



**AIHEC 2009 SUMMER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON
JULY 14, 2009**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** AIHEC Board Chair, David Yarlott, Jr., called the AIHEC 2009 Summer Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:13 a.m. (local time).
- II. **OPENING PRAYER AND INTRODUCTIONS.** Willie Jones, Sr., an Elder from the local community, offered an opening prayer.
- III. **ROLL CALL.**
Carrie Billy, AIHEC President & CEO, called the roll.

Regular Members Present

Blackfeet Community College
 Cankdeska Cikana Community College
 Chief Dull Knife College
 College of Menominee Nation
 Diné College
 Fort Belknap College
 Haskell Indian Nations University
 Ilisagvik College
 Leech Lake Tribal College
 Little Big Horn College
 Northwest Indian College
 Oglala Lakota College
 Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
 Sisseton Wahpeton College
 Sitting Bull College
 Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
 Stone Child College
 Tohono O'odham Community College
 United Tribes Technical College

Represented by

John Salois
 Cynthia Lindquist Mala
 Richard Littlebear
*Cheryl Crazy Bull*¹
 Ferlin Clark
 Carole Falcon-Chandler
 Linda Warner
 Beverly Grinage
 Ginny Carney
 David Yarlott
 Cheryl Crazy Bull
 Thomas Shortbull
*Olivia Vanegas-Funcheon*²
 Diana Canku
 Laurel Vermillion
*Linda Warner*³
 Melody Henry
 Olivia Vanegas-Funcheon
 David Gipp

Regular Members Present After Roll Call

Little Priest Tribal College
 Turtle Mountain Community College

Helene Lincoln
 James Davis

¹ *Institution present by proxy*

² *Institution present by proxy*

³ *Institution present by proxy*

Regular Members Absent

Bay Mills Community College
Fort Peck Community College
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Fort Berthold Community College
Institute of American Indian Arts
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College
Navajo Technical College
Nebraska Indian Community College
Salish Kootenai College
Sinte Gleska University
White Earth Tribal and Community College

Nineteen regular members having voted present, a quorum was established.

Associate Members Present

College of the Muscogee Nation	Robert Bible
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College	Debra Parrish

Associate Members Absent

Comanche Nation College
Wind River Tribal College

International Member Absent

Red Crow Community College

Official Representatives Present

Fort Peck Community College	Janine Pease
-----------------------------	--------------

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES.

Secretary Clark presented the minutes of the AIHEC 2009 Spring Board of Directors meeting for consideration and approval.

MOTION: President Clark moved [seconded by President Salois] to accept the minutes of the AIHEC 2009 Spring Board of Directors meeting, as presented.

OUTCOME: The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

V. AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND.

Mr. Richard Williams, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund (A*CF), provided an update on the Fund's activities, stating that A*CF is phasing out of its product business. Although there will no longer be A*CF specific line of Pendleton products, the organization will assist Pendleton Woolen Mills with the development of new Pendleton blanket designs, for which TCU students can continue to submit artwork.

Mr. Williams noted that this past year has been a difficult one and had it not been for the extraordinary gift from an anonymous donor, the College Fund would have been well below its fundraising goal. Last year A*CF raised \$9.1 million as compared to its targeted goal of \$10.8 million due to the state of the economy. Fundraising challenges include: donors not renewing their gifts; lost funding from foundations and corporations; and lost income on the College Fund's endowment investments due to the economy. A*CF's Finance Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis and the College Fund has modified its investment strategy to a more conservative one in several areas.

The 20th Anniversary Gala is scheduled for October 28, 2009 in Denver, CO and all TCU presidents were encouraged to attend and wear traditional regalia. President Lindquist Mala suggested that the TCU presidents invite their friends and business contacts to attend the Gala or make a donation to A*CF.

A video clip of the "*Think Indian*" public service campaign was shown. This video has not been aired on broadcast television yet, but it is available on *YouTube* and the A*CF website.

A*CF remains highly rated among the fundraising watchdog groups and continues to be a top rated American Indian organization. Programs are allocated at 82 percent of acquired funding, with 18 percent being allocated for finance and management expenses. A*CF plans to increase its finance and management costs to try and increase the contributed income, once the economy improves.

Mr. Williams presented President David Gipp with a quilt on behalf of A*CF in recognition for his service to the organization. President Gipp thanked Mr. Williams and the College Fund for the recognition.

Further, President Gipp commented on his experience with spurious American Indian organizations that claim to raise funds on behalf of Tribal Colleges and Universities. Mr. Williams thanked President Gipp for bringing this ongoing issue to the attention of the AIHEC Board and recommended that individual TCUs visit the Better Business Wise Giving website and closely examine organizations prior to accepting funds from any such organizations. The AIHEC Executive Committee passed a motion on January 22, 2009 stating that AIHEC supports the adoption of a policy, by the A*CF Board, that the American Indian College Fund will not distribute funding to any Tribal College or University that knowingly accepts donations or funding from an organization that refuses to allow itself to be evaluated or monitored by a national watchdog group. Mr. Williams stated that the A*CF Board of Trustees passed a motion to adopt such a policy.

VI. REPORT OF THE CHAIR.

Chair Yarlott reported that the Executive Committee meets by conference call on a monthly basis and regularly receives updates on Federal issues and upcoming meetings and activities and encouraged the Board to read the minutes of the Executive Committee conference calls contained in the Summer Board Book.

Upcoming Meetings:

Fall 2009

AIHEC 2009 Fall Board of Directors meeting will be held at the Mt. Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, NH October 12-13, 2009, in conjunction with the Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) Annual Conference, which will follow the AIHEC meeting on October 14 -15, 2009.

A discussion ensued regarding the abbreviated agenda for AIHEC 2009 Fall Board meeting. Several Board members suggested that the meeting agenda be expanded from 1 ½ days to 2 full days of meetings. Ms. Billy stated that the AIHEC Executive Committee had suggested the condensed agenda so Board members would have additional time to participate in the RCCA Conference.

President Gipp commented that the TCU presidents need to be proactive and involved in the political process in order to more effectively "guide the ship." He feels that an expanded agenda for the Fall Board of Directors meeting would allow time to discuss how TCUs fit into the Obama Administration framework in areas such as parity in funding for TCUs, construction grants, the Executive Order on Tribal College and Universities, as well as legislative priorities.

Following a brief discussion regarding the plans for the AIHEC 2009 Fall Board meeting, the Board agreed that the meeting agenda should be expanded to 2 full days.

President Lindquist Mala commented that there needs to be an improved mechanism for communicating information to the TCU presidents, so the presidents are better informed and engaged in the federal process. She also suggested that the TCU presidents capitalize on their business connections and associations with individuals that may know others being placed in key positions within the Obama Administration.

President Davis suggested that the TCUs be regularly informed of legislative matters. He commented that when the Economic Stimulus package was being discussed, he thought that AIHEC would have provided weekly updates to the TCU presidents. Ms. Billy noted that AIHEC did not provide weekly updates on the Stimulus Package because the American Council on Education (ACE) website provided, and continues to provide, comprehensive information and updates on current legislation impacting the higher education community. She encouraged the TCU presidents to visit the ACE website at: www.acenet.edu.

Ms. Billy commented that AIHEC has accomplished most of the objectives of the AIHEC Strategic Plan for 2006-2010. She encouraged the TCU presidents to read the current plan contained in the Board Book and to forward any comments or questions to the AIHEC staff.

Spring 2010

President Vanegas-Funcheon provided an update on the 2010 AIHEC Student Conference to be held March 26-29, 2010 in Phoenix, AZ. Planning meetings have been held with the Southwest Region TCUs. The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort in Phoenix, AZ is the likely site of the event. When the details have been finalized, President Vanegas-Funcheon will circulate updated information about the event to the TCUs.

President Falcon-Chandler commented that at the AIHEC 2009 Student Conference in Missoula, MT there were students from a non-TCU college competing in sporting events. President Crazy Bull replied that the students were from the Muckleshoot Community where Northwest Indian College has an Extended Campus, so the students were affiliated with NWIC.

AIHEC Bylaws: Reduce Number of Required Board Meetings

Chair Yarlott asked Ms. Billy to provide background information on the recommended amendment to the Bylaws that would alter the number of required Board of Directors meetings.

Ms. Billy reported that the AIHEC Bylaws, adopted March 27, 2007, require that the Board of Directors convene three regular meetings each year. Prior to the Bylaws revision in 2007, only two regular meetings were required annually. The change from two to three meetings was recommended by individuals outside of AIHEC in anticipation of Congress expanding the parameters of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act to include non-profit organizations, which never occurred.

Eliminating the mandatory summer Board of Directors meeting has been suggested as a potential cost-saving opportunity. A review of past meetings indicated that the summer meetings are the most sparsely attended meeting of the Board, as evidenced below:

- In 2007, a quorum was not established at the summer meeting.
- In 2008, the minimum number of required members (17) made up the quorum.
- For 2009, a quorum was established with 18 regular members having voted present.

Ms. Billy further noted that although this amendment eliminates the requirement that an official meeting be convened each summer, it does not preclude the continued practice of the AIHEC summer retreat. Further, under the current AIHEC Bylaws (Special Meetings Sec. 4.06) the Board has the authority to convene a meeting in the summer or any time during the year, should circumstances warrant.

The motion to amend the AIHEC Bylaws was presented to the Executive Committee during its July 9, 2009 conference call. The Executive Committee agreed to a motion recommending that the Board of Directors consider and approve the amendment to the Bylaws.

MOTION: President Yarlott made a motion [seconded by President Crazy Bull] that the AIHEC Board of Directors amend its organization's bylaws, to eliminate the annual summer meeting as a mandatory meeting of the Board, thereby returning the number of Board of Directors meetings held each year to two (Spring and Fall).

OUTCOME: The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

Announcements

President Salois commented that he recently participated in a leadership training workshop that focused on various legal issues and best practices and he thought the TCU presidents could benefit from a similar leadership workshop. He inquired if AIHEC could sponsor a leadership training workshop for the TCU presidents. Chair Yarlott asked that AIHEC consider arranging a training workshop for the presidents to be held in conjunction with either the AIHEC Student Conference or as a separate training session.

President Crazy Bull announced that FALCON will hold its annual conference October 17-19, 2009 in Washington, DC. FALCON also will host a reception at the National Museum of the American Indian on October 20 to celebrate its 15th Anniversary. She stated that FALCON may contact the TCUs requesting contributions to help pay for the reception.

President Linda Warner reported that Haskell Indian Nations University has purchased copies of a book entitled "*Seaman's Journey with Lewis and Clark*" and has distributed the book to local tribal schools so school children can retain their learning skills and have an activity to do over the summer. The book is written for a 4th or 5th grade reading level with exercises covering social studies, math, science, and language arts. President Warner asked the TCU presidents to contact her if they know of a tribal school in their local community that would be interested in receiving this book.

Dr. Janine Pease, representing Fort Peck Community College, stated that FPCC has created an accreditation team for the WINHEC accreditation process. If other schools are interested in learning about the accreditation process and preparation they can contact either her or President Shanley and the FPCC team will be happy to share their experiences.

President Clark reported that he attended the recent AIHEC Summer Student Leadership Conference held at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM. He found the conference to be very beneficial for the students and expressed appreciation to AIHEC and the A*CF for supporting the event.

VII. AIHEC CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATE.

Ms. Billy highlighted the following meeting announcements included in the Board Book:

- WINHEC 2009 Annual Meeting: August 25-29, 2009 in Ontario, Canada;
- AIHEC Indigenous Evaluation Framework Workshops: September to November 2009 in various locations.

Legislative and Executive Branch Updates

Ms. Billy reported that the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior Appropriations bill passed in the House and reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee, but has not yet been considered by the full Senate. Both the House and Senate versions of the measure include the \$50 million for forward funding of institutional operations grants that was included in the President's FY2010 Budget. Additionally, the FY2010 Interior spending bills each include a slight increase in operations funding. The FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill passed in the House and Senate, one bill includes a slight increase in funding for research and one a slight decrease in extension funds. Ms. Billy stated that THE PATH legislation continues to move forward

through the legislative process and has been endorsed by the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and the National Congress of the American Indian (NCAI). This legislation includes an amendment restoring the health and wellness centers at TCUs and the language preservation and provision. AIHEC is working with the Administration and Congress to include the health provisions of THE PATH in the health care reform legislation. The health education provisions of THE PATH may be included in broader health care reform; however, it is very unlikely that any construction provisions will be added because of the overall cost of the bill and the fact that construction funding is not part of the plan for overhauling health insurance. AIHEC needs letters of support from the AIHEC Board and their respective Tribes to be sent to Senator Tester and members of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee requesting that THE PATH legislation get on the agenda of the next business meeting of the Indian Affairs Committee. Ms. Billy noted that an AIHEC Action Alert along with a draft letter had been sent to all TCU presidents, and is included in the Board Book. AIHEC will continue to send "Action Alert" notices to presidents when a situation arises that needs Board support.

Ms. Billy reported that Tribal Colleges and Universities were all but excluded from participation in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus programs. As a result, AIHEC has contacted Members of Congress and is working with American Council on Education (ACE) and other higher education organizations, to encourage the House and the Senate to extend the two year College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (CCRAA) provision impacting HEA Titles III & V, for an additional 10 years.

AIHEC AIMS 2007 Fact Book

Ms. Billy stated that AIHEC ended its contract with Systemic Research, Inc. in February 2009 and that the AIHEC AIMS Fact Book is now being handled in-house by AIHEC staff. AIHEC is currently distributing the last AIHEC AIMS Fact Book published by Systemic Research, Inc. Future AIHEC AIMS reports will be presented in a different, more concise, format than past reports.

Other Business

Ms. Billy stated that the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce have released the first round of stimulus funding for broadband technology and services to unserved and underserved communities. The grant funding is aimed at expanding broadband access to help bridge the technological divide and create jobs that will build out internet infrastructure. Tribal Colleges and Universities are strongly encouraged to apply for these grant funds. Information concerning the rural broadband initiative was distributed to the Board members.

Ms. Billy asked the Board to review the AIHEC draft of the Executive Order on Tribal Colleges and Universities, contained in the Board Book and to forward any questions or comments to the AIHEC staff. AIHEC will submit a final recommended draft of the TCU Executive Order to the White House next week.

Ms. Goetz reported on a conference call held earlier today (July 14, 2009) concerning the White House Initiative on Community Colleges. The Community College Initiative proposes to: 1) create a community college challenge fund to improve results-oriented strategies in



exchange for federal funding, 2) fund colleges that create innovative strategies to promote enrollment and completion of community college programs, 3) provide construction funding to renovate and rebuild college classrooms and buildings, with a federal investment of approximately \$2.5 billion that will be leveraged into approximately \$10 billion, and 4) support a national skills laboratory for on-line educational programs. Ms. Goetz stated that the program is still in the proposal stage and the White House reported that full details are not yet available.

Appreciation

Chair Yarlott expressed appreciation on behalf of all of the TCU presidents and the AIHEC staff to President Crazy Bull for hosting the AIHEC 2009 Summer Meeting and Retreat on the Northwest Indian College campus.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION: President Davis moved [seconded by President Gipp] that the AIHEC 2009 Summer Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

OUTCOME: The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

Accordingly, Chair Yarlott adjourned the AIHEC 2009 Summer Board of Directors meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Mary Presswood, AIHEC staff.

Executed and acknowledged by the undersigned being the Secretary of the Corporation.

Ferlin Clark, Secretary
American Indian Higher Education Consortium

Date