
EMPOWERING NATIVE STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE COLLEGE SUCCESS: INSIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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AGENDA

- Tribal Scholarship Programs
- Establishing Effective Partnerships
- Student & Family Engagement
- Insights & Opportunities





TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

- Each Tribal Scholarship may have different deadline dates & award amounts given to students
- Not all Tribes/Communities/Nations offer Scholarships
- If they do, it's important to remember that funding may look different for each scholarship program
 - **Gila River Higher Education Scholarship Program**
 - **Funding:**
 - 100% in-state & out-of-state tuition
 - FULL cost of attendance for unmet need (room & board, personal expenses, etc.)
 - Academic & GPA requirement have to be met
 - June 1st- Fall term, November 1st- Spring term
 - **Salt River Higher Education Program**
 - **Funding:**
 - 100% in-state tuition & mandatory Fees
 - Approximately 80% of out-of-state tuition costs
 - Mandatory books & Supplies
 - Credit hour incentive for courses passed



**HIGHER
EDUCATION
PROGRAM
FUNDING
APPLICATION
DEADLINES**

the journey begins here.

Higher Education is there to uplift you every step of the way.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

- APR 30: School start date in May, June & July
- JUL 31: School start date in August, September & October
- OCT 31: School start date in November, December & January
- JAN 31: School start date in February, March & April

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

- Fall Semester: JUN 30
- Spring Semester: NOV 30
- Summer Semester: APR 30

480-362-2500
HE.SaltRiverSchools.org

**SALT RIVER
HIGHER EDUCATION**



TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS CONT.

- Gila River Indian Community Scholarship Students
 - Require a lot of assistance with navigating college financial aid process/resources
 - Many are pulled for verification due to verifying income sources or lack of access to parental information
 - Become discouraged with verification process
 - Parents may be incarcerated or estranged with student
 - Many live with extended family members, can be affected by homelessness
 - Lose contact with students, contact information may change
 - Discourage loans and use only as a last resort
- Additional Tribal Scholarship Resources
 - American Indian College Fund, <https://collegefund.org/>
 - AISES, <https://www.aises.org/students/scholarships>
 - Native Forward Scholars Fund (formerly American Indian Graduate Center), <https://www.nativeforward.org/>
 - Indian Health Services Scholarship Program, <https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/>
 - Tribal WIOA programs



AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE
AND ENGINEERING SOCIETY



ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- Local community colleges and universities are encouraged to reach out to Tribal Education Departments (TED) & learn more about:
 - Higher Education Scholarship or other assistance programs
 - Request copy of their Scholarship Policies
 - Establish a point of contact with someone at TED offices (Scholarship Manager, Director, or K-12 coordinator)
 - Cultural awareness/Cultural Practices for staff, many tribes have cultural resource departments
 - Trauma Informed/Trauma Aware Trainings
 - Student living situations
 - Finances
 - Multi-generational housing/living situations
 - Incarceration
 - Foster care
 - First generation students
 - Visiting Tribal K-12 Schools on the Reservation/Community/Nation when available
 - Establishing college & career going presence/practices at these school
 - “Future Sun Devil”
 - Inclusivity within marketing efforts



STUDENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TIPS

- Collaborate with campus American Indian Service (AIS) departments/Student Centers
 - Student Population at your campus
 - FAFSA assistance
 - Ways to target prospective population (email generator)
 - Raffles/Food, invite reps from Tribal Scholarship programs to participate
- Be transparent about FAFSA policies (i.e., verification, etc.)
- Johnson O'Malley Advisors within High School Districts
 - College Fairs, attend with college reps.
 - Meet students and families where they are





THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Many Native families and students may not save for higher education & may solely rely on Financial Aid
- Not every Native student is the same, cultural practices vary between Tribes
- Advocate for policies at your institution geared toward the needs of Native students
- Collaborate with tribes on ways to serve Native students
 - Maricopa Community College District, electronic FNA portal testing phase
 - Indigenous Cultural Centers (Scottsdale Community College)
- Not all Tribes receive checks from gaming, those who do receive Per Capita checks have varying amounts
- A majority of students will receive extra assistance with the FAFSA
- Many Native Students are First Generation and may also have to help contribute to family expenses
- Students who lose their scholarships or financial aid are most likely to return home and not return to campus
- Students who feel misunderstood or are rushed may become frustrated and choose not to attend due to not completing paperwork and getting their application completed



INSIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Insights

- Financial Aid is the greatest barrier to college attainment
- Meet students where they are: physically, mentally, emotionally (Trauma Informed Practices)
- Students come from various backgrounds

Opportunities

- Never assume that ALL Tribally enrolled students will receive a scholarship
- Understand what it means to be Trauma Informed
- Engage with Native American/American Programs and/or Centers

Next Steps

- Research
- Establish best practices
- Request data from administration on Native student population
- Listen & Learn



RESOURCES

READ/WATCH THIS



LISTEN TO THIS



Breaking Native American and Alaska Native Stereotypes
(PULITZER CENTER)

<https://itcaonline.com/>

Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture: Dr. Amanda Tachine: Native Presence and Sovereignty in College
(YouTube)

LMU Library: Dr. Amanda Tachine: Weaving as Research -
Indigenous Qualitative Methodologies (YouTube)

Educate APM Reports Podcast:

Standing in Two Worlds: Native American College Diaries

<https://warriorkidspodcast.com/>

“All My Relations” is a podcast that explores what it means to be a Native person in the 21st century

“The Red Nation” Podcast features discussions on Indigenous history, politics, and culture

“Native Opinion” is a unique Indigenous culture education radio show and podcast from an American Indian perspective on current affairs.

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

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