

Portland nonprofit receives multi-million dollar gift for Native arts and cultures

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) has been awarded a multi-million dollar gift in support of its mission to advance equity and cultural knowledge.

A Native-led organization, NACF focuses on the power of arts and collaboration to strengthen Native communities and promote positive social, cultural and environmental change. NACF is one of 286 high-impact organizations nationwide that received \$2.7 billion in gifts from philanthropists MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett.

“We would like to express our warmest gratitude to MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett for acknowledging NACF’s work and impact in the Native arts and cultures field with this generous commitment,” said Lulani Arquette, NACF president/CEO. “We are at a pivotal moment in Indigenous communities in which creative forces are aligning for the good of all. As NACF grows our organization and programming, we believe art is a powerful force to bring about transformative change, healing and understanding.”

While Native-led nonprofits are often overlooked in philanthropic giving,

Native artists and organizations are doing profound work to strengthen Native communities, change misconceptions about Indigenous peoples, and create space and opportunities for Indigenous voices to be amplified.

NACF is pleased to receive this gift in the company of other valued Native recipient organizations and is inspired by the support, recognition and visibility this will bring to Indigenous issues.

“We are grateful to be included alongside so many vital organizations in our collective efforts to uplift the strengths of American Indian, Native Hawaiian and

Alaska Native people and support positive social change,” says Arquette.

The gift comes as NACF transitions to a new national headquarters in Portland after taking ownership of a historic building in the city’s vibrant southeast neighborhood. The Center for Native Arts and Cultures (CNAC) will be a robust community asset and gathering place for Native artists and local partnerships.

NACF has distributed more than 500 grants since 2009 to artists and arts organizations in 34 states and the District of Columbia. To learn more about NACF and CNAC, visit nativeartsandcultures.org.

CTSI Jobs

Tribal employment information is available at ctsi.nsn.us.

Note: “Open Until Filled” vacancies may close at any time. The Tribe’s Indian Preference policy will apply. Tribal government will not discriminate in selection because of race, creed, age, sex, color, national origin, physical handicap, marital status, politics, membership or non-membership in an employee organization.

CTSI constantly is looking for temporary employees to cover vacancy, vacations, maternity leave and extended sick leave. If you are looking for temporary work that can last from 2-12 weeks, please submit an application for the temp pool.

Most Often Requested Numbers

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians – 800-922-1399
Salem Area Office – 503-390-9494
Portland Area Office – 503-238-1512
Eugene Area Office – 541-484-4234
Purchased Referred Care (PRC) – 800-628-5720
Tribal Veterans Rep – 541-444-8330 or 541-270-0569

Siletz Community Health Clinic – 800-648-0449
Siletz Behavioral Health – 800-600-5599
Chinook Winds Casino Resort – 888-244-6665
Chemawa Health Clinic – 800-452-7823
Bureau of Indian Affairs – 800-323-8517
Website – www.ctsi.nsn.us

College Fund awards 4 Tribal colleges with 4-year computer science grants

Program will give Native students access to tech fields, provide culturally relevant computer science programming

DENVER – Computer science education provides today’s college students the necessary skills and opportunities to thrive in today’s world. Yet American Indian and Alaska Native peoples are still and have been historically underrepresented in the computer science fields.

To remedy that, the American Indian College Fund launched its Tribal College and University Computer Science Initiative to create new and expand existing computer science programs at higher education institutions serving American Indian and Alaska Native students to meet the community and workforce needs of Indigenous communities and provide career opportunities for Native students in computer science fields.

The four-year initiative will focus on faculty hiring and professional development; developing or enhancing computer science academic programs and curriculum at the TCUs; developing and participating in a community of practice activities; and participating in community engagement, sustained pathways and/or student support through industry partner relationships.

The College Fund selected the following four applicants to participate in the initiative:

- Bay Mills Community College (BMCC), located in Brimley, Mich. BMCC’s program, Nanda-gikendan Waasimowini (seek to learn computers in Ojibwe), will develop an online Bachelor of Science degree in computer information systems with a computer science track that will be accessible across the country. BMCC will hire one additional full-time instructor to develop courses and two

adjunct faculty to meet specific course needs. It will also support its current Computer Information Systems department chair/faculty member in obtaining a graduate degree and relevant computer science education and training. BMCC students will receive hands-on experience in programming, project design and technical support, and will help BMCC create computer science awareness in the community.

- The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), located in Santa Fe, N.M., will launch the IAIA Art of Computer Science program. IAIA will create an interdisciplinary computer science environment across degree programs using computer science courses/modules while supporting development of a gaming degree. It will also hire full-time, pro-rata and adjunct faculty to teach, and contractors to develop computer science curriculum and assist other departments with integrating computer science education across disciplines. To ensure all faculty have proficient computer skills, IAIA will also support professional development for 35 permanent faculty to take basic computer science coursework to integrate computer science concepts and skills into their courses and programs of study. The institute will implement community engagement projects for students to incorporate computer science education and awareness into their community internships to help provide their communities understand the value of computers and computer science skills in a culturally relevant way.
- Navajo Technical University (NTU), located in Crownpoint, N.M., will launch its CSE@NTU-Computer Science Enhancement at NTU program to enhance current associate degrees in computer science programming by

expanding the programs to the Bachelor of Science degree level. NTU will hire one additional full-time computer science faculty member to assist in teaching and developing the program. NTU will also support current computer science faculty and the new hire with professional development opportunities relevant to computer science education and will incorporate speaking opportunities for computer science industry experts and professionals to work with faculty, staff and students.

- Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in Pablo, Mont., will launch its Increasing Computer Science Capacity at Salish Kootenai College program to offer computer science programs through the creation of a one-year certificate of completion in computer programming and to offer enhanced computer science coursework for SKC’s STEM disciplines. SKC will develop a path for the computer programming program’s sustainability through dual-enrollment opportunities for reservation high school students. The college will hire one additional full-time computer science faculty member to support dual-enrollment courses and courses within the proposed one-year certificate program. It will support current and new faculty with professional development opportunities in culturally sustaining pedagogy, technical pedagogy and specialized industry training relevant to computer science education and training. SKC will also host summer coding workshops and develop dual-enrollment computer science courses with at least two reservation high schools to enhance student exposure to computer science education and careers.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, president and CEO of the College Fund, said, “The self-determination of the Tribal people is closely aligned with our ability to adapt and make use of all the tools of modern society. I am reminded that as Native people that we have always valued using the tools created by others to make our lives better. My colleagues at the College Fund and I agree that computer science is one of those tools. Computer science is foundational to so many aspects of life today. Everything from information technology to entertainment to building a picture of the well-being of our communities is tied to our ability to use computer science to our advantage. We are excited that our TCUs will be able to increase their capacity and open doors to more career opportunities.”

About the College Fund

The American Indian College Fund has been the nation’s largest charity supporting Native higher education for 31 years. It believes “Education is the answer” and provided \$9.25 million in scholarships to American Indian students in 2019-20, with scholarships, program and community support totaling more than \$237 million since its inception.

The College Fund also supports a variety of academic and support programs at the nation’s 35 accredited Tribal colleges and universities, which are located on or near Indian reservations, ensuring students have the tools to graduate and succeed in their careers. The College Fund consistently receives top ratings from independent charity evaluators and is one of the nation’s top 100 charities named to the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance.

For more information about the American Indian College Fund, please visit collegefund.org.