

Carrie L. Billy
President & CEO

September 19, 2019

MEMBERSHIP:

ALASKA

Iłisaḡvik College

ARIZONA

Diné College
San Carlos Apache College
Tohono O'odham Community College

CALIFORNIA

California Tribal College

KANSAS

Haskell Indian Nations University

MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community College
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Leech Lake Tribal College
Red Lake Nation College
White Earth Tribal and Community College

MONTANA

Aaniiih Nakoda College
Blackfeet Community College
Chief Dull Knife College
Little Big Horn College
Fort Peck Community College
Salish Kootenai College
Stone Child College

NEBRASKA

Little Priest Tribal College
Nebraska Indian Community College

NEW MEXICO

Institute of American Indian Arts
Navajo Technical College
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

NORTH DAKOTA

Cankdeska Cikana Community College
Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College
Sitting Bull College
Turtle Mountain Community College
United Tribes Technical College

OKLAHOMA

College of the Muscogee Nation

SOUTH DAKOTA

Oglala Lakota College
Sinte Gleska University
Sisseton Wahpeton College

WASHINGTON

Northwest Indian College

WISCONSIN

College of Menominee Nation
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Alexander, and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the nation's 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities, which are the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), we respectfully request that you support swift Senate passage of the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act, H.R. 2486, as passed by the House with strong bipartisan support, while working to secure a permanent extension of Title III Part F of the Higher Education Act 1965.

Since FY2010, the Strengthening Institutions – Tribal Colleges and Universities program (HEA Title III Part F) has provided \$30 million per year to help TCUs address the higher education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students. TCUs use this funding for vitally needed student support services, faculty development, curriculum and program development to strengthen tribal nations, library services, facility modernization and construction and other important education activities. Without these funds, TCUs will be forced to reduce services, jeopardizing student completion and success, and some of our smaller institutions may face closure.

Tribal Colleges and Universities truly are developing institutions – the oldest TCU recently reached its 50th year; we are located in some of the most rural, remote, and economically challenged regions of the country; we are severely under-resourced; and yet, we are committed to affordable, high quality, place-based and culturally grounded higher education. Our ability to achieve our collective vision -- strong sovereign Tribal nations through excellence in Tribal higher education – would be impossible without the Title III Part F program.

We have always supported and worked for permanent reauthorization of the Title III Part F program for Tribal Colleges and Universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and other minority serving institutions. We are not wavering from this critical goal. However, the House-passed FUTURE Act, H.R. 2486, is the best path forward at this time. Indeed, the House-passed FUTURE Act is the *only* tangible strategy before us, and time is running out.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your support of our institutions and the students we serve.

Sincerely,



Carrie L. Billy
President & CEO



David E. Yarlott, Jr.
Chair, AIHEC Board of Directors