

Department of Veterans Affairs
Fiscal Year 2002 Interim Annual Performance Report on Executive Agency
Actions To Assist Tribal Colleges and Universities

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 opportunities to achieve diversity by providing VA facilities with a broader recruitment pool of trained, qualified applicants. To reaffirm its support, VA is exploring the possibility of a partnership with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). This partnership will provide a cooperative framework to develop and establish mutually supportive programs to increase employment and educational opportunities for the Native American community.

VA further supports the Native American community through the Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) Program, sponsored by Washington, DC-based American University. The WINS Summer Program runs for 10 weeks, and the Fall and Spring Programs run for 15 weeks. Students take part in an intense academic and work experience program to gain skills and knowledge to share with their communities. In FY 2002, VA sponsored seven WINS interns at a cost of \$57,000.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Care Staff Development and Retention Office (HCSDRO) administers the Student Education Employment Program (SEEP). The program builds and fosters partnerships between TCUs and VA. SEEP agreements between VA and academic institutions afford undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience, training, and education in high-demand career fields. In FY 2002, VA sponsored 14 SEEP students at a cost of \$97,000.

In FY 2002, 76,092 (22,049 paid and 54,043 without compensation or WOC) students/interns/residents received all or part of their clinical training in VA health care facilities. Two colleges affiliated with VHA facilities were designated as tribal colleges by the U.S. Department of Education. These affiliations resulted in 10 WOC students from these tribal institutions receiving part of their required clinical education in a VA facility in FY 2002.

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides educational assistance payments to eligible veterans, family members, reservists, and service members enrolled in approved educational programs at TCUs and other institutions of higher education. These payments help veterans and other eligible enrollees defray the costs of tuition and fees while enrolled at educational institutions. VBA also makes payments to TCUs in formula-driven awards referred to as "reporting fees." These fees are paid

to TCUs to cover administrative costs for processing reports and certifications of veterans and eligible beneficiaries enrollments as required by Title 38 U.S.C., Section 3684[c]. The total amount of reporting fees awarded varies yearly at each educational institution and is based on the number of veterans and other eligible beneficiaries enrolled. In FY 2002, educational assistance payments and reporting fees totaled \$1,458,291.


VA's total contribution to Institutions of Higher Education for FY 2002 was \$2,302,271,471. Of that amount, \$1,657,291 was awarded to TCUs, an increase of \$251,662 (17.9%) from FY 2001.

According to the 2001-2003 Plan, VA projected awarding \$2,139,184,620 to IHEs in FY 2002. Of that, the Department projected \$1,656,441 in awards (0.08%) for TCUs. Thus, VA exceeded its TCU funding projection for FY 2002 by \$850.

VA will continue its support to the Native American and Alaska Native communities and will continue to make available employment and educational opportunities for its members.

B. SUMMARY OF TOTAL AGENCY AWARDS, BY CATEGORY: FY 2002

1. AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs
2. NAME, TITLE, AND SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:


 Armando E. Rodriguez, Deputy Assistant Secretary
 Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity

3. TOTAL FUNDING FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN FY 2002: \$2,302,271,471

Category	Total Awards to IHEs	Total Award to TCUs	% of Awards to TCUs
1. Research & Development			
2. Technology-related Activities			
3. Direct Institutional Subsidies	\$3,182,267	\$2,256	0.07%
4. Program Evaluation			
5. Training & T.A.			
6. Facilities & Equipment			
7. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, IPAs	\$787,604,000	\$199,000	0.03%
8. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid	\$1,511,485,204	\$1,456,035	0.10%
9. Economic Development			
10. Administrative Infrastructure			
11. Other Activities			
Total	\$2,302,271,471	\$1,657,291	0.07%