

NOTICES

New Grant Program Available at First Nations

First Nations Development Institute (First Nations) is encouraging §7871 organizations to apply to be part of a new grant program and research initiative. Grants of \$5,000 to \$10,000 will be given to §7871 organizations selected to participate in the study.

Generally, private foundations and public charities fall under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. For Tribal governments, however, the Indian Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act of 1982 supported Indian nations in establishing, regulating and controlling philanthropic activities within their communities under the leadership of the Tribal government.

This act, codified as the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) §7871, allows Tribes to create programs (including community development programs and grant-making foundations) that can be controlled and regulated by the Tribe but also can receive donations that are tax deductible for the donor (and meet the qualifying distribution test for mainstream foundations).

Establishing tax-exempt Tribal governmental organizations under IRC §7871 allows Tribes to maintain a greater degree of sovereignty than they would under the more ubiquitous 501(c)(3) designation. Even the U.S. Supreme Court has held that Indian nations possess a status higher than states. Thus, the more traditional 501(c)(3) designation unfairly subjects Indian nations (and their political subdivisions) to the oversight of states' attorney general offices, where jurisdiction over "expressly public and charitable purposes" is generally housed.

First Nations will work with the selected §7871 organizations to gather data for a report targeted at educating and informing foundations, corporations with charitable giving programs and the philanthropic community about §7871 organizations. Additionally, the report will provide critical information for Tribes and Tribal communities to assist them with developing new or supporting existing §7871 organizations.

Harvard to Pay Tuition

Harvard University has announced that from now on, undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition.

In making the announcement, Harvard's President Lawrence H. Summers said, "When only 10 percent of the students in elite higher education come from families in the lower half of the income distribution, we are not doing enough."

If you know of a family earning less than \$60,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard University wants to pay the tuition.

To find out more, visit Harvard's financial aid website at www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/ or call the school's financial aid office at 617-495-1581.

"§7871 organizations are largely misunderstood by mainstream funders and the general public," said Michael E. Roberts, president of First Nations Development Institute. "This lack of understanding and acceptance greatly reduces the ability of Tribes to raise critically needed funding."

Roberts says the program was created to educate the philanthropic sector about §7871 organizations in an effort to ensure Tribes creating §7871 organizations retain their rights and guard their sovereignty when trying to access funding and compete on the same level playing field as their mainstream non-profit and philanthropic counterparts.

"We hope to learn more about §7871 organizations and the different forms they take," stated Sarah Echohawk Vermillion, vice president of First Nations Development Institute. "The purpose of the research that comes out of this grant-making program is to generate data about §7871 organizations, their institutional structures and programmatic areas, and to highlight benefits and methods of giving to §7871 organizations."

Interested §7871 organizations should go to www.firstnations.org to download instructions and complete a short application. The deadline for applying is 5 p.m. (MST) on Nov. 21, 2008.

For more information about this project, contact Sarah Dewees, director of research, at sdewees@firstnations.org or visit First Nations Development Institute's website at www.firstnations.org.

Congressional Internship Available

The Native American Congressional Internship Program provides American Indians and Alaska Natives with an insider's view of the federal government.

Our 10-week internship in Washington, D.C., places students in Senate and House offices, committees, Cabinet departments and the White House, where they are able to observe government decision-making processes firsthand.

In 2009, the foundation expects to award 12 internships on the basis of merit to American Indians and Alaska Natives who:

- Are college juniors or seniors, recent graduates from Tribal or four-year colleges, or graduate or law students
- Have demonstrated an interest in fields related to Tribal public policy, such as Tribal governance, Tribal law, Native American education, Native American health, Native American justice, natural resource protection, cultural preservation and revitalization, and Native American economic development

Enter National Native Student Artist Competition

Tradition is My Life, Education is My Future is the theme of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Indian Education's fifth anniversary Native American Student Artist Competition.

The competition, which celebrates the value and successes of education in Indian communities, is open to all American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades pre-K through 12. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 16, 2009.

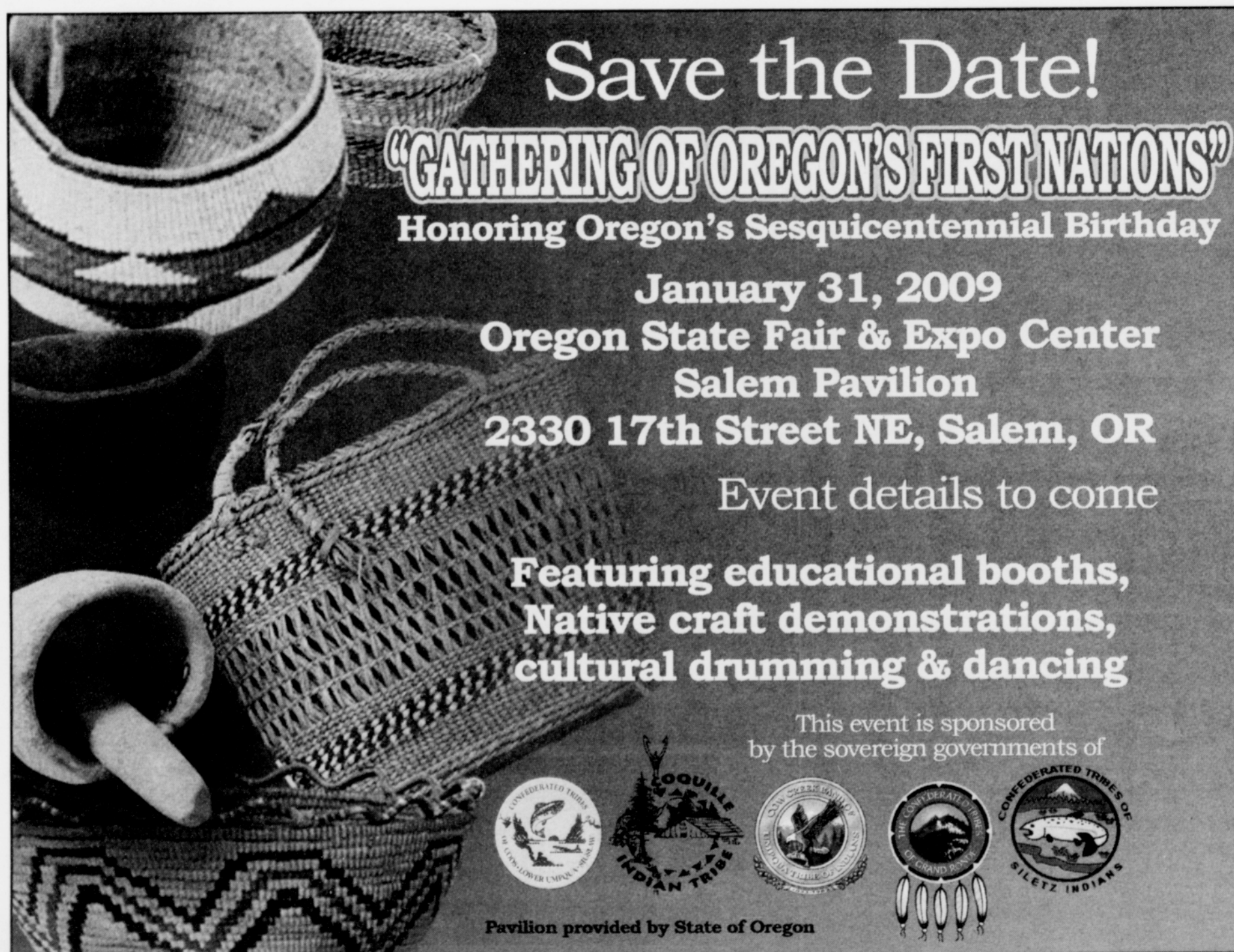
By supporting this competition, the Office of Indian Education (OIE) hopes to inspire students to explore the connection between their education and culture through art and writing. Entries for the 2009 Native American Student Artist Competition should relate to the theme *Tradition is My Life, Education is My Future* and reflect the promise and importance of pursuing an education for Native youth.

Submissions will be judged in six different grade levels and prizes will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners in the art and writing categories.

In recognition of the students' artistic talents, the 2008 Native American Student Artist winning entries were exhibited at the U.S. Department of Education; OIE's Partnership for Indian Education conference in Rapid City, S.D.; the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian; and the Chicago Children's Museum.

Student Artist Competition rules require that a student register his or her entry online or over the phone prior to submitting it.

For additional information, rules and entry form, visit www.indianeducation.org or e-mail rganuelas@kauffmaninc.com or call 866-259-0060.



Save the Date!

"GATHERING OF OREGON'S FIRST NATIONS"

Honoring Oregon's Sesquicentennial Birthday

January 31, 2009

Oregon State Fair & Expo Center

Salem Pavilion

2330 17th Street NE, Salem, OR

Event details to come

**Featuring educational booths,
Native craft demonstrations,
cultural drumming & dancing**

This event is sponsored
by the sovereign governments of



Pavilion provided by State of Oregon