



AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND  
EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER

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**American Indian College Fund Publishes Report on Higher Education Equity Initiative for Native Americans**

**Denver, Colo., Feb 05, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE)** - Last spring after a parent attending a college tour called campus police with concerns about two Native Americans in the group, the American Indian College Fund knew it had to respond. The College Fund convened a group of national higher education experts and Native students to address the social issues Native Americans face on campus. Today the College Fund published *[Creating Visibility and Healthy Learning Environments for Native Americans in Higher Education](#)*, the report from that meeting, as a tool for higher education institutions to advance the visibility of Native American students at their institutions and to ensure that Native history, achievements, and perspectives are respected.

*Creating Visibility and Healthy Learning Environments for Native Americans in Higher Education* highlights steps institutions can take with recruiting, financial aid, student orientation, recognition of Native lands, curriculum creation, establishment of meeting places for Native people, work with local tribes, and more.

The report was crafted at the Indigenous Higher Education Equity Initiative (IHEEI) in Denver, Colorado in August 2018, hosted by the College Fund in cooperation with leadership from Colorado State University. Leadership, faculty, and staff from tribal colleges and universities; public and private mainstream colleges and universities; non-profit organizations; education foundations, institutes, and associations; and Native college students created a scalable plan for higher education institutions to make college campuses safer and more welcoming to Native people.

Currently American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) face a college access and completion crisis. Only 14% of AIAN people age 25 and older have a college degree--less than half of that of other groups in the United States. The College Fund believes that colleges and universities can use the *Creating Visibility and Healthy Learning Environments for Native Americans in Higher Education* report as a guide, helping them to make campuses welcoming spaces for Native students. These efforts, along with financial access to college and tools for academic and social success, can increase the number of Native Americans with a college degree, resulting in increased opportunities for graduates, their families, and communities.



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To download your copy of *Creating Visibility and Healthy Learning Environments for Native Americans in Higher Education*, please visit our [website](#). You can also request a printed copy by sending an email to [info@collegefund.org](mailto:info@collegefund.org).

### **About the American Indian College Fund**

Founded in 1989, the American Indian College Fund has been the nation's largest charity supporting Native higher education for 30 years. The College Fund believes "Education is the answer" and provided 5,896 scholarships last year totaling \$7.65 million to American Indian students, with more than 131,000 scholarships and community support totaling over \$200 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 [www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org).