

First transfer from land buy-back program goes to Cobell education fund

Initial transfer of nearly \$580,000 will fund scholarships for Native students

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior announced April 2 that quarterly transfers of funds to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund were set to begin that week with a transfer of nearly \$580,000 to the American Indian College Fund.

The scholarship fund was authorized by the historic Cobell Settlement, approved in November 2012, to provide financial assistance through annual scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native students wishing to pursue post-secondary education and training.

“The scholarship fund is an important tool to help students across Indian Country pursue higher education opportunities imperative to their success in the workplace and to the creation of the next generation of Indian leaders,” said Interior Solicitor Hilary Tompkins, who helped negotiate the Cobell Settlement on behalf of the department. “While there was much

debate in the settlement negotiations, there was no debate among the parties that we must do something to support Indian students in their aspirations and dreams.”

The scholarship fund is funded in part by the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations.

This program was created to implement the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which provided \$1.9 billion to purchase fractionated interests in trust or restricted land from willing landowners. Consolidated interests are transferred to Tribal government ownership for uses benefiting the reservation community and Tribal members.

Interior will contribute up to \$60 million from buy-back program sales to the scholarship fund based on a formula in the Cobell Settlement that sets aside a certain amount of funding depending on the value of the fractionated interest sold. These contributions do not reduce the amount that owners will receive for voluntarily consolidating their interests.

The American Indian College Fund, headquartered in Denver, Colo., will administer the scholarship fund and has

extensive experience in providing students with the resources to succeed in Tribal colleges and technical and vocational certifications as well as traditional undergraduate and graduate programs.

A five-member board of trustees is responsible for the supervision of the college fund’s administration of the scholarship fund and for developing a charter outlining its role and responsibilities.

The college fund is working with the Cobell board of trustees to stand up its operation in concert with this first transfer of funds.

Twenty percent of the fund’s portfolio will be directed to support graduate students through the American Indian Graduate Center in Albuquerque, N.M.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, president and CEO of the college fund, shared that the Cobell Scholarship Program will help meet the tremendous financial need for educational support for American Indian and Alaska Native students across the country, many of whom live in poverty.

“We are honored to remember the vision of Elouise Cobell that the Cobell Scholarship Fund would be used to lift

up Tribal students and their families,” she said.

More information about the Cobell Scholarship Program and how interested students can apply can be found at the American Indian College Fund website, collegefund.org/Cobell.

This first transfer of funds follows recent land purchases from willing sellers at the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations.

More than \$100 million in purchase offers are currently pending for landowners with fractional interests at Pine Ridge. Owners must accept and return current purchase offers for fractionated lands on Pine Ridge by May 4.

Landowners can contact their local fiduciary trust officer or call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at 888-678-6836 with questions about their purchase offers. More information also is available at doi.gov/buybackprogram/landowners.

Participation in the buy-back program does not impact a landowner’s ability to receive individual settlement payments from the Cobell Settlement. These payments are being handled separately by the Garden City Group, 800 -961-6109.

Oregon Farm Bureau seeks calendar photos of all aspects of farming and ranching

Oregon’s Bounty is an award-winning calendar produced by Oregon Farm Bureau that features gorgeous photos of agriculture.

Images for the 2015 calendar are being sought. Farm Bureau invites the public to submit their own photos of Oregon agriculture – the commodities, the families, the production, the landscape, the events, the enjoyment,

anything that depicts the beauty, technology, culture or tradition of farming and ranching.

Horizontal-format, high-resolution images – both close-ups and panoramic views – are needed of all types of agriculture in all seasons.

Photographers with images selected for month pages in Oregon’s Bounty will receive a photo credit in the 2015 calendar,

copies of the calendar and a year of Farm Bureau membership if they have not already joined the organization.

The deadline for entries is Sept. 15.

Photo specifications and contest rules are available at oregonfb.org/calendar.

Photographers do not need to be Farm Bureau members to participate and there is no limit to the number of photos that can be submitted.

The calendar is sent to 61,000 Farm Bureau members around the state and hundreds more are distributed throughout the year.

For more information or to request a copy of the 2014 Oregon’s Bounty calendar, contact Anne Marie Moss, OFB communications director, at annemarie@oregonfb.org or 503-399-1701, ext. 313.



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The room rate is \$69 a night, mention the Native Wellness Institute to receive group rate.

Camping available at no cost.
Limited tents and sleeping bags will be available on a first come first serve basis.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Marce Norwest Veterans Pow Wow will take place
July 11 - 13, 2014 after the Native Veterans Summit.

All meals will be provided.

Please help us recruit Veterans by sharing this brochure with them, and by providing transportation or other assistance to attend. If you or your program are interested in sponsoring the gathering financially, please contact NWI.

For more information and to register online visit our website at www.NativeWellness.com or email us at info@nativewellness.com.

Applications available for AIGC scholarships

American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) applications are available online for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Attention High School Seniors

- The Accenture American Indian Scholarship application deadline is June 15.

Attention Graduate Students

- The AIGC Fellowship application deadline is June 1.
- The Loan for Service application deadline is June 1.
- The AIGC & Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) Fellowship application deadline is June 6.
- The AIGC Cobell Scholarship application deadline is June 1.

All application materials must be submitted through the AIGC Online Application System (OAS) – visit the AIGC website at aigcs.org.

To enter the Online Application System, click the Apply Now button found in various places on the AIGC website.

Email all inquiries to fellowships@aigcs.org.

Information, deadlines for the college-bound Tribal senior

May

- This is the deadline for final decisions for universities.
- Send letter of intent to registrar.
- Line up a summer job.
- Attend your Senior Awards Night.
- Review any award letters and be sure you understand the terms and conditions that accompany each type of aid.
- If necessary, arrange for housing and a meal plan (at school).
- Send thank you notes to any person/committee from which you received a scholarship.

June

- Tribal higher education and AVT applications are due June 30!
- Attend graduation – congratulations!
- Make arrangements for your final grades to be sent to colleges and universities.
- Good luck!