

FISCAL YEAR 2017 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



Appropriations Bill: INTERIOR

Agency: Bureau of Indian Education

AUTHORIZATION/TCU PROGRAM	FY 2016 APPROPRIATED	FY 2017 BUDGET REQUEST	FY 2017 AIHEC REQUEST
Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act [25 USC 1801 et seq.]			
Title I, II, III and contracts (28 TCUs)	\$69,793,000	\$69,793,000	\$89,220,000 To fully fund at \$8K per Indian student (TA needed: \$701,000)
Title V (Tribal career and technical institutions)	\$6,814,000	\$7,411,000	\$11,000,000
American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act [20 USC 4411]			
Institute of American Indian Arts w/Center for Lifelong Education & Museum (IAIA)	\$9,469,000	\$11,835,070 (including \$2M for forward funding)	\$9,835,070 plus \$5.1M to forward fund Total: \$14,936,750
\$11,835,070			
Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)	\$19,767,000	\$21,767,000	\$23,000,000 Plus \$14.8M to forward fund Total: \$37,800,000

TCUS FACE CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING & INEQUITY. An additional \$1,280 per Indian Student (ISC) is needed to reach *full* TCU Act funding for the first time since the Act was funded 35 years ago. We ask Congress for an additional \$19.5 million to fully fund these most deserving – and historically underfunded – *TRIBAL* institutions of higher education AND provide sufficient funding so that all of the TCUs can start each academic year with adequate funding appropriated and available. Funding of the Tribal College Act at \$8,000/Indian student and adequate institutional operations funding for the six other TCUs, is justified. An illustrative example is Howard University (HU), the only minority serving institution (MSI) that receives institutional operating funds from the federal government. In FY 2016, the Administration requested and Congress appropriated **\$194.5 million for Howard University (HU)**, exclusive of its medical school, *the only other MSI that receives institutional operating funds from the federal government*. In contrast, the total appropriated for operating **34 TCUs was \$105 million – just over half the amount awarded to HU**. The fall 2013 HU enrollment was 10,265, about 57 percent of the number of academic students enrolled at TCUs (17,879). We fully agree that HU needs these funds, AND so do the TCUs.

A ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION OF \$20M IS NEEDED TO TRANSITION REMAINING TCUS TO BEING FUNDED ON AN ACADEMIC SCHEDULE. IAIA, Haskell Indian Nation's University, and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute are the only schools funded through the Department of the Interior that still receive their institutional funding on the federal fiscal year (October 1) or more likely, much later in the year when the annual Interior appropriation bill is passed, rather than the first week of July in preparation for the upcoming school year. Once forward-funded these TCUs - like other institutions of higher education -- will be able to plan multiyear budgets and start (and end) each school year with dependable funding. Forward funding does not increase the federal budget in the long-term. It simply allows vital education programs to receive basic operating funds before each school year begins, which is critically important when the federal government is funded under continuing resolutions.

HONOR TREATIES & TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY: Hold TCUs harmless from cuts, including future sequestration
Across-the-board cuts undermine the treaty and trust obligations to American Indian tribal governments rooted in the federal government's unique relationship and responsibility to recognized tribal nations. Continuing to operate with reduced funding – as demand for access increases – is catastrophic for TCUs that have operated since inception on austere budgets. Our students, faculty, and communities rank among the nation's poorest. TCUs are not seeking a handout. We are only asking that Congress hold harmless the nation's only Tribal institutions of higher education. We urge Congress to uphold the federal responsibility to meet the higher education needs of Native students by restoring all TCU programs to the FY 2010 levels as the growth base and in doing so, begin to eliminate added barriers to success for this historically overlooked population.