

# Important information for college-bound Tribal seniors

## March

- Check for three Tribal scholarships at [ctsi.nsn.us](http://ctsi.nsn.us).
- Complete scholarships.
- Start working on Tribal higher education or adult vocational training grant application. This can be found on the Tribe's website and is due June 30.
- Review Student Aid Report (SAR).
- You should start receiving admission responses.

## April

- Send thank you notes to people who have helped you.

- Make final decision about which college or university you will attend.
- If you decide to decline enrollment to a college or university to which you have been accepted, send notice indicating this to the college's admissions office.

## 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 adult vocational training applications are due June 30!
- Attend graduation – congratulations!
- Make arrangements for your final grades to be sent to colleges and universities.
- Good luck!

# Tribes to Congress: Respect our sovereignty

WASHINGTON – Appearing on Feb. 11 before a House Financial Services Committee hearing examining the treatment of American Indians by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a key American Indian leader urged Congress to once again stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Indian Country to help ensure the CFPB respects the historic government-to-government relationships of federal entities and sovereign Tribes with any rule they produce on short-term lending.

Sherry Treppa, chairperson of the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, offered impassioned testimony on the struggles her Tribe has overcome through the centuries from staving off existential threats to ensuring economic self-sufficiency.

Treppa said the Tribe's decision to enter into ecommerce short-term lending empowered her Nation to finally rebuild and transform its economy, education programs and the social services it provides to its most vulnerable members.

Now Tribes like Treppa's are facing a possible threat to their economic vitality as the CFPB prepares to announce a new rule on short-term lending that may ignore the strict regulatory framework that her Tribe and many other members of the Native American Financial Services Association (NAFSA) have established to protect consumers.

Treppa called on the CFPB to acknowledge the robust regulatory framework her Tribe and others created and operate within.

"In contrast to our experience working with other federal agencies as well as state and local governments, the CFPB has refused to engage in a meaningful dialogue about our shared interests and so far has shown little interest to work together, where necessary, as co-regulators," said Treppa. "I remain concerned that the CFPB is developing its proposed action in a vacuum without consulting with Tribes to learn about the innumerable tools that we have developed to ensure that we conduct business in a manner that is fair, responsible, compliant and benefits our Tribal members and the American consumer."

She urged Congress to take an approach that respects Tribal sovereignty and one that takes account of both consumer need and the robust self-regulation that sovereign Tribes such as the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake have established.

Barry Brandon, executive director of NAFSA, noted that Dodd-Frank, the legislation that created the CFPB, specifically assigns co-regulator status to Tribal nations.

"As federally-recognized sovereign nations, NAFSA member Tribes enact and operate under strict Tribal lending laws that safeguard borrowers and regulate Tribal businesses," Brandon said. "NAFSA is hopeful the CFPB's rule will respect the status of Tribal nations as co-regulators as specified by the Dodd-Frank Act and ensure consumers remain protected while preserving the right of American families to access the financial products that they need."

## Scholarships

### 2016 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship Deadline: March 14

Any 11<sup>th</sup>- or 12<sup>th</sup>-grade Oregon student can enter by submitting an original essay, poem or narrative work (maximum 600 words) in response to the following question: "How would a successful movement to confront climate change help create a more just and peaceful world?"

Submissions can be sent by email (preferred) or postal mail and are due by 5 p.m. on March 14. A panel of judges composed of local writers, activists and distinguished community members will select the winning entries.

First prize is a \$1,000 scholarship, second is \$750 and third is \$500.

For more information, email [peacecontest@oregonpsr.org](mailto:peacecontest@oregonpsr.org) or call 503-274-2720.

### American Indian Education Foundation Scholarships Deadline: April 4

- Undergraduates students must be of American Indian or Alaska Native descent (student or one parent must be enrolled and have documentation) and be enrolled full-time in an accredited two- or four-year college/university or technical/vocational school.
- Graduate students must be of American Indian or Alaska Native descent and attending an accredited graduate school (online college is not applicable).

### Catching the Dream Scholarship Deadline: April 30

Throughout the United States, Native communities suffer from a lack of qualified professionals. Well-paying jobs exist in Indian communities, but few Indians are prepared to fill them.

A prime reason for the lack of qualified Indian professionals is the poor state of American Indian education today. The high school dropout rate for Indians is 50 percent, more than twice the rate for the nation as a whole. Of the Indian students who finish high school, only 17 percent attend college, with the majority attending public, two-year community colleges.

Catching the Dream seeks to address this deficiency. Our high-priority areas of study are math, engineering, science, business, education and computers.

### Wells Fargo American Indian Scholarship Deadline: May 1

This scholarship is funded by Wells Fargo and administered by the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC).

To be considered for the Wells Fargo scholarship, an applicant must be pursuing a career and degree in fields relating to banking, resort management, gaming operations, management and administration, including accounting, finance, information technology and human resources.

### REDW Native American Scholarship in Accounting Deadline: May 1

This scholarship is funded by REDW, a national certified public accounting and business consulting firm that boasts many American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and enterprises among its clients.

REDW recognizes not only the need for scholarship support for Native people to enter the field of accounting, but also the need for students to gain valuable experience and mentorship in the field. REDW will support two students each year.

REDW will provide priority application status to scholarship recipients for paid REDW internships in either the Phoenix, Ariz., or Albuquerque, N.M., offices.

### Accenture American Indian Scholarship Fund Deadline: May 1

The Accenture American Indian Scholarship Fund was established to build personal and lasting relationships with students who will become the future leaders in the American Indian communities and possibly with Accenture. This scholarship program and funded by Accenture and administered by AIGC.

Each academic year, Accenture selects students who demonstrate character, personal merit and commitment to the American Indian community locally and/or nationally. Merit is demonstrated through leadership in school, civic and extracurricular activities, academic achievement, and motivation to serve and succeed.

Applicants must be seeking a degree in engineering, computer science, operations management, management, finance, marketing and other business-oriented fields.

### Wilson-Hooper Veterinary Medicine Assistance Program Deadline: May 13

The Wilson-Hooper Veterinary Medicine Assistance Program, in memory of Jane Wilson Hooper and Col. Philip L. Hooper, provides scholarships to students pursuing veterinary medicine and veterinary technician degrees. If you love animals and possess the desire to pursue a degree at an accredited college or university, you may qualify for funding from this program.

Awards are merit based and there is opportunity for multi-year funding.

### NCAI Scholarships Deadline: Various

The National Congress of American Indians is committed to investing in the next generation of leaders to protect and enhance Tribal sovereignty for generations to come. Young Native leaders are invited to apply for either our internship or the Wilma Mankiller Fellowship.

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Jamie Gomez at [JGomez@ncai.org](mailto:JGomez@ncai.org).

Deadlines for 2016 applications are as follows:

- Wilma Mankiller Fellowship: March 15
- Summer 2016 Internship: March 31
- Fall 2016 Internship: Accepted on a rolling application process

### Cobell Scholarship

The Cobell Scholarship will now be administered through the Cobell Scholarship Fund for the 2016-2017 academic year.

For questions concerning the Cobell Scholarship and to apply for funding for summer 2016 and academic year 2016-2017, contact [scholarships@cobellscholar.org](mailto:scholarships@cobellscholar.org) for more information or visit [cobellscholar.org](http://cobellscholar.org).

For information about **Agent Orange**, possible health-related problems and VA benefits:

- Toll-free Helpline – 800-749-8387, press 3
- [publichealth.va.gov/xposures/agentorange/](http://publichealth.va.gov/xposures/agentorange/)