

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The United States Department of the Interior
and
The American Indian Higher Education Consortium**

1. PARTIES

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) hereinafter referred to as "Party" or "Parties," enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). AIHEC serves the Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) that are defined in section 316 (20 U.S.C. 1059c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965; section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note); and section 2 of Executive Order 13270, *Tribal Colleges and Universities*. Included among the TCUs are Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell) and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), which are both operated by the Bureau of Indian Education in DOI.

2. PURPOSE

This MOU establishes a partnership between AIHEC and DOI to assist in fulfilling the mandate of Executive Order 13270 and the DOI mission. This MOU also serves to promote increased cooperation between DOI and AIHEC in areas of mutual interest.

DOI will work with AIHEC to advance the capability of TCUs to attain educational excellence, so that TCU students and alumni can fully participate in the U.S. workforce, including in natural resource, law enforcement, and clean and renewable energy fields, help strengthen and sustain tribal communities and lands, and contribute to the fulfillment of DOI mission by helping to sustain America's lands, water, wildlife, and energy resources and honor our Nation's responsibilities to tribal nations.

DOI and AIHEC will focus on strengthening the capacities of TCUs and supporting their full integration into DOI's programs and services. This MOU will also: promote enriching outdoor experiences and law enforcement and natural resources and other science and technology career pathways among students attending TCUs and their feeder K-12 schools; promote job training and employment opportunities within DOI for students attending TCUs; and support development of AIHEC.

This MOU reflects the commitment of the parties to further DOI's outreach efforts with TCUs, their feeder K-12 schools, and the communities served by these institutions.

The objectives of the MOU are to:

- a. Strengthen and sustain TCU capacity by fully integrating TCUs into DOI mission areas and bureau programs, services, and resource opportunities to ensure their full participation in DOI initiatives, including DOI's youth initiatives and clean and renewable energy initiatives;
- b. Develop and coordinate Departmental and Bureau programs, activities, and opportunities to enhance education, job training, and career pathway opportunities within DOI and in fields critical to DOI's mission for students attending TCUs and their feeder K-12 schools; and
- c. Target and provide DOI resources for strengthening TCUs.

In fulfillment of these objectives, efforts will be made to:

- a. Establish capacity-building programs and funding targets, including technical assistance, facilities rehabilitation and enhancement, and loan of DOI personnel for teaching, research, faculty, and administration;
- b. Provide linkage and develop partnerships between TCUs and DOI's bureaus and offices;
- c. Integrate TCUs as partners in DOI's youth initiatives, acknowledging that TCUs are an important link to American Indian/Alaska Native youth;
- d. Develop and strengthen student and faculty programs involving DOI and TCUs, including youth outdoor experiences and career pathway initiatives in law enforcement, clean and renewable energy, natural resources, and other fields critical to DOI;
- e. Encourage participation of TCUs in DOI research, economic and community development, technology transfer, and other initiatives, particularly in law enforcement, clean and renewable energy, natural resources, and other sciences; and
- f. Encourage participation in grant and excess property-acquisition opportunities for TCUs.

3. DOI/TCU LEADERSHIP GROUP

The Parties will jointly establish a DOI/TCU Leadership Group (hereinafter referred to as "Leadership Group") to serve as an advisory body for all partnership initiatives. The Leadership Group will provide guidance to ensure that mutual benefits and interests are served by DOI/AIHEC partnership initiatives. This group shall consist of an equal number of members from DOI and TCUs as well as a representative from the AIHEC central organization. The DOI shall appoint one Co-Chair of the Leadership Group and the DOI members. The Chair of the AIHEC Board of Directors shall appoint the other Co-Chair of the Leadership Group and the TCU members, ensuring proportionate representation of AIHEC

and non-AIHEC members among the TCU members. The Leadership Group will meet at least two times per year, on a scheduled basis as determined by the members.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parties will work together to identify activities and initiatives of mutual benefit, ensure that TCUs are fully integrated into DOI major initiatives, such as the DOI youth initiative, and be responsible for activities as follows:

DOI will:

- a. Broaden outreach to the TCUs to increase their access to and participation in DOI programs and services in general;
- b. Explore opportunities for TCUs to be included as key partners in DOI efforts, such as the DOI youth initiative, which seeks to provide enriching outdoor experiences for America's youth and develop career pathways in fields critical to DOI's mission;
- c. Provide TCUs, through AIHEC, with information and technical assistance on program opportunities within DOI;
- d. Participate in annual conferences sponsored by AIHEC and the National Indian Education Association as well as career fairs, on-campus career orientations, and recruitment activities associated with outreach efforts;
- e. Explore opportunities for developing model career pathway programs for American Indian/Alaska Native students attending TCUs and their feeder K-12 schools, which may include summer outdoor experience and research programs, career counseling and mentoring, scholarships, internships, fellowships, and cooperative education opportunities at DOI and in fields critical to DOI;
- f. Encourage DOI's bureaus and offices to enter into agreements with TCUs to promote special initiatives of mutual interest, including, but not limited to: programs to advance research and education activities at TCUs in fields such as law enforcement, clean and renewable energy, and natural resources management; programs to assist TCUS in their efforts to encourage greater stewardship of tribal lands and natural resources; and programs to assist DOI in honoring our Nation's responsibilities to tribal nations;
- g. Explore opportunities to provide assistance to TCUs, which may include, but not limited to: instructional services; curricula and special program development and implementation, such as innovative summer youth programs linked to career pathways; technology infrastructure and support; research and facility support; access to Federal surplus and excess property; loaned executives and teaching and research faculty; educational workshops for instructors; and technology transfer to TCUs;

- h. Consider opportunities for DOI employees to serve at AIHEC's central headquarters as executives on loan and technical advisors for AIHEC-wide initiatives and for faculty members of TCUs to serve in temporary developmental assignments at DOI;
- i. Encourage cooperative program activities between TCUs and other institutions of higher education that have working relationships with DOI;
- j. Consider opportunities for representation of TCUs on relevant advisory boards and commissions established by the Secretary of Interior;
- k. In cooperation with AIHEC, participate in a biennial conference for TCUs and DOI officials that will provide participants a cost-effective opportunity to dialogue with one another, promote stronger and more effective partnerships and programs, and exchange information on new and existing programs; and
- l. Explore opportunities to provide in-kind support to TCUs consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, and procedures to meet the objectives of this MOU.

AIHEC will:

- a. Provide TCUs with information on DOI initiatives and priorities and employment, training, grant, and excess-property opportunities with DOI to maximize the participation of TCUs in DOI-funded programs and opportunities;
- b. Assist TCUs in the development and implementation of career pathway programs to prepare students for career fields identified within DOI, including degree programs and K-12 outreach programs, cooperative arrangements with K-12 feeder schools, and institutions offering broader or more advanced training opportunities;
- c. Provide facilities and services to host special educational and training programs;
- d. In cooperation with DOI, participate in a biennial conference for TCU and DOI officials;
- e. Assist in the execution of efforts such as pilot projects, forums, and workshops intended to increase opportunities and partnerships among DOI bureaus and offices and TCUs, including career pathway programs for American Indian/Alaska Native students and faculty development programs for TCU faculty; and
- f. Appoint a representative from the AIHEC central organization to serve on the Leadership Group.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN

The Leadership Group will prepare, maintain, and continually assess a Strategic Plan to develop new initiatives; ensure integration of TCUs into existing, new, and emerging DOI initiatives and priorities; monitor, verify, and sustain existing programs to benefit both TCUs and DOI, assist in annual planning and, to the extent that such information is available the Chairperson, make information on relevant resources available to the Leadership Group.

6. AGREEMENTS

This MOU has no funding authority. Therefore, before undertaking any collaborative activity requiring the obligation of Federal funds or resources, the partnering DOI bureau, AIHEC, and TCU will negotiate and execute an appropriate instrument such as a contract, grant, cooperative agreement, Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreement, or other agreement to document the transaction and identify the legal authority underlying the particular transaction. Each collaborative activity shall be agreed upon and conducted in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations.

7. COSTS AND IMPLEMENTATION

This MOU is not a financial or funding document. It does not impose any financial commitments on either party. Specific activities or initiatives that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property between DOI, AIHEC, and TCUs will require execution of separate agreements and will be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations. The Parties are encouraged to identify resources to support activities of mutual benefit.

8. AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

This MOU takes effect upon the signature of DOI and AIHEC and shall remain in effect for five (5) years from the date of execution. The MOU may be extended or amended in writing. Either DOI or AIHEC may terminate this MOU with a 60-day written notice to the other party.

9. AUTHORITIES

Executive Order 13270, *Executive Order on Tribal Colleges and Universities*, July 3, 2002; Executive Order 13511, *Continuance of Certain Federal Advisory Committees*, September 29, 2009.

10. KEY OFFICIALS

The key persons responsible for implementation of this MOU shall be as follows:

Sharon D. Eller
Director, Office of Civil Rights
United States Department of the Interior

Pamela R. Malam
Deputy Assistant Secretary – Human Capital and
Diversity
United States Department of the Interior

David E. Yarlott, Jr.
Chair, American Indian Higher Education Consortium
Board of Directors

Keith Moore
Director, Bureau of Indian Education

11. SIGNATURES

United States Department of the Interior

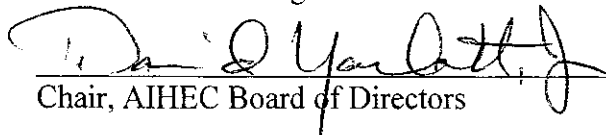


Deputy Assistant Secretary – Human Capital
and Diversity

Feb 14, 2011

Date

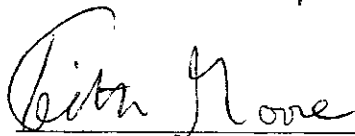
American Indian Higher Education Consortium



Chair, AIHEC Board of Directors

2/14/11

Date



Director, Bureau of Indian Education

2-14-11

Date

These persons may delegate their authority and responsibility hereafter.