



WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON
TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Talking Points
FY 2009 Interior Budget
Full Forward Funding for TCUs

Current situation

- Without a signed appropriations bill, TCUs lack funding at start of fiscal year
- Must take out a short-term loan
- Must repay the loan at high interest

Past examples

- FY 2006
 - Operational funds not available to TCUs until November 2005
- FY 2007
 - Operational funds not available to TCUs until March 2007

What is needed

- PBATCU request President's FY2009 budget for BIE (DOI) include a one-time amount to forward fund operational expenses for the tribal colleges and universities
 - \$57 million for full (one-year) forward funding
 - Figure based on BIE data
- This one-time appropriation would be in addition to the annual appropriation needed to continue continuity of operational expenses
- Allows TCUs to begin academic year with funds to cover operational expenses

Forward funding already authorized

- Authorized under Public Law 95-471 (25 USC §1810)
 - *In order to effect a transition to the forward funding method of timing appropriation action described in paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated, in an appropriation Act or Acts for the same fiscal year, two separate appropriations to carry out this chapter, the first of which shall not be subject to paragraph (1).*

One time influx of funds

- Will not result in extra long-term strain on federal budget
- Will not result in higher taxes

BIE K-12 already takes advantage of forward funding

- 25 USC §2010

Importance

- Increase institutional stability in these essential centers of education
- By avoiding interest fees, institutions are able to focus resources on developing educational capacity and intellectual capital
- Education serves as a catalyst to economic growth and prosperity not only in Indian Country but the entire nation