

October 21, 2008

Dear:

The President signed Executive Order 13270 on July 3, 2002. It directs heads of certain Federal departments and agencies to develop and implement plans to fulfill the purposes of the Order, including increasing the capacity of our nation's 32 tribal colleges and universities to compete effectively for Federal resources and to encourage them to participate in Federal programs. This letter identifies your agency as an Executive Order 13270 participant and requests that you submit a Three-Year Plan by December 19, 2008.

As Secretary of Education, I serve as the lead Cabinet Member designated to implement Executive Order 13270. The White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities (WHITCU) and the President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities assist me with these duties. In consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, we oversee compliance with the Executive Order.

Each designated Federal department and agency must submit to WHITCU a Three-Year Plan and annual reports summarizing its performance against the objectives in its Plan. The Executive Order also requires that each designated agency appoint a senior official who reports directly to the agency head or agency head's designee to be responsible for program administration. Please complete and fax the attached *Designation of Agency Representative* form to WHITCU by December 15, 2008.

The President is committed to increasing support to and participation of tribal colleges and universities in Federal programs. I appreciate your assistance in ensuring that your agency meets this goal.

Sincerely,

Margaret Spellings