

Education News

Be Aware of Private Training Schools with Big Promises

Every year the Tribal Education Program is approached by students who do not want to devote time toward pursuing a two year program at a local community college. Instead they see and hear glamorous sales pitches on TV made by a variety of private or proprietary schools offering training in everything from broadcasting, to modeling and fashion design, to becoming a professional wrestler. Many of the schools are legitimate and they do offer alternative programs. However a majority of the schools will have a student immediately signed up and locked into a large loan. Many of the schools are not concerned that you have completed applications on file with respective Tribal agencies. And will usually promise a student that if you sign up today, we will force or strongly encourage the Tribe to pay for your schooling. the bottom line is, before you sign up with any school there are a few things you need to be aware of, such as:

1. Is the School accredited and is it approved for training by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and your Tribe?
2. What type of FINANCIAL AID is offered by the school? Many of the schools only offer a Pell Grant (if you're eligible and if your program is more than three months in length) and possibly a Stafford Loan or GSL. In many cases, schools will require you to register for the loans. You are locked into debt immediately, if you are not careful.
3. Will your start date (the day you will begin classes) begin immediately? In many cases schools will have you committed to starting classes within a few days, even if this does not meet the 45 day rule. **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR APPLICATION SUBMITTED INTO THE TRIBAL EDUCATION OFFICE 45 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE YOU WILL START CLASSES**. Realize the Tribe has 45 days prior to the date your classes begin, to review, approve or disapprove your application. If you sign up for classes and begin before your applica-

tion is actually approved, you may find yourself locked into some financial obligations with the school.

4. What is the success record of the school and does the school really follow up on the promises they might make on television, "we guarantee job placement". Does the school really help you find a job?

5. Some schools won't allow you to register unless you pay a \$50 or \$100 registration fee. Is this fee refundable after you begin the registration process then change your mind?

6. What type of interaction has the school had with Tribes, the Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs?

The above items are not an indictment against all private or proprietary schools. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has had positive support and interaction with a number of the institutions. But we have also had circumstances where the schools and the Tribe have lost students due to lack of communications regarding attendance and academic progress.

If you are set and determined to pursue a training program at a private school, the Adult Vocational Training Program will work hard toward making sure you are provided every opportunity. However we want to be certain you are sure about your decision. The costs for tuition at many of the private schools run from, \$4,500 to \$5,500 per year on the average. The average costs for tuition at a community college for one year is \$1,150 for tuition and books per year.

No school offers you a real short cut. All programs require time, money and your quality participation. Be aware many schools will promise you many things, but some times they don't always deliver.

To learn which schools are approved and which schools fall in unfavorable light by the Tribal Education Program, contact Dean at (503) 879-5211.

Native Americans in Marine Science

Starting in the Fall of 1990, the College of Oceanography at Oregon State University (OSU) will begin a research participation program for American Indian and Alaskan Native undergraduates interested in exploring science as a career.

Funded by a National Science Foundation grant, the objective is to increase the number of Native Americans in the scientific professions. Students will work as research assistants with faculty involved in marine-related scientific research projects, in the College of Oceanography and in other Departments at OSU. The program will provide part-time employment during the academic year and up to full-time in the summer for ten Indian students.

Initially, student research assistant appointments will be for not less than two academic quarters. During the academic year, assistants will work about 10 hours per week on a flexible schedule, adapted to fit their class schedules. Appointments will be renewable for longer periods if performance is satisfactory. Opportunities will be available in the summer to work up to full-time. The pay rate will be \$7.00 per hour. Student research assistants are expected to maintain a GPA of at least 2.5 for the academic year to continue in the program. Applicants must be regularly enrolled Native American undergraduates in good academic standing at OSU and meet the National Science Foundation definition of an American Indian or Alaskan Native.

For more information, contact OSU professor, Jefferson J. Goner, (503) 737-3504.

A New Series of Booklets to Help Students

Minority students are eligible for hundreds of special financial aid programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. These are sponsored by a wide variety of professional associations, federal and state agencies, foundations, and other sources.

The variety and volume of these programs makes it difficult for students and their counselors to learn about more than a fraction of them. For this reason, these booklets have been developed to assemble in a readily available form information on a number of current programs. The booklets are designed for use by individual students, by counselors working with graduating classes, and by resource libraries and others working with minority group members.

Each booklet is from 60 to 70 pages and includes the following information: Summary and description of the field including employment outlook and the numbers of minority group members now employed in it. Directory of financial aid programs which have been developed to assist minority group students seeking scholarships, fellowships, loans, or other help. List of associations or organizations in the field which offer additional assistance to students. Resources for supplementary information including books on the career field and other references which may provide financial aid information.

TO: Garrett Park Press
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New J.O.M. Coordinator Takes Over

By Brent Merrill

New JOM Coordinator Barbara Steere might be lacking in experience, but she makes up for it with

intense motivation and a positive attitude.

Despite the fact that this is her first job in an educational program, Steere has already earned the praise of her supervisor. "While she doesn't have a lot of experience in the field of education she is very enthusiastic about her new position and she has shown a willingness to learn," said Dean Azule. Azule, who is the Tribes Education Coordinator, said her presence has been refreshing.

Steere explained that her job consists of finding ways to help students in a wide variety of areas. "We do every thing here from providing grade school children with school supplies to coordinating self-esteem classes for older students." Azule said that innovation is one of Steere's strong points. "She has stated that she would like to increase youth activities throughout the school year," said Azule. "She is also very conscientious about cooperating with the youth activities that have been scheduled through the Tribes' Drug and Alcohol Program."

Barbara grew up in the Grand Ronde area and went to school in Willamina. Her parents are Orville and Ramona Leno. She is married to Mark Steere.

She looks at her new position as a chance to prove herself. "I look at this job as a challenge and I have always believed that you can do anything if you just set your mind to it."