Journey to College

OUR VISION

Building on a 50-year legacy, the American Indian Graduate Center will continue to be the premier national resource in funding and empowering the next generation of Native leaders across all sectors, by meeting the unmet need of every Native American student.

OUR MISSION

We provide financial support for American Indians and Alaska Natives seeking higher education, and support them in attaining undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. We partner with Tribes, the federal government, foundations, corporations, and individuals to ensure the growth and sustainability of scholarships.
WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

Why go to college? Answer: three words... a good job.

Can’t get a good job now? Yes, maybe you could, but statistics are against you. If you finish high school and go to college, you’ll have a wider variety of jobs to choose from, and you’ll earn more in the long run.

Don’t-college-costs-a-lot-of-money? Think of college as an investment—you spend money now so you can earn money later. Take a look at www.Indiana.org, www.collegesaidboyo.com, or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID or (1-800-433-3243).

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIPS

- Apply early—if you’re eligible, fill out all the scholarship requirements and deadlines carefully.
- Complete the application in full. If a question does not apply to you, note that on the application. Do not leave a question blank.
- Follow directions. Provide everything that is required.
- Make a copy of the entire application. Always type your application if you must print, do so neatly and legible.
- Write a cover letter that makes you stand out and stays away from a strong essay in a personal and specific way.
- Improve your own deadlines that are at least two weeks prior to the official deadline.
- Make sure you apply your pickup and then invest it. Put your hard work and financial security in your control and make sure it is done properly.
- Get your school to run a course of study. Before submitting the application, make a copy of the entire package.
- Ask for help if you need it. Call the funding organization to get information.
- Write a cover letter that makes you stand out and stays away from a strong essay in a personal and specific way.
- Make sure you apply your pickup and then invest it. Put your hard work and financial security in your control and make sure it is done properly.
- Get your school to run a course of study. Before submitting the application, make a copy of the entire package.
- Ask for help if you need it. Call the funding organization to get information.
- It is also important to make sure your letters of recommendation are the address of the organizing scholarship you are applying for, and the letters are different.

TRIBAL COLLEGES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

American Indian Graduate Center
3701 San Manco Blvd. NE, #200
Albuquerque, NM 87110
1 (800) 628-1920 (toll-free)
(505) 884-0427 (fax)

TIPS FOR NATIVE YOUTH & PARENTS

- Provide a living, healthy, and supportive environment for each child to grow and achieve their full potential from pre-kindergarten to adulthood.
- Establish parenting circles in the community that provide an opportunity to share joys and frustrations.
- Connect with parents and grandparents in the community who can serve as role models for providing a nurturing family and home environment.
- Utilize traditional discipline roles of uncles, aunts, elders, and other authority figures in the community to help children learn what is right and wrong in a comprehensive way.
- Participate as a family and encourage children to become actively involved in cultural activities and learn the traditional values of the community.
- Set aside time each day or week for family-related activities including extended family members whenever possible.
- Make arrangements to accompany your child through part of a school-day at least once per semester or quarter, or gain an understanding of what they are doing in school.
- Use traditional naming practices and help each child understand the significance of the names they carry.
- Volunteer to participate in activities that help the school experience of each child an extension of home and community life.
- Assist children in learning and using their Native language and understanding their family history and what shape their identity.
- Make use of locally appropriate rituals and ceremonies to reinforce the critical events in children’s lives.
- Serve as a positive role model and mentor for children by practicing and reinforcing traditional values and appropriate behaviors.
- Participate in community-sponsored programs that enhance parenting skills.

ELDERS—Respected Elders are the essential role models who can share their knowledge and expertise on traditional values needed to nurture the cultural well-being of today’s youth.

- Seek guidance and assistance from elders in your community.
- Listen and learn from elders and pass on your knowledge.
- Practice and reinforce traditional values and appropriate behaviors in everyday life.
- Serve as a role model and mentor to others.
- Participate in storytelling opportunities and other cultural activities as a way of learning cultural values and traditions.
- Understand the world around you and how it has changed including the interconnectedness of human, natural and spiritual realities.