent workforce, and the promotion of a comprehensive program for recruiting personnel in scarce professions and career fields. VHA supported internship programs and academic affiliations with TCUs by invoking student internship programs, attending various recruitment forums, and fostering education/training programs. The Student Educational Employment Program (SEEP) guides and fosters partnerships between the TCUs and VA facilities. SEEP provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in high-demand career field based agreements between VA facilities and academic institutions.

Within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Office of Healthcare Retention and Recruitment Office (HRRO) aims to provide VA facilities with a unique opportunity to promote diversity while simultaneously providing college students with a rewarding work experience as they pursue their education. Funding to TCUs from the HRRO slightly decreased due to the fact that funding was only provided to one University (University of New Mexico) during FY 2008. The amount of awards to VA facilities hosting students from TCUs in FY 2008 was $171,641 which included funding for a total of 30 students. Of the 30 students: 8 were funded under the VA National Education for Employees Program, 15 were funded under the Education Debt Reduction Program, and 7 were funded under the National Nursing Education Incentive program. The total amount of support to VA facilities hosting students from TCUs was $236,004.

The Workforce Management and Consulting Office Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Employment Team (EEO/AET) has collaborated with the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service to develop an employment initiative. A work plan has been established as a part of this

initiative which includes strategies to increase the number of American Indians/Alaskan Natives in VHA's workforce. The EEO/AET will continue to work with Indian Health Services and make adjustments to the work plan as goals are accomplished and new initiatives materialize.

The Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) oversees the VHA Health Professions Education and Training Program which supports TCUs. This program does not provide direct awards to colleges, universities or students; however, it provides indirect support to VA facilities for TCU students receiving clinical training and rotations at VA medical centers. The majority of trainees that participate in VA Clinical Training Programs do so without compensation (WOC).

In FY 2008, OAA provided approximately $64,363 in indirect support to VA facilities hosting students from TCUs. The total amount of indirect support to VA facilities hosting students from TCUs was $699,792,000.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) participates in numerous outreach programs to assist eligible veterans and their dependents with the use of their education benefits before the time period expires. These outreach programs include the following: The Women in Military Service, National Student Veterans Conference, League of United Latin American Citizens, Council of Colleges and Military Educators, Association of Military Comptrollers, Gold Star Wives, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Enlisted Association of National Guard.

The educational assistance payments awarded to eligible beneficiaries attending TCUs decreased from $2,351,549 in FY 2007 to $2,071,890 in FY 2008. This represents a 13.5 percent decrease. The number of eligible veterans and dependents enrolled at TCUs decreased from 491 in FY 2007 to 420 in FY 2008, which is a 16.9 percent decrease. The decrease in educational assistance payment s is attributed to a decrease in the number of students enrolled at TCUs.

Educational assistance payments and reporting fees varies from year-to-year, based on the number of veterans and other eligible beneficiaries enrolled at educational institutions approved for the training of veterans. The amount of reporting fees awarded to TCUs increased from $2,979 in FY 2007 to $3,190 in FY 2008, which is a 6.6 percent increase.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) strongly supports Executive Order 13270. During FY 2008, NCA continued their partnership with Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS), the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), and the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) to identify interns to sponsor. NCA will continue to partner with TCU organizations.

The VA Central Office (VACO) utilizes programs designed to increase the participation of TCUs in accordance with Executive Order 13270. The National Internship program continues to be a prominent vehicle in which to increase student participation from TCUs. During FY 2008, VACO hosted four summer interns in partnership with American University's WINS program. Through a collaborative effort with the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees, and VACO Human Resources Services under the guidance of the Special Emphasis Program hosted the traditional native storytelling performance of Mr. Choogie Kingfisher, a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees.

B. SUMMARY OF TOTAL AGENCY AWARDS, BY CATEGORY: FY 2008

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

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

   Name: Georgia Coffey
   Title: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Diversity and Inclusion
   Phone: (202) 461-4131 **Fax**: (202) 501-2145
   E-mail: georgia.coffey@va.gov

3. FY Year 2008 Total Funding for all Institutions of Higher Education: $3,159,116,032

Category	Total $ Awards to IHE+	Total $ Award to TCUs*	% of Awards to TCUs
1. Research & Development	0	0	0
2. Direct Institutional Subsidies	$3,791,571	$3,190	0.08%
3. Program Evaluation	0	0	0
4. Training and Technical Assistance	0	0	0
5. Facilities & Equipment	0	0	0
6. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, IPAs	$194,600	$39,600	20.35%
7. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid	$3,155,129,861	$2,307,894	0.07%
8. Economic Development	0	0	0
9. Administrative Infrastructure	0	0	0
10. Third Party Awards			
11. Private Sector Involvement			
12. Other Activities	0	0	0
Total	$3,159,116,032	$2,350,684	0.07%

John U. Sepúlveda
Assistant Secretary
for Human Resources and Administration
Agency Head (Typed)

Agency Head (Signature) Date 8/3/09