



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON DC 20420  
MAY 28 2010

Ms. Pamela G. DeRensis  
Executive Director  
White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges  
and Universities  
Department of Education  
1990 K Street, NW, Room 7010  
Washington, DC 20006

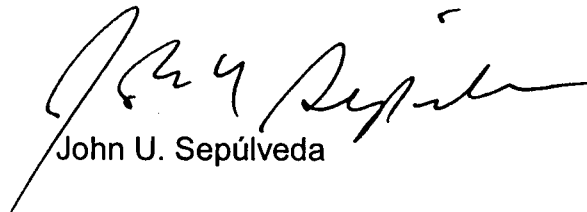
Dear Ms. DeRensis:

Enclosed is a copy of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Annual Performance Report on Executive Agency Actions to Assist Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. In FY 2009 VA awarded \$2,205,543 to TCUs.

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.

Questions regarding this submission should be directed to Ms. Tinisha Agramonte, Director, Outreach and Retention, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, at (202) 461-4131.

Sincerely yours,



John U. Sepúlveda

Enclosure

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
Federal Agency Awards to Tribal Colleges and Universities  
FY 2009**

**Executive Summary:**

VA's goal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 was to improve our ability to recruit American Indian/Alaskan Natives into our workforce after they completed their training by offering fellowships and internships, and pursuing affiliation efforts with Tribal Colleges and Universities. The Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) continues to provide student tuition assistance to Veterans who are attending Tribal Colleges and Universities. The amount actually funded was a bit less than the plan because there was a drop in applications for tuition assistance under the GI bill. VA will continue to promote fellowships, scholarships, and internships as well as encourage Veterans to apply for tuition assistance.

**Comparison of FY performance to FY plan:**

The actual funding in FY 2009 does not match the FY plan; it is lower. Several reporting units misunderstood the purpose of the plan and inserted the amount they expected to give to all Institutions of Higher Education instead of limiting it to the amount for Tribal Colleges and Universities. This situation will be rectified and a corrected FY 2010 and 2011 Plan will be submitted at a later date. The other reason for the reduction is that there were fewer applications for funding, and the number of veterans and dependents eligible for the GI bill decreased from 420 individuals in FY 2008 to 382 in FY 2009.

**Programs that show specific benefit to TCUs:**

VA has three major components: The Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefit Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration. They each reported separately. A summary of each report follows:

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) supports and implements employment initiatives, internship programs, and academic affiliations through student internship programs, attendance at various recruitment forums, conferences, education and training programs for students, including those at TCUs.

VHA's Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Employment Team (EEO/AET) has developed and begun an employment initiative with the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service. The work plan for this initiative includes strategies to increase the number of American Indians and Alaska Natives in VHA's workforce. The EEO/AET will continue to work with

Indian Health Services and make adjustments to the work plan as goals are accomplished and initiatives are developed.

The Student Educational Employment Program (SEEP) provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in high-demand career fields to obtain work experience while pursuing their academic degree. During FY 2009, total funding from VHA's Healthcare Retention and Recruitment Office (HRRO) to institutions of higher education was \$1,412,030,408 and funding of awards to TCU students was \$237,680. (This amount is not included on Attachment C.) This funding supported a total of 40 Native American students (22 were funded under Education Department Reduction Program, seven funded under the VA National Education for Employees Program, and 11 were funded under the National Nursing Education Incentive program).

VHA's Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) continues to provide clinical training experience to students who attend TCUs. This program does not provide awards to colleges, universities or students; however, it provides direct support to VA facilities for students receiving training in VA and salary and fringe benefits paid directly to trainees. Indirect support is the reported cost by VA Medical Centers for VA staff who are instructors for trainees, and other administrative costs associated with the training program. The majority of students who participate in training at VA facilities are not paid a salary, they are on a "without compensation" (WOC) basis, but there are indirect costs associated with the training programs. During FY 2009, OAA total funding (direct and in-direct cost) awarded to institutions of higher education was \$1,383,347,000. OAA total funding awards to TCU (direct and indirect cost) was \$49,468.

The Office of Research and Development (ORD) in VHA supports activities that help the VA better understand and serve diverse racial and ethnic groups, including American Indians and Alaska Natives. Because ORD does not have granting authority, TCUs do not receive research grants through ORD. However, ORD does study issues specific to Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Four recent publications in this area include:

- Two studies on Native American Veterans health care utilization at VA and through the Indian Health Service (IHS).
- Two studies on how women Native Americans and Alaska Natives approach their health care both at the VA and IHS.

ORD continues to support collaborative efforts by VA and the IHS to improve access and health outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans. ORD has established a Center of Excellence devoted to research on health equity and health disparities as a research priority. Research emphasis is placed on health care systems management; informatics and educational tools that help tailor health care to meet the needs of all groups including minorities.

During FY 2009, the Veterans Health Administration's HRRO and OAA actual funding to TCUs totaled \$287,140. HRRO contributed \$237,680 and OAA contributed \$49,468.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) does not establish funding goals or measurable objectives for TCUs or any other educational institutions under VA's educational assistance program. Education benefit payments are made directly to Veterans and their dependents based on eligibility. These payments help to defray the cost of tuition and fees. Additionally, VBA participates in numerous outreach programs to assist eligible Veterans and their dependents with maximizing the use of their education benefits. VBA makes payments to TCUs in the form of reporting fees. These fees are based on a formula and are paid to TCUs to cover administrative costs for processing reports and certifications of veteran enrollment, pursuant to Title 38 U.S.C., Section 3684 [c].

Educational assistance payments awarded to eligible beneficiaries attending TCUs decreased from \$2,071,890 in FY 2008 to \$1,915,489 in FY 2009. The number of eligible veterans and dependents enrolled at TCUs decreased from 420 in FY 2008 to 382 in FY 2009. The decrease in educational assistance payments is attributed to a decrease in the number of students that enrolled at TCUs. The amount of reporting fees paid to TCUs decreased from \$3,190 in FY 2008 to \$2,906 in FY 2009.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) continued their partnership with the Washington Internship for Native Students (WINS). This program gives the interns an opportunity to gain valuable work experience and promotes VA as an employer of choice. An outreach effort was conducted at the National Congress of American Indian Convention, which allowed the opportunity to distribute information and respond to questions about NCA.

NCA is developing an outreach program initiative to visit and establish points of contact with TCUs located in three of NCA's Memorial Service Networks. This initiative will allow NCA to establish a relationship with the college or university and offer American Indian and Alaskan Native college students a unique opportunity to live, study and intern in Washington, DC.

Funding was not awarded directly to any of the tribal colleges by NCA in FY 2009. However, through the WINS internship program, NCA provided a total of \$19,800 to two student interns enrolled in the summer session. FY 2009 funding by NCA for student intern positions increased from \$155,000 in FY 2008 to \$188,295 in FY 2009.

**NOTE: FY 2009 PLAN Correction**

**1) Projected Funding for Program (\$64,363) correction**

There was a misunderstanding; recruitment advertisements in American Indian and general minority publications were included under Projected Funding for Program for promoting a system-wide comprehensive program for recruiting personnel in scarce professions and career fields.

**2) Projected Funding for Program (\$3,867,402) correction**

The amount spent in FY 2009 as listed on this report (\$2,906) is lower than the FY 2009 plan because a projection for all IHEs was mistakenly inserted under Projected Funding for Program for Direct Institutional Subsidies (for the GI bill).

**3) Projected Funding for Program (\$2,505,419,738) correction**

The amount spent in FY 2009 as listed on this report (\$1,915,489) is lower than the FY 2009 plan because a projection for all IHEs was mistakenly inserted under Projected Funding for Program for Student Tuition Assistance (for the GI bill).

**B. SUMMARY OF TOTAL AGENCY AWARDS, BY CATEGORY: FY 2009**

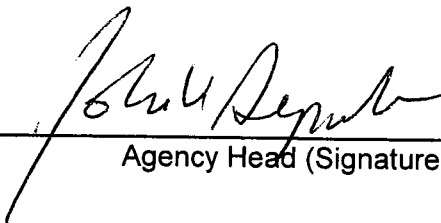
1. Agency/Organization: **Department of Veterans Affairs**
2. Name, Title, Phone, Fax, and E-mail address of agency representative preparing report:

**Name:** Tinisha Agramonte  
**Title:** Director, Outreach and Retention  
 Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
**Phone:** (202) 461-4131 **Fax:** (202) 501-2145  
**E-mail:** Tinisha.Agramonte@va.gov

3. FY 2009 Total Funding for all Institutions of Higher Education: \$4,089,951,260

Category	Total \$ Awards to IHE+	Total \$ Award to TCUs	% of Awards to TCUs
1. Research & Development			
2. Direct Institutional Subsidies	\$3,869,205	\$2,906	.08%
3. Program Evaluation			
4. Training and Technical Assistance			
5. Facilities & Equipment			
6. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, IPAs	\$1,412,030,408	\$237,680	.02%
7. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid	\$2,672,668,300	\$1,964,957	.07%
8. Economic Development			
9. Administrative Infrastructure			
10. Third Party Awards			
11. Private Sector Involvement			
12. Other Activities			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,088,567,913</b>	<b>\$2,205,543</b>	<b>.05%</b>

John U. Sepúlveda  
 Assistant Secretary  
 for Human Resources and  
 Administration  
 Agency Head (Typed)

  
 Agency Head (Signature)

5/28/10  
 Date

**Attachment C**  
**Summary of FY09 Agency Awards to Individual Tribal Colleges and Universities**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Tribal Colleges and Universities	ST	Research & Development	Direct Institutional Subsidies	Program Evaluation	Training & Technical Assistance	Facilities & Equipment	Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, IPAs	Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships and Other Aid	Economic Development	Administrative Infrastructure	Third Party Awards	Private Sector Involvement	Other Activities	Grand
														Total
BAY MILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MI		\$760					\$414,001						\$ 414,761
BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MT		\$0					\$99,683						\$ 99,683
CANKDESKA CIKANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ND		\$21					\$29,826						\$ 29,847
CHEYENNE RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	SD		\$0					\$0						\$ -
CHIEF DULL KNIFE COLLEGE	MT		\$0					\$0						\$ -
COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION	WI		\$98					\$65,057						\$ 65,155
CROWNPOINT INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	NM		\$56					\$14,566						\$ 14,622
DINE COLLEGE	AZ		\$210					\$180,171						\$ 180,381
D-Q UNIVERSITY	CA		\$0					\$0						\$ -
DULL KNIFE MEMORIAL COLLEGE	MT		\$0					\$5,108						\$ 5,108
FOND DU LAC TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MN		\$385					\$190,015						\$ 190,400
FORT BELKNAP COLLEGE	MT		\$0					\$5,902						\$ 5,902
FORT BERTHOLD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ND		\$35					\$13,940						\$ 13,975
FORT PECK COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MT		\$70					\$39,320						\$ 39,390
HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY	KS		\$0					\$3,126						\$ 3,126
ILISAGVIK COLLEGE	AK		\$0					\$0						\$ -
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS	NM		\$63					\$49,136						\$ 49,199
KEWEEANAW BAY OJIBWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MI		\$0					\$0						\$ -
LAC COURTE OREILLES OJIBWA COMM. COLLEGE	WI		\$0					\$0						\$ -
LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE	MN		\$70					\$36,037						\$ 36,107
LITTLE BIG HORN COLLEGE	MT		\$0					\$23,857						\$ 23,857
LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE	NE		\$0					\$0						\$ -
MONTANA CONSORTIUM	MT		\$0					\$0						\$ -
N.D. ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL COLLEGES	ND		\$0					\$0						\$ -
NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	NE		\$0					\$0						\$ -
NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE	WA		\$210					\$153,833						\$ 154,043
OGLALA LAKOTA COLLEGE	SD		\$417					\$272,443						\$ 272,860
SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBAL COLLEGE	MI		\$0					\$0						\$ -
SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE	MT		\$0					\$53						\$ 53
SI TANKAHURON UNIVERSITY	SD		\$0					\$0						\$ -
SINTE GLESKA UNIVERSITY	SD		\$126					\$56,850						\$ 56,976
SISSETON WAHPETON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	SD		\$77					\$46,379						\$ 46,456
SITTING BULL COLLEGE	ND		\$0					\$1,548						\$ 1,548
SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE	NM		\$147					\$113,034						\$ 113,181
STONE CHILD COLLEGE	MT		\$28					\$30,848						\$ 30,876
TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE	AZ		\$0					\$0						\$ -
TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ND		\$0					\$46,896						\$ 46,896
UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE	ND		\$133					\$73,328						\$ 73,461
WHITE EARTH TRIBAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MN		\$0					\$0						\$ -
Category Totals:			\$2,906					\$1,964,957						\$ 1,967,863

Notes: Educational Assistance Payments=\$1,967,863

Reporting Fee Payments=\$2,906

Total Educational Payments and Fees=\$1,964,957

Name of Agency Liaison: Tinisha Agramonte Title: Director, Outreach and Retention Email: Tinisha.Agramonte@va.gov Phone: 202-461-4030 Fax: 202-501-2145

Signature of Agency Head:

  
 John U. Sepulveda, Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration

5/28/10  
 Date