



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

APR 28 2006

Ms. Deborah J. Cavett  
Executive Director  
White House Initiative on Tribal  
Colleges and Universities  
Department of Education  
1900 K Street, NW, Room 7010  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Cavett:

Enclosed is a copy of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Final Report: Federal Agency Awards to Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Fiscal Year 2005.

VA fully supports Executive Order 13270 and will continue to champion education, training, internships and employment opportunities in the Native American and Alaska Native communities. To acknowledge this support, VA sponsored 23 students who participated in clinical training while pursuing their academic degrees, funded students with tuition assistance, scholarships, and other aids, and sponsored students through the Washington Internship for Native Students and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

Questions regarding this submission should be directed to Ms. Susan C. McHugh, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity, at (202) 501-1970.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Allen Pittman", is positioned above the printed name.

R. Allen Pittman

Enclosures

**Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**Final Report: Federal Agency Awards to Tribal Colleges and Universities**  
**FY 2005**

**A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 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 the Department to achieve diversity by providing VA facilities with a broader recruitment pool of trained and qualified applicants.

According to TCU 2004-2006 Plan, VA projected awarding \$2,812,000 to Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) in FY 2005. Of that, the Department projected \$1,851,007 in awards for TCUs. VA's total contribution to IHE for FY 2005 was \$3,187,904,138. Of that amount, \$2,535,667 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) goal is to provide 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 \$2,006,566 to IHE for various VA affiliations. Seven students from TCUs were funded totaling \$54,741 (2.7% of the total amount to IHE) for Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid. These students attended Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, Sitting Bull College, University of Iowa\* and the University of New Mexico.\*

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.

\*Indicates non-TCUs that were contacted to recruit American-Indian/Alaska-Native students.

The Office of Academic Affiliations provides the VHA Health Professions Education and Training Program. 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 Office of Academic Affiliations gave \$930,858,000 to IHE (\$500,415,000 was stipends or direct cost and \$430,443,000 was in-direct cost). The total indirect cost for education and training given to TCUs was \$51,227 (0.01% of the total amount). These funds were used to provide clinical training to 11 WOC students from Oglala Lakota College.

Funding to TCUs from the Office of Academic Affairs remained the same. However, funding from HRRO decreased in FY 2005 compared to FY 2004 due to the reduction in the HRRO's budget.

VHA received a total award of \$105,968 during FY 2005.

VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides educational payments directly 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 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 U.S.C. § 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 assistance payments awarded to eligible beneficiaries attending TCUs increased from \$2,312,735 in FY 2004 to \$2,355,668 in FY 2005. This represents a 1.9 percent increase. This rise in payments reflects a statutorily mandated benefit increase to education beneficiaries. The amount of reporting fees awarded to TCUs increased from \$2,419 in FY 2004 to \$3,034 in FY 2005, a 25.4 percent increase. VBA's total amount of educational assistance and reporting fees awarded in FY 2005 was \$2,358,702.

VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) increased the total amount of awards to IHE to \$135,000. This is a substantial increase of \$26,000 from FY 2004. NCA's total amount of funding for TCUs during FY 2005 was \$51,097.

Two interns were sponsored from the Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS), and one intern was sponsored from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

VA's Central Office sponsored a WINS summer and spring intern at a total cost of \$19,900.

**B. SUMMARY OF FY 2005 AGENCY AWARDS BY CATEGORY TO TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

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

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

**Name:** Susan C. McHugh

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

**Phone:** (202) 501-1970 **Fax:** (202) 501-2145

**E-mail:** mchugh@mail.va.gov

3. FY 2005 Total Funding for All Institutions of Higher Education (IHE): **\$3,187,904,138**

CATEGORY	TOTAL AWARDS TO IHE	TOTAL AWARDS TO TCUs	% OF AWARDS TO TCUs
1. Research & Development	0	0	0
2. Direct Institutional Subsidies	\$3,697,544	\$3,034	0.08%
3. Program Evaluation			
4. Training & Technical Assistance	\$932,864,566	\$105,968	0.01%
5. Facilities & Equipment			
6. Fellowships, Internships Recruitment, IPAs	\$407,097	\$70,997	17.44%
7. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid	\$2,250,934,931	\$2,355,668	0.10%
8. Economic Development			
9. Administrative Infrastructure			
10. Third Party Awards			
11. Private Sector Involvement			
12. Other Activities			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,187,904,138</b>	<b>\$2,535,667</b>	<b>17.5%</b>

R. Allen Pittman  
Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration

Agency Head (Typed)

 4/28/06  
Agency Head (Signature) Date