Our History

THE AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATE CENTER was founded in 1969 and is still the only national, private, 501(c)3, nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding American Indian and Alaska Native students pursuing undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees in all fields of study.

AIGC administers graduate fellowships funded by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Higher Education and Loan for Service programs.

Over the years, generous donors have established additional scholarships, which are administered by the American Indian Graduate Center.

Additionally, AIGC has developed a variety of support programs, which include leadership and career development.

In 2001, AIGC Scholars was incorporated to administer the American Indian/Alaska Native component of the Gates Millennium Scholars program (GMS).

Each year, AIGC and AIGC Scholars provide over $10,000,000 in financial aid to over 1,000 American Indian and Alaska Native undergraduate and graduate students. Eighty-six percent (86%) of every dollar is awarded directly to students through our scholarship and fellowship programs; an additional 10% goes to student services and support.

AIGC is proud of its history of strong and consistent performance of maintaining low administrative costs and A+ grades from charity ratings bureaus.

Ways To Give

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Payroll Deductions: The CFC gives federal employees an opportunity to donate to eligible charities through payroll deduction(s). AIGC is excited to be included in this selection group. If you are a Federal employee and you wish to designate your gift through CFC to AIGC, please select #11514 on your CFC pledge card.

Donate Online, by Mail or by Phone: Donating to AIGC is fast and secure. You may donate directly online, download the form from our website and mail in your contribution, or call in your gift using a credit card (1-800-628-1920).

Give Through Your Employer or United Way: For your convenience, a gift or pledge to AIGC can be payroll deducted each pay period. Many employers offer a “Matching Gifts” program, which is an easy way to double the size of your gift.

Corporate and Event Sponsorships: Corporate event sponsorships and in-kind donations may be coordinated with the AIGC Development Office by calling 505-881-4584.

Planned Giving: Planned giving, or a planned gift, is any major gift made during your lifetime, or at death, as part of a donor’s overall financial or estate planning. Planned gifts can include cash, appreciated securities or stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan, etc. Planned giving makes it easy for donors to support their favorite charity, while minimizing its impact on the donor’s estate.
Fellowships & Scholarships
Apply online at: aigcs.org

AIGC Graduate Fellowships: Fellowships are available, for any field of study, at any nationally accredited institution of higher education. The financial aid amount is, typically, between $1,000 and $5,000 per academic year, and varies from year to year, depending on the availability of funds.

AIGC Loan for Service Program: Provides financial assistance, in the form of loans, to eligible American Indian and Alaska Natives seeking graduate and professional degrees who plan to go on to careers in the federal government or with tribes. Loans are repaid at the rate of one year of service for one year of funding.

Accenture American Indian Scholarship Fund: Created by the Accenture Corporation, this fund provides scholarships to undergraduate students in Engineering, Computer Science, Operations Management, Finance, Marketing and Business.

Wells Fargo American Indian Scholarship Fund: Wells Fargo Bank created an endowment to provide graduate and undergraduate scholarships to students in the banking and financial service industry, tribal enterprise and hospitality fields.

John Rainer Fellowship: Created to honor AIGC founder, John Rainer, in recognizing leaders in the American Indian community.

Jeanette Elmer Graduate Scholarship: Ms. Jeanette Elmer established this fund to provide graduate fellowships to students residing in Wisconsin, New Mexico and Arizona, with preference given to Library Science.

Katrin Lamon Fund: For graduate students in literature, journalism, communications or related fields.

Elizabeth Furber Fellowship: The Elizabeth Furber fund provides graduate fellowships for women studying the creative fine arts, visual arts, crafts, music, performing, dance, literary arts, creative writing and poetry.

Ruth Muskrat Bronson Fellowship: Fellowships in nursing or health-related fields.

Gerald Peet Fellowship: Fellowships in medical or health-related fields. Two-year work/service pledge required.

Grace Wall Barreda Memorial Fellowship: The Barreda family established this fund, in honor of Grace Wall Barreda, to offer graduate fellowships to students seeking advanced degrees in environmental studies or public health.

Dr. Beryl Blue Spruce Memorial Scholarship: Established to honor the late Dr. Beryl Blue Spruce, awarded in support of pueblo students enrolled in an accredited medical school.

Dr. George Blue Spruce Fellowship: Dr. Blue Spruce created this fellowship to increase the number of American Indian dentists in the United States.

Gates Millennium Scholars: This program is administered by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). AIGC Scholars is the GMS partner for American Indian and Alaska Native Scholars. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and provide an opportunity for thousands of minority students, with significant financial need, to reach their fullest potential.

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ONE DEGREE at a TIME!