



The Shawnee Journal

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Spring 2011

Points of Interest:

- ▶ Education Assistance
- ▶ Program Updates
- ▶ Chairman's Update
- ▶ Important Dates



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Local College Receives Federal Tribal Grant

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College received notification from Congressman Dan Boren that the college was one of only seven institutions nationwide to be awarded a \$2 million dollar competitive, Federal Title III grant.

This particular Title III grant is designated for Native American serving non-tribal institutions, and NEO's Native American students comprise 20 percent of the student population as a whole. Nationwide, while overall enrollment in public higher education is expected to grow by 15 percent, enrollment of Native American students is expected to increase by 32 percent by the year 2018. This means students of Native American descent are the second fastest growing population, after Hispanic enrollment.

Funding from the grant will be utilized to renovate space for a Native American Success and Cultural Center and to hire personnel who will provide services such



as advising, mentoring, tutoring, career aptitude assessment and electronic portfolio development. These services will be available to all NEO students.

This announcement is such a tremendous statement to the strength of the partnership between the college and our nine area Tribal Nations. This grant will allow NEO to partner closely with our local tribes to play a pivotal role in enhancing native student success and helping to preserve the strong American Indian heritage of our region.

The grant was awarded on the basis of strengthening institutions for Native American serving, non-Tribal institutions. Native American students graduate at higher rates than other groups of students at NEO, according to institutional

data. NEO is a major provider of higher education to Native Americans nationwide. According to Diverse Issues in Higher Education, NEO ranks second in the nation for Native American students who earn psychology degrees, fifth for Native Americans entering a health-related profession, and eleventh for degree-seeking Native American students. Local tribal chiefs and the Intertribal Council were supportive and provided letters, interviews and quotes for the grant application. Our Chairman Ron Sparkman was involved with helping to secure the grant funding. Grant funds will also provide a stipend for tribal elders from each of the area tribes to work closely with NEO students on culture and language preservation research projects.

Education Assistance Available

Following is some scholarship and financial aid information. Please remember the deadline for the Shawnee Tribe education assistance is August 31st for the Fall semester and December 31st for the Spring semester. Students are required to make an application each semester to qualify for the assistance.

Each year Keeper of the Plains Scholarship Foundation and Security National Bank award the Keeper of the Plains Scholarship to one or more college- or vocational school-bound students in Oklahoma. The foundation currently is seeking applications for the scholarship to be awarded in the spring. The applicant must, however, be of Native American heritage and hold a CDIB, or Certified Degree of Indian Blood card. Applicants must attend an accredited public or private institution, including a four-year or two-year college or university, a higher education program or vocational/technical institution. Scholarships are \$500 per semester for up to four years. Those receiving scholarships must maintain a 2.5 GPA to remain eligible each semester. The application deadline is March 25. <http://enidnews.com/localnews/x316467917/Applications-for-Keeper-of-the-Plains-scholarship-are-available>

Finding Money for College" at <http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/clcf/PlanningAFinancialAidNight.html> is a PowerPoint presentation that

introduces the basic concepts of financial aid. It is particularly useful for you to juniors or younger students who don't need much detail yet.

Here are some of the more well-known and lucrative scholarships available to high school students:

1. Coca-Cola Scholars Program: Open to high school seniors who are outstanding leaders in business, government, the arts, or education. This program gives \$20,000 renewable scholarships to 50 students and \$10,000 renewable scholarships to 400.

2. Davidson Fellows Scholarships: Offers \$50,000, \$20,000, and \$10,000 scholarships to high school students who have completed a portfolio or project related to science, math, technology, music, literature, or philosophy.

3. Gates Millennium Scholars: Full-ride scholarships open to high school seniors who have demonstrated leadership in community service or extracurricular activities, meet Federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements, and are U.S. citizens of African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, or Hispanic descent.

4. Intel Science Talent Search: An extremely prestigious pre-college science competition awarding scholarships of up to \$100,000 for original science projects.

5. National Merit Scholarships: This is one prestigious scholar-

ship that doesn't actually take much work to apply. Taking the Pre-SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test automatically enters you into the competition, and multiple scholarships are awarded.

7. Siemens Competition: One of the highest science honors for high school students. Multiple scholarships of up to \$100,000 are awarded to individuals with remarkable talent in the science, math, and technology fields. Recognizes extraordinary science projects completed during high school years. <http://www.newsmax.com/FastFeatures/Native-American-scholarship-college/2010/12/23/id/380798>

To be considered for a Native American scholarships, a student has to be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe. The student will need to provide proof such as the birth or baptism records, identification from a recognized Native America organization, or an affidavit from a tribal officer.

Here are some of the best scholarship programs for Native Americans:

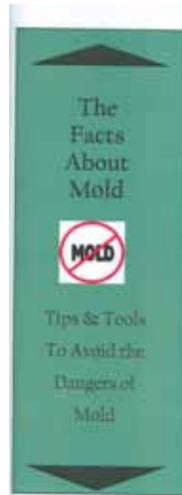
The American Indian College Fund provides an opportunity for Native Americans to get a sponsored college education. They fund students attending tribal colleges and mainstream colleges to pursue undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees.

Environmental & Natural Resources Department

The Tribe's Environmental and Natural Resources Department is funded by a General Assistance Program (GAP) grant provided each year by the Environmental Protection Agency. The department has successfully submitted a GAP grant for fiscal year 2011 in the amount of \$110,000.00. GAP grants are capacity-building grants—they help tribes develop environmental departments, but they do not fund any research, such as water testing or data analysis.

During the past year, we focused on writing grants that would provide all tribal members, regardless of residence location, with educational resources and family-oriented environmental activities.

Many deliverables are scheduled for FY 2011. One deliverable includes a public outreach project in the form of a pamphlet educating Tribal members on the dangers of mold in their household. Look for it in your mailbox in the next few weeks.



Others deliverables are to provide a community wide information session on educating parent's about children's health issues related to environmental factors and environmental education, implementing an education project for tribal youth ages 5 - 10 to increase environmental protection in the form of an

activity book, and also implementing an education project for Tribal children and their parents in the form of a downloadable project on the Tribal website. The project will focus and solar energy and alternative uses to change the world of energy.

Staff will be attending conferences and training throughout the year to expand their knowledge about environmental programs and to increase their knowledge about environmental issues. Staff maintains membership in the National Tribal Environmental, the Environmental Assessment Association, the National Wildlife Federation and CO-OP America ~ which provides green purchasing advice and listing to green businesses throughout Indian country.

Education Assistance Available Continued.....

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supports the cause of promoting education among disadvantaged communities. Gates Millennium Scholars is a very competitive scholarship that aims at helping students with outstanding talent but who lack enough financial aid to pursue their

education.

Catching the Dream is formatted in a similar way to the Gates Millennium Scholars. It is highly competitive as well. They offer university scholarships for Native American tribes, community, and tribal organizations.

Association on American Indian Affairs is another institution that offers scholarships for Native Americans from federally recognized tribes.



Information & Assistance Please

Announcements ~ If you would like to announce births, marriages, graduations, military service, deaths, or family reunions, please let the tribal office know so that we can include the information in upcoming issues of the newsletter. Please send the information by mail or email to shawneetribeshawnee.com.

Address Changes ~ In order to keep up to date with current addresses and phone

numbers we are asking tribal members to please notify the tribal office if any of your contact information changes. We have had a lot of mail returned for many tribal members because we do not have a current address on file for them. If you need to change your address or request for a replacement tribal card, please call the Tribal office and ask for Agnes Sappington. She can assist in you by sending you a change of ad-

dress form or replace card form that must be completed and returned to the tribal office.

Enrollment ~ We enroll new tribal members the first Monday of every month at our regularly held Business Committee meetings. Please have enrollment forms in the tribal office the Friday before the Monday meeting to be approved for enrollment at the Business Committee meeting.

Housing Program Update



Utility and other emergency assistance funded through out NA-HASDA grant is available.

The service area for this program is a 50 mile radius from the social service building in Miami, Oklahoma. Because our housing program is federally funded, we have to abide by federal procurement and environmental regulations.

Services include assisting with rent/mortgage payments if an eviction or foreclosure is underway and with utility bills when a shut off notice has been received (electric, water, or natural gas). To qual-

ify for the program the utility bill needs to be in the tribal members name or spouses name, live within the service area and meet the income guidelines. Applications can be obtained by calling the tribal office.

Staff has also submitted a grant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for another \$800,000.00 Indian Community Development Block Grant for housing rehabilitation. The award date for the grant is set for mid March. The grant, if awarded, will allow the Housing Department to provide weatherization and

rehabilitation services to tribal member households within the Tribe's 50 mile service area. Applicants must own-or be purchasing- their homes and must also have homeowner's insurance and must meet the income guidelines.

Previously, the Tribe had successfully submitted two different housing rehabilitation grants that were granted in FY 2004 and FY 2008. These grants allowed the Tribe to rehabilitate 53 different tribal households. Please watch for future information in the newsletter to see if the grant was awarded and how to apply for the assistance.

Children and Family Services

Several programs operate within the Tribe's Children and Family Services Department. The income-based Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program can pay for a portion of day care costs for tribal members living within a 100-mile radius of Miami, Oklahoma. The CCDF programs serves families where parents work or are in school (both full and part time). To be eligible, children must be placed in a state or tribally licensed facility and be no more than 13 years old. Currently the program is serving 139 different children from 17 different Tribes. These children stay in a wide range of facilities from family homes to large child care centers. The average monthly co payment for parents on this program was only \$19.00 per month, while the Tribe pays for the remainder of the child care expense.

This Program also offers special activities as well as classes and training for day care providers. Staff have been very busy with many activities this fiscal year. In October the local nine tribal CCDF programs held the Child Care Mini Conference for day care providers at the local community college. Another focus has been to pro-

vide the local day care providers many opportunities to attend seminars on topics related to child care.

These seminars allow them to obtain the required continuing education credits that are required to maintain their day care licenses as well. The trainings are also free to early childhood providers, public school educators, college students majoring in early childhood education and faculty in teacher education programs. Training include, Organization 101 and Nutrition 101, and Celebrating All Learners.

The staff has also offered a National Administrator Credential Training which is a 40 hour course that provides a comprehensive course for Director and Administrators of child care programs.

Staff is looking forward to the activities that are planned for the upcoming months. On March 31st the local nine CCDF tribes will host the Provider Appreciation Banquet for the all the child care providers in the area. During April 18th—21st, the CCDF program will be celebrating the National Week of the Young Child. Activities

planned for the week include a fun day for child care center and homes, and a petting zoo. The CCDF Programs, together with area community members, work each year to make this a weeklong celebration of children a success. Staff will be attending the Region 6 Tribal Plan Pre Print Training on April 26th – 28th in Oklahoma City.

Our Children and Family Services Director, Tena Booth continually holds at least 2 classes per month to certify day care providers in CPR and first aid. Tena is also offering a free class for tribal members, look for more detailed information within this newsletters on how to participate.

This years Inter Tribal Children's Pow Wow will be held on June 11, 2011 at the Ottawa Tribe's Pow Wow Grounds. Look for more information in the next edition of the newsletter. If you would like to inquire about various services offered by this program, please contact Tena Booth or Diana Baker at 918-542-2441. You can also reach Tena electronically by emailing her at shawneechild@shawnee-tribe.com or Diana at diana@shawnee-tribe.com.



FREE CLASS



Shawnee Tribe CCDF Program Presents

FREE CPR Certification Course

Become CPR Certified thru the American Red Cross

Available to Tribal Members and their families

April 12, 2011

6:00 PM

Shawnee Tribal Office

29 South Hwy 69A

Miami, OK 74354

Call the Shawnee Tribal Office and ask for

Tena Booth to register for your class

(918) 542-2441



Sponsored by your
Shawnee Tribe CCDF Program

Update from the Chairman

One thing for sure, there is plenty of conversation concerning the weather! We have spent as much on snow removal as we did on lawn mowing. This has been tough on everyone.

I wish to make all of you aware of two recent lawsuit settlements that could have a positive effect on some Tribal members. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a notice explaining the procedures to apply for the "Cobell" settlement fund. First and foremost you must have an Individual Indian Monies (IMM) account. The two largest trust accounts are the "Blacksnake" property and "Shawnee Reserve 206". If you are an heir to either of these properties and have an IMM account number you could possibly receive \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00. Remember, the key is you must have an account number provided by the Trust Management Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The other settlement is awarded by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). If you have been denied a farm loan you could be a part of this settlement. A full explanation is available at www.indianfarmclass.com. The Washington D.C. phone number 202-720-3165. The Tribal staff or I am available to help you.

This past month we lost a very loyal Tribal member. Dick Curry was a member of our Election Committee. Dick was a retired teacher, football coach and Superintendent of Commerce Schools. Dick was very proud of his Shawnee heritage. He will be missed. The Business Committee has selected Joel Barnes as the replacement for Dick on the Tribal Election Committee. All deliverables for our grants and contracts are on track as well as quarterly accomplishments and financial reporting. We are fortunate to have such a great tribal staff.

Spring is just around the corner! Get ready to plant your garden! *Ron*

Language Program Update

The past year has been an exciting year for the Tribe's language program. From the first class to the most recent we have been blessed with large turn-outs of families wanting to learn more about their language.

A little more than a year ago, the Tribe was invited to a "Language Summit" hosted by the Eastern Shawnee. Not only did our Tribe attend this Summit, but also the Absentee and several tribal community representatives from places such as Bird Creek, Whiteoak, Owasso, and Little Axe were in attendance.

At this Summit the state of the Shawnee Language was discussed and many were surprised to realize that the number of fluent Shawnee speakers had fallen from over 100 speakers ten years ago, down to approximately 20 today. It was with this in mind that each of the three Tribes of Shawnee went back home and started to develop and offer language programs to their tribal citizens. While each of these approaches may differ in method, they all are trying to help preserve our language.

In July of last year we offered our first language class which has evolved into an ongoing monthly class. None of this would have been possible without our volunteers, the support of the Tribe's leadership, and in particular, several Shawnee elders. We now have a curriculum of study for our tribal children and families. The youth program offers to young people the opportunity to learn over 150 Shawnee words and phrases, and those that are able to memorize them will be part of a "Graduation" in June to celebrate their hard work. They will also receive one of an Xbox360, PS3, Wii or a mini-laptop computer.

The Tribe is currently developing more learning products and course materials. For more information on our Language Preservation program or how you can obtain learning material, contact the Tribal office.

GiKe WeYaFi NiTiMiGeKo
(*chah-KEE wee-ya-THAH nah-tah-mah-chee-KOE*)
"Everyone help one another"

Ben Barnes



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**THE TRIBAL OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED AS
FOLLOWS:**

GOOD FRIDAY

04/22/2011

MEMORIAL DAY

05/30/2011

INDEPENDENCE DAY

07/04/2011

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE
MEETINGS:**

7 MARCH 2011

4 APRIL 2011

2 MAY 2011

6 JUNE 2011

**INTER TRIBAL
CHILDREN'S POW WOW
JUNE 11, 2011**

**APPLICATIONS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR:**

**CCDF
DAY CARE
ASSISTANCE**

LIHEAP

**NAHASDA
EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE**