

December 8, 2015
Legislative Finance Hearing
List of Tribal College Presenters

1. Dr. Robert Martin, President
Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA)
Email: rmartin@iaia.edu

2. Dr. Elmer Guy, President
Navajo Technical University (NTU)
Email: eguy@navajotech.edu

3. Dr. Martin Ahumada,
Interim President
Diné College (DC)
Email: mahumada@dinecollege.edu

4. Dr. Sherry Allison, President
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)
Email: eric.christensen@BIE.edu



Written Testimony of New Mexico Tribal College Consortium
Regarding
Fiscal Year 2017 State of New Mexico Legislative Priorities

Before the
New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee
Santa Fe, New Mexico

December 8, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Good Afternoon Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and Members of the Legislative Finance Committee. Thank you for providing the New Mexico Tribal College Consortium an opportunity to present before you. In 2013, the four tribal colleges located in New Mexico established the New Mexico Tribal College Consortium (“Consortium”) to serve as a unifying voice to address common legislative, policy and funding concerns. Each of the tribal colleges is uniquely chartered with differing missions. Diné College is the first tribally chartered and operated college and operates as a liberal arts college. The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) is Congressionally-chartered with a focus on the creative arts and culture. The Navajo Technical University (NTU) is a higher education institution focused on STEM degree and vocational education programs. The Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) is operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and concentrates on vocational, technical and liberal arts degrees.

Over the last five years, each of the tribal colleges have received considerable support from the State of New Mexico for capital projects, dual credit programs and other programs as well. We will present the Consortium's New Mexico legislative priorities as well the tribal college's individual capital improvement and funding requests.

NEW MEXICO TRIBAL COLLEGE CONSORTIUM PRIORITIES

1. High School Dual Credit Reimbursement Funding

The Consortium requests \$500,000 in recurring funding for the Tribal College High School Dual Credit Program. The four tribal colleges received \$100,000 in dual credit reimbursement funding in FY14, \$200,000 in FY15 and will receive \$215,000 in FY16. For both FY14 and FY 15, the shortfall for the three participating tribal colleges was approximately \$150,000. This shortfall is expected to increase because SIPI will launch its high school dual credit program in January 2016 and the New Mexico tribes have requested an increased number of dual credit courses because they are very much aware of the benefits of their students earning college credit while still in high school. Students in dual credit programs are more likely to finish high school and succeed in college; that's important because the high school dropout rate for American Indian students is higher than it is for non-Indian students. Of course this also will improve New Mexico's overall high school graduation rates.

2. New Mexico Research and Public Service Project Funding

The Consortium submitted a proposal for State of New Mexico Research and Public Service Project funding. We are requesting \$500,000 to fund a project to increase the number of Native American students from New Mexico who enroll and graduate from an institution of higher education. The three-part project will be carried out by the four tribal

colleges, including the following:

- A. Raising awareness in all of the New Mexico Tribal Communities regarding the available college degree programs and dual credit courses at the four tribal colleges;
- B. Expanding the College Readiness programs (also known as Summer Bridge Programs) at each of the Tribal Colleges in the consortium so that they will provide additional academic support, and further prepare high school students for college; and
- C. Convening a College Readiness Conference that is aimed at New Mexico Tribal Educators, Tribal Leaders, and parents to help them prepare Native American youth for college.

3. *Inclusion of Tribal College Libraries in the GO Bond Academic Library Allocation*

The consortium is requesting that the four tribal colleges be included in the GO Bond funding for academic libraries, which is also supported by a New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries (NMCAL) resolution. The resolution states that the four tribal are NMCAL consortium members that have academic libraries serving New Mexico citizens, students, faculty and staff and should have access to this funding for library acquisitions and capital improvements.

Capital Projects Funding

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS

The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) requests **\$2,000,000** in Capital Outlay Projects funding from the State of New Mexico through the 2016 General Obligation Bond C to assist us constructing an innovative, state of the art Performing Arts and Fitness Center. The facility will allow IAIA to deliver two very important courses of study to its students under one roof, maximizing construction dollars and taking advantage of shared building resources. I thank New Mexico Legislature for providing \$500,000 in 2013 from Severance Tax Bond (STB) funds and \$2M in 2014 General Obligation Bond funds for this project. The total cost of the project is \$9.5 million and we are leveraging these funds by raising \$5 million from the private sector and federal grants. IAIA has a **strong track record of completing projects on time, within budget and success in raising funds from diverse funding sources.** The planned completion date for the project is the fall of 2017.

Performing Arts was a thriving program at IAIA, before being eliminated in the 90's, due to severe federal budget cuts. There is now a strong demand in the state of NM for such a program and we believe we are best positioned to fill that need. This is why we have re-introduced the program. The re-introduction has been met with huge demand.

The expanded delivery of our *existing* fitness program is essential in combating the issues of obesity and diabetes head-on, especially with the unique populations of New Mexicans that our college serves. By promoting wellness during the college years, students are more likely to sustain healthy living for a lifetime. This gives IAIA a unique opportunity to make a real difference in turning the tide of chronic illness within the native populations in New Mexico.

The building will be comprised of 22,900 square feet, the majority of which will be instructional space. The unique design of the venue will allow it to serve a number of purposes for the college. Not only will performing arts and fitness programs be taught, but larger community gatherings also will be held in the building. Additionally, because of its size, we will seek designation as an emergency shelter for the surrounding community. We also look forward to sharing the building with the ATC charter school and the Rancho Viejo community, our close neighbors, who lack facilities for performing arts, sports and wellness.

SOUTHWEST POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

SIPI requests \$2,871,440 to fund the renovation of the SIPI Library. The intent of this renovation is to co-locate library related functions, including constructing a state of the art media center. Some of the building's existing programs, such as Institutional Research, must be relocated to make room for the expanded library function. Spatial analysis and conceptual floorplans will be developed and refined during the design phase of this project.

Johnson, Smitthipong and Rosamond Associates, Inc (JSRa,) the Architectural/Engineering firm who developed the SIPI Facility Master Plan, estimated renovation cost of \$2,871,440 which includes construction, estimated at \$127 per square foot, plus additional project costs. Additional project cost includes all additional owner costs such as A/E fees, administrative oversight costs, testing, special inspections and F.F.E. (furniture, furnishings, equipment).

The Library Renovation will take approximately three years, from start of design procurement through construction. Funding is requested in two increments, Design and Construction. Design includes Acquisition, Planning and Environmental Study.

Construction includes all renovation, furniture, furnishings and equipment.

Renovating the Library will provide an optimal learning environment for a larger student body. This project is included in the SIPI Facility Master Plan, approved by the SIPI Board of Regents.

NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Navajo Technical University requests \$3,000,000 in capital outlay construction funds for FY 2017 for the planning, design and construction of a new academic building (Learning Innovation Center). Currently the majority of general education classes are being held in ten (10) modular buildings. Our project is to replace these modular buildings with a two (2) story academic building of approximately 24,000 square feet.

Construction of additional classroom space will allow Navajo Technical University to serve an expanded enrollment.

The Construction of an Academic Building Classroom project will add 15 significant general-purpose classroom spaces to the University with seven classrooms on the first floor and eight classrooms on the second floor. These classrooms will serve General Education courses and departments such as Applied Technology, Arts and Humanities, Dine Studies, Education and Leadership, Nursing, Science, Engineering, Math and Technology. In FY 2017 Navajo Technical University also will contribute \$1,000,000 in university general funds towards the architecture and engineering for the facility.

DINÉ COLLEGE

Diné requests \$500,000 in funding for roadway and parking renovations on its northern Shiprock campus.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for allowing to present our FY 2016 priorities before you. In closing, the Consortium would like to thank you for funding received for capital outlay construction projects, the tribal college high school dual credit reimbursement program, the ABE/GED programs and the New Mexico financial aid programs. We extend an invitation to each of you to visit our campuses. Representatives from the tribal colleges are available to answer any of your questions.

