

2010 AIHEC Summer Retreat
July 15, 2010
Big Sky, Montana

TRIBAL ACCREDITATION DISCUSSION: Meeting Flip Chart Notes

1973 Goals of AIHEC (articulated by David Gipp, UTTC)

Financial Development – Stable Funding
Curriculum Development
Human Resources
Research
Accreditation (Agency) (Modified 75)

Issues Regarding Creation of a Tribal Accrediting Entity:

- Could this be a way to interact with Native Serving Institutions?
- WINHEC:
 - Envisions what “we” are supposed to be like
 - What we offer the WINHEC process stands on *our* standards
- Marketing
- Accreditation Council
- Reclaiming Who We Are
- Need to Develop Next Steps...

Discussion:

- AIHEC accrediting “body”
- Institutional commitment: *Presidents must lead/staff this or it will not happen*
- Legislation pending (ESEA) and Resolutions (NIEA, NCAI)
- Incremental steps – through our own body
- Focus on how we educate students from a tribal standard of identity, citizenship, culture

WINHEC – University of the world –
Created process that supported community

AIHEC having our own is important

- Our knowledge of our government is also part of our experience
- Have a need for tribal accreditation also including prenatal, birth, and beyond
- How can we support this in our homes
- Can be a way/path to reunite tribal nations

Change the Existing Process

1. WINHEC is/could be a forum for this
2. Alternatively, through AIHEC, form our own body that also serves as a transition (incremental)
3. Participate in Multiple Accrediting Processes:
 - Holistic view – spiritual, cultural, language, science match, etc is all together
 - Needs to be at all levels of education
 - Flexible, so it works for each tribe

- Our standards should be high(er) – attaining AIHEC accreditation is “above and beyond.”

Tasks:

1. UTTC legal research
2. Articulate purpose of an AIHEC accreditation effort. Potential purposes:
 - What do we want our graduates to look like?
 - Intangibles, values, prioritize
3. Look at how we are organized – What do our ancestors want?
4. What are potential barriers
5. Keep focus on language and culture (address, curb, regain, strengthen)
6. Use inquiry process to address framework

TCU Accreditation Work Group

Cheryl Crazy Bull, Coordinator

Cynthia Lindquist Mala, Coordinator

Lionel Bordeaux

Marlin Spoonhunter

Jim Davis

Laurel Vermillion

Diana Canku

Richard Littlebear

Ferlin Clark

David Yarlott

Janine Pease

Phil Baird

James Shanley

Blue Tarpalechee (AIHEC Student Congress President), to be invited