



Photo by Diane Rodriguez

Candidates for the 2016 Tribal Council election include (l to r) Alfred (Bud) Lane III, Delores Pigsley, Selene Rilatos, Bonnie Petersen, Frank Aspria Sr. and Lillie Butler. Not pictured: Sherelle Martin and Phillip Rilatos III.

All ballots for this election must be received by 4 p.m. on Feb. 6.

You can vote in person on Feb. 6 at the Tribal Community Center in Siletz, Ore., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Be sure to vote!



14th Annual State of Indian Nations Address

Remarks of Brian Cladoosby, President
National Congress of American Indians
Jan. 14, 2016 • Washington, D.C.

A moment of progress and promise

I thank the Creator for bringing us together. My fellow Tribal leaders, members of Congress, members of the administration, veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, friends and partners gathered here and watching from home – thank you for joining us for the State of Indian Nations address.

On this day, we meet at a moment of progress and promise in Indian Country. Progress made possible by Tribal self-determination. This administration – and a growing number in Congress – understand that when Tribes forge their own paths, Indian Country benefits and America benefits.

Two days ago, President Obama delivered his final State of the Union address to talk about America's progress. He said, "But such progress is not inevitable. It is the result of choices we make together."

This morning, I want to reflect on the progress that Indian Country has made in the face of the challenges we have inherited and recognize the promise we can seize by strengthening the self-determination that Tribes have always had.

Our nation-to-nation relationship

When our ancestors first welcomed European settlers to this continent, indigenous nations had formed a wide range of strong and sophisticated systems of governance.

The Wampanoag, the Muscogee, the Anishinaabe, the Ottawa alliance all existed long before colonies and states and, ultimately, the United States. There were six Tribal nations in the Iroquois Confederacy. This will sound familiar to you – civilian representatives chosen to serve in a central government, with separate military leadership. Benjamin Franklin said, in so many words: If the Six Nations can do it, why can't the colonies?

This indigenous framework became America's framework. And as the U.S. government took shape, it continued to recognize the self-determination and independence of Tribal nations.

The Constitution puts it plainly. It gives Congress the power, and I quote, "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes."

That's WITH foreign nations. AMONG states. And WITH Indian Tribes.

But our right to retain our powers of self-government is not just printed in the text of the Constitution. It has also been affirmed in laws, executive orders and Supreme Court decisions. Thomas Jefferson wrote to President George Washington, and I quote, "Indians [have] full, undivided and independent sovereignty as long as they choose to keep it, and this might be forever."¹

Oregon expands career readiness with \$9 million investment in hands-on learning for 142 schools

PORTLAND, Ore. – One hundred and forty-two Oregon middle schools and high schools – serving more than 85,000 students – have secured career readiness grants totaling \$9 million, Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Salam Noor announced on Jan. 12.

The CTE Revitalization Grant funds will serve diverse communities around the state with programs focused on advanced manufacturing, engineering, agricultural science, app development, robotics, tourism, forestry, home renovation and health care.

"A skilled workforce is the foundation of a healthy economy," said Avakian. "Today's grants will give more Oregon students access to the hands-on learning and skills training that they need to succeed. The grant fund takes a bottom-up approach so that the career readiness investment matches the greatest need in high-wage, high-growth fields."

In total, the 25 grants will leverage additional funds from 277 local business and community partners.

"These grants will help more students prepare for college and career," said Deputy Superintendent Salam Noor. "I'm very pleased to see the ongoing expansion of hands-on, applied learning to more schools around the state. These programs are good for students, good for businesses, and good for local communities."

Graduation rates for students in CTE programs are near 90 percent, according to the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium.

The grants build on earlier investments by the Oregon Legislature in 2011, 2013 and 2014 totaling \$14 million.

The CTE Revitalization Advisory Committee – composed of representatives from organized labor, trade organizations, education and Oregon's energy and business community jointly appointed by the Oregon Department of Education and Bureau of Labor and Industries – reviewed 73 applications totaling \$24.5 million in requests.

The committee prioritized applications based on geographic diversity, community partnerships and programs that lead to high-wage, high-demand occupations, especially for historically underserved students.

A diverse coalition of advocates will seek to refill and expand the grant fund during the 2017 Oregon legislative session as part of the larger effort to ensure that every middle school and high school has access to high quality and engaging CTE programs.

The grants are distributed as follows:

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