

# Education Update

*With the 1992 school year fast approaching closure, the Tribal Education Program is undergoing major changes in how students will receive assistance for the 1993-94 school year. Both Higher Education and Adult Vocational training Programs have increased enrollment during the 1991 and 1992 school years. The current funding level cannot address all student applications and can't provide for students' entire financial need to attend school. It is extremely important all students seek grants, scholarships, and other resources to supplement their educational expenses.*

## GRANT AWARD CEILING

Beginning the 1993-94 financial aid year (Summer 93-Spring 94), the Tribe is setting a maximum ceiling on all Higher Education and Adult Vocational training awards. The total per year award will be a maximum of \$3,600 per student, with a per term distribution of \$1,200. This does not mean each student will receive \$3,600 per year. It means if a student's unmet need is greater than \$3,600 they can only receive this amount from the Tribe. During the 1992-93 school year, the average amount awarded to each student was \$2,400 per year. Each student is strongly urged to apply for all the financial aid he/she can get. It is also important for students to seek out scholarships.

## LOANS AND COLLEGE WORK STUDY

It is now a policy that PERKINS LOANS, STAFFORD LOANS, and COLLEGE WORK STUDY will no longer be replaced by the Tribe for the 1993-94 school year. This does not mean that a student has to accept any of the loans if they are included in the Financial Aid package. The loans are recommendations, they are not mandatory. If a student feels he/she can live without them or do without work study, they can be declined, but the tribe will no longer replace the monies.

## GRADE REPORTS AND TRANSCRIPTS

In most cases, a majority of students responsibly get grade reports to the Education office in a timely manner. Lately there have been more and more students becoming extremely lax in submitting these reports. Beginning Fall Term, 1993, no checks will be issued if grade reports have not been submitted. Many of the students have expressed concern with schools that do not complete the grading process until well into the first week of the next term. If this is the case with your school, contact the school and have your grades sent directly to the tribal offices. Arrangements will need to be made through the school's registrar.

## CONTINUING STUDENTS

Because of the increase in new student applications each year, we are now instituting a deadline for continuing students. If a student is currently in school and will be attending school next year, he/she must have a copy of the Federal Student Aid Application submitted to the Education office by February 15, 1994. If we do not have a copy of the FSA filing, we will drop students from the priority list as "continuing students" and they will compete with new students for financial assistance. This requirement is targeted for both Higher Education and Adult Vocational Training.

### ATTENTION!

*If you plan to attend school, Higher Education, or Adult Vocational Training during the 1993-94 school year, you must submit your application to the tribal office by these dates:*

**Fall term 1993—deadline July 1, 1993**  
**Winter term 1993—Nov. 1, 1993**  
**Spring term 1994—February 28, 1994**  
**Summer term 1994—April 30, 1994**

## SUMMER TERMS DISCOUNTED

Beginning in Summer Term, 1993, there will be no assistance automatically provided to attend Summer Session. We will make exceptions for those students who:

- \*Are students of Senior status who will complete graduation requirements by the end of the term;
- \*Students who demonstrate they can complete graduation requirements by the conclusion of Fall Term and need Summer to complete the program;
- \*Students who demonstrate their program courses are established on a year-round schedule and Summer Session is necessary;
- \*Those students who, due to medical interruption, missed a term and need to catch up on course work (verification must be provided by physician).

## STUDENT INPUT NEEDED

If you have time, the Education Program is seeking Higher Education and Adult Vocational Training Volunteers to serve on an advisory committee to work with the Education Committee and Program staff on a variety of changes being proposed such as funding, grants, requirements, etc. Meetings will be scheduled during the week day evenings or Saturdays. If you are interested, please call 1-800-422-0232.

## ADULT EDUCATION CHANGES FOCUS

Beginning June 1, 1993, the Tribal Adult Education Program adjusts services to focus on GED, Adult Basic Education, Basic Skills Development, Literacy, Adult High School Diploma Completion, and Senior Citizen classes and programs.

In years past, the Adult Education Program was fortunate enough to also sponsor 3-4 credit hour classes once per quarter for members in areas related to special interest and employment enhancement at community colleges. Furthermore, the Adult Education Program was able to assist sponsoring tribal employee & staff development assistance.

Due to increases in members seeking completion of ABE/GED Programs and the increased need to address basic skill development, the Adult Education Program will no longer sponsor community college classes at the 200 level (+) series, or employee training. All tribal employees and programs are encouraged to utilize program training funds to cover staff development and training.

The Adult Education Program is currently working with Chemeketa Community College to plan and develop a calendar of community education classes to be offered in the Grand Ronde community. Present scheduling is at a standstill due to lack of space and availability of classroom site. Because of the many conflicts surrounding our attempts to schedule classes on a regular basis in the Community Center, the program will look to other possibilities for conducting Community Education activities.

Currently, the Adult Education Program conducts Pre-GED, GED, and Basic Skills Review classes every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (as regularly as possible) from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. Classes will be held on these dates: June 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15\*, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30.



Education Committee member Donna Stronach, at the TECA Convention, poses with Rodney Grant, who played "Wind In His Hair" in *Dances With Wolves*. Kids—if you would like a free poster of Rodney Grant as portrayed in the movie, call toll-free 1-800-THE SOIL and ask for the Living in Harmony Activity Packet.

(\*)Denotes possible change in location

All classes will be held at the Tribal Community Center and are open to all tribal members at no charge. Non-Indian and members of other tribes may also enroll in GED classes at a monthly fee of \$20.00. Instruction is provided on a personalized basis. Participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch. People needing more information may call Gayla Tulensru at 879-2282.

## LAST MINUTE CHANGES

Just when you thought we had all the answers to college financial aid processing and tuition costs...look out! The latest word regarding tuition costs in many Oregon and national colleges and universities is that tuition will be increased. For example, Chemeketa Community College approved a tuition increase of \$30.00 per credit flat rate. No longer will a student be able to sign up for a 17-18 credit hours and pay one standard fee that covers 12 credits and beyond. For every credit hour a student signs up for, you must pay a fee.

If you filed your FAF, received your Federal Student Aid Report, signed and mailed it off to your respective college, you may encounter a delay in receiving your award letter. Due to the numerous changes handed down by the U.S. Department of Education concerning financial aid, many schools will be mailing out award notices at a later date. On the other hand, if you received your Student Aid Report, (SAR) or an award letter from the college and have not yet completed these forms and mailed them to the Financial Aid Office, you may be losing some financial aid. The longer you delay in returning them, the more likely it becomes you will not receive as much funding.

Concerning loans, did you know there are now two types of loans? Both the Perkins Loan and the Stafford Loan were subsidized by the federal government in years past, which guaranteed the loan and paid the interest on the loan as long as the student was in school. Once the student graduated or stopped, repayment of the loan did not begin until a "grace period" of approximately six months. Students need to be aware that you have a subsidized Stafford loan. If you have a non--subsidized Stafford, you will begin making payments as soon as you receive it. Most students do not have this type of loan.

While educational costs are on the rise, programs are being eliminated, and systems/processes being revamped, the Tribal Education Program will make every effort to work with as many students as possible. If you have questions about your award or budget, call 1-800-422-0232.