

Tribal America's Brightest and Most Promising Need Apply

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) is searching for 16 American Indian leaders to participate in the award-winning leadership development initiative – the American Indian Ambassadors Program.

These emerging leaders will undergo a two-year fellowship, including three one-week gatherings across the U.S. and one international gathering (past gatherings have occurred with the Indigenous people of New Zealand, Guatemala, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Mexico).

LaDonna Harris (Comanche), champion of indigenous rights, leads the ambassadors program. Along with her fellow American Indian leaders, including tribal chairmen, judges, social workers, lawyers, politicians, and artists, Harris founded AIO in the 1970s and became a force to be reckoned with, revolutionizing and challenging Native American legislation.

In the 1990s, the AIO board of directors realized the need to pass on the collective wisdom of AIO, like their ancestors, to the next generation. Twelve years later, 150 American Indian ambassadors and a new Maori Ambassadors Program in New Zealand are having an impact on Indigenous communities worldwide.

"The AIO Ambassadors Program is a dynamic gift to Native America. When I meet ambassadors, they are aglow with this exciting experience that touches their hearts and minds, and inspires them to strive for leadership and service," proclaims Ada Deer (Menominee), a former assistant secretary of the Department of Interior.

The ambassadors program provides a creative combination of mentorship, personal inquiry into one's own "medicine" or inner strength, community organizing skills, dialogue with national and international decision-makers, and a discovery process into tribal values. Ambassadors bring the rich backgrounds and

unique values of their tribes and communities to the program.

"It's the only leadership development in the United States that allows Native Americans to define for ourselves, within the context of our own cultural values, what kind of leaders we need to ensure the future of tribal America," says Harris.

Because of its national reputation, AIO can recruit skilled leaders to engage the ambassadors in discussions and interactive sessions. From tribal elected officials and directors of national organizations to members of the U.S. Congress and the president's Cabinet to indigenous leaders from throughout the world, the ambassadors are exposed to many different leadership styles and levels of influence.

"I support AIO and the ambassadors program because of the new leaders it produces and the honor these leaders bring to their tribal nations," says the Honorable Phillip Martin, chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. His tribe has had two tribal members go through the program.

AIO is conducting an extensive national campaign to enlist America's brightest and most promising emerging American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian leaders between the ages of 25 and 35. To be considered for the highly competitive program, candidates must submit an official application and two nominations by Jan. 8, 2006, to AIO national headquarters at 1001 Marquette Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. For more information, phone 505-842-8677 or visit www.aio.org.

Americans for Indian Opportunities envisions a world that recognizes and celebrates the contributions and continuation of indigenous values. AIO catalyzes and facilitates culturally appropriate initiatives and opportunities that enrich the cultural, political, and economic lives of Native peoples.

IHS Scholarship Applications Available

The Portland Area Indian Health Service (IHS) has scholarship applications available. To request an application, please forward your name and address to the following:

Indian Health Service – Portland Area Office
Attn: Athena Bezahaloni, IHS Scholarship Coordinator
1220 SW Third Ave., Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-326-7428
Fax: 503-326-5787
E-mail: abezahal@pao.portland.ihs.gov

IHS scholarship applications are due in the Portland Area Office by Feb. 28, 2006.

Interested students are encouraged to visit www.ihs.gov/JobCareerDevelop/DHPS/Scholarships/Scholarship_index.asp for information on this scholarship program. Forms can be downloaded from this Web site that will provide students with an idea of what they will be required to submit with their application.

Previously, students were required to submit their BIA Form 4432; the scholarship committee would not consider students who submitted their tribal cards. Depending on the submission requirements for 2006/07, students are strongly advised to obtain their BIA Form 4432 now in order to be prepared.

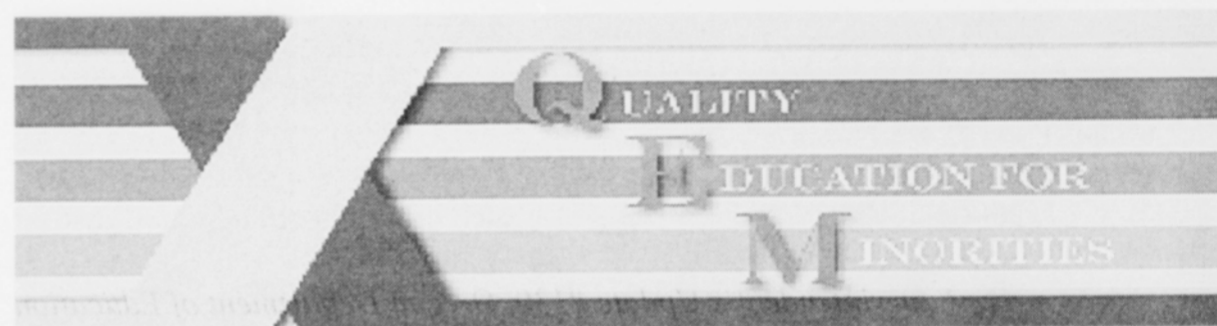
Students can obtain this form on the Internet. For filing instructions regarding BIA Form 4432, please contact your reservation BIA agency.

QEM Offers Internships for Science Students

The Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization dedicated to improving the education of minorities nationwide, is offering 10-week summer internships for students from tribal colleges and universities that run from May 29 to Aug. 4, 2006.

The QEM Network Internship Program is designed to enhance students' ability to apply their knowledge to the internship assignment, increase their

understanding of the educational and health needs of minorities, and instill a sense of responsibility to help others in their communities.



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The Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP) provides five internships for students enrolled at TCUP institutions to give them the opportunity to become familiar with science education policies and how they affect the education of American Indians; learn about health disparities disproportionately affecting American Indians; and design a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM)-focused community outreach program that will engage K-12 students in their respective communities in hands-on science and mathematics activities.

The application deadline for these internships is March 20, 2006.

For science policy-oriented internships, applicants must be majoring in the physical or life sciences, mathematics, engineering, or technology at an accredited U.S. institution.

Up to five science internship opportunities will be available to students at tribal colleges and universities who meet the eligibility criteria.

In addition to a \$3,000 stipend, interns will be provided round-trip travel, housing on the campus of George Washington University, and support for local ground transportation.

Applications can be downloaded at <http://qemnetwork.qem.org/InternshipTribalApp2006.pdf>.

Mail applications and direct inquiries to QEM Network, Internship Program, 1818 N St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20036; 202-659-1818; Fax: 202-659-5408; e-mail: qemnetwork@qem.org.

Join New Northwest Indian Storytellers Association

A group of Oregon and Washington storytellers and cultural advisors are forming the Northwest Indian Storytellers Association (NISA). Its purpose is to encourage, preserve, and strengthen traditional storytelling among tribes in Oregon and Washington.

The group is especially reaching out to younger generations who want to apprentice in storytelling.

NISA is sponsoring the First Annual Northwest Indian Storytellers Conference and Apprenticeship Workshop on Jan. 5-7, 2006, in Portland, Ore. Events will include a one-day apprenticeship workshop, one-day storytellers conference, and two public storytelling events hosted by Portland-area tribal and educational organizations.

Events will be held at the Native American Student and Community Center at Portland State University and other venues. The Mark Spencer Hotel is providing a special \$59 rate for lodging on the weekend of Jan. 5-8.

This project is sponsored by Wisdom of the Elders, Inc., the Native American Student and Community Center at Portland State University, and the Mark Spencer Hotel, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition, and Umpqua Bank.

For more information, contact Elaine Lanegan, (Siletz) Tribal liaison, at liaison@wisdomoftheelders.org or 503-777-7140.