



American Indian Higher Education Consortium, 121 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Carrie L. Billy
President & CEO

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MEMBERSHIP:

ALASKA

Ilisagvik College

ARIZONA

Diné College
Tohono O'odham Community 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
(formerly Fort Berthold Community College)
Sitting Bull College
Turtle Mountain Community College
United Tribes Technical College

OKLAHOMA

College of the Muscogee Nation
Comanche Nation College

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

WYOMING

Wind River Tribal College

Greetings Member of Congress:

I am writing on behalf of the nation's 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) that together compose the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) to urge you to support the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. This deal, brokered by all bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate and the President, restores critical funding equally to both defense and nondefense spending programs that benefit American Indians and others living on reservations, and in other rural and urban communities, and ensures that we do not risk the full faith and credit of the United States by lifting the debt ceiling through March 2017.

The Bipartisan Budget Act provides Congress with an additional \$55 billion over the next two years to invest in nondefense discretionary programs, including programs that are vital to the economic health of Tribal communities and the related advancement of Tribal higher education throughout Indian country. By providing equal sequestration relief for defense and nondefense programs, this deal illustrates that Congress can provide for both national security and promote the domestic programs that are so critical to the overall welfare of Americans.

Failure to accept this deal would mean a continuation of the austere and harmful sequestration cuts that impact all Americans, especially low-income and minority populations. ***AIHEC and the TCUs strongly urge you to vote yes on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015*** that replaces harmful sequestration cuts and lays the groundwork for a more reasonable and measured Omnibus appropriations bill for the remainder of FY 2016, while avoiding another disruptive and damaging federal shutdown.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request to support the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

Respectfully,

Carrie L. Billy, JD

CC: AIHEC Board of Directors

