The IMPACT of Your GENEROSITY

At American Indian Services

An Annual Report and Letters of Gratitude, June 2019
Your 2018 donations funded 1,980 Scholarships and the tuition of 189 AIS PREP students attending our 3 AIS PREP campuses

Scholarships 71%

Administrative Costs 5%

Tribal Projects .001%

AIS PREP 24%

January 1st, 2018 - December 31st, 2018 Donor Designations of Philanthropic funds

Total: $4,048,238.75

- $2,855,679.56
- $972,629.41
- $213,929.78
- $6,000.00
We’ve raised $1,628,947.66 so far in 2019.

We’ve raised $3,371,052.34 to go!

Please help us reach our goal of raising $5 million in 2019.
Mauricimo Sánchez-hohenstein, Standing Rock Sioux
United Tribes Technical College, Pre-Engineering

Shandiin Herrera, Navajo
Duke University, Criminology and Criminal Justice

Miniah Lowe, Muskogee (Creek) Nation
College of the Muskogee Nation, Tribal Services
Dear AIS Donors,

Thank you so much for your contributions to the American Indian Services Scholarship Fund. As a past and current scholarship recipient, I can personally attest to how truly beneficial it is to receive any amount of financial assistance when it comes to paying for my education, which unfortunately only gets more and more expensive each academic year.

My name is Nathan Sidell and I am Yupik Eskimo from Southwestern Alaska. I grew up in Bethel, AK and I currently live in Anchorage when I’m not at school. My tribe is Orutsararmiut Native Council, which is based out of my hometown, Bethel.

Currently, I am a senior at American University in Washington DC. I’m majoring in International Studies, with a focus in Foreign Policy and National Security in the Middle East. Additionally, I’ve also studied both Arabic and French during my tenure at American.

I am also a cadet in Army ROTC, based out of Georgetown University, and I’m on track to commission as an active duty Field Artillery officer in the U.S Army upon my graduation this May 2019. After completing my military service obligation, I plan on attending law school, then moving back to Alaska to work as a lawyer. I hope to provide pro-bono legal representation to Native people of Alaska who may not have had access to legal assistance otherwise. Eventually, I aspire to get involved in my community and run for political office to best represent my people on a state and national level, in order to provide voices to those who are severely underrepresented in our government today.

Thanks to your generous contributions and the generosity of other institutions, I was able to fund my semester without taking out any additional student loans. This is a tremendous accomplishment in my eyes as my university costs around $43,000 a year in tuition alone, an accomplishment that wouldn’t be possible without your donation.

Every dollar I have received through scholarships is a dollar that I won’t have to pay back to financial institutions through student loans, and is a dollar I will be able to donate in the future to ensure that the next generation of Native scholars will be able to achieve their academic goals without financial burdens to them and their families. Thanks again for your generosity!

- Nathan Sidell
American Indian Services
2018 Scholarship Recipients
By State

*Not shown:
ACE recipients - 79
Scholarship Certificates - 13
Dear AIS Donor,

My name is Terri Surveyor and I am from the Navajo and Hopi Tribes. I’m attending Arizona State University and have entered my senior year this spring semester, 2019. I am in an interdisciplinary program called Digital Culture with a focus in film.

I consider the four corners my home as I have lived in all four states: Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado. I want to thank you so much for granting me the financial aid that allows me to pursue and accomplish my goals. My goal is to graduate with my Bachelors degree to build my own production company. I want to collaborate with other Native Americans to establish a presence, and create a positive image for indigenous people in media.

I have met many young Native American students, that haven’t thought about pursuing a higher education or didn’t think it was possible. I’m hoping to participate in an educational tour called Tribal Nations Tour (TNT) that has the purpose of visiting reservation high schools around Arizona, which would allow me to interact with Native American youth. I feel as a peer, they can relate to me, and see the possibilities of pursuing their own higher education.

The struggles that I’ve overcome in my educational journey are far and wide. I’ve experienced being discouraged and considered the idea of dropping out due to losing sight of what I wanted. I’ve also experienced financial hardship and learned that I needed to become financially independent since leaving high school. All of these struggles have been a learning experience. This is what I want to show these future college students, that although the odds may seem stacked against you, it is up to you to build yourself up and that self determination is key.

I want to thank you again for being a donor and believing in Native American students, thereby allowing us to pursue our educational goals. Many of us pursue a higher education not just for ourselves, but for our communities as well. With the goal of enriching our communities at home, this scholarship doesn’t just impact one person but many.

Again thank you for the scholarship that makes this possible.

Sincerely,
Terri Surveyor
Dear AIS Donor

Thank you for choosing me to receive an AIS Scholarship for this school year. My name is Cobin Bo Willie, a Navajo from To’hajiilee, NM. I am a 4th level nursing student at the UNM-Gallup branch in Gallup, NM and will be graduating with an associates in nursing.

It is my hope and main dream to earn a doctorates degree in nursing psychology at the main UNM campus in Albuquerque, NM. It's my belief that using art as therapy can make a positive impact in the community when it comes to treating mental illness. It is my goal to reduce and even eliminate youth suicides, this is why I am pursing an education in this field. I have been an EMT on multiple reservations in the state of New Mexico and have seen many youth suicides in and around my community. This subject is very personal for me and it also drives me to persevere.

I hope to serve my community while respecting both our cultural perspectives as well as being able to apply western mental teachings to help our reservations. I come from a home where my father was an alcoholic for many years and in a low socio economic status on the reservation. Yet, my parents instilled in me the importance of education and responsibility. I plan to continue my nursing education at the UNM campus in nursing and also use my music/poetry/mask/art performances as a tool for public outreach about suicide prevention.

Your award inspires me to continue to work hard and dedicate myself to my educational goals. I will make you proud and set a good example for the UNM-Gallup student body to follow.

Thank you again with much respect and gratitude for your investment in me as a student in my academic accomplishments thus far.

Sincerely,
Cobin Bo Willie
Adam Brodie, Navajo
University of New Mexico, Biology

Ronda Joe, Navajo
Navajo Technical University, Computer Science

Kawoni Davis, Navajo
East Carolina University, Sociology and Science

Shanice Britton, Round Valley Indian
University of California - Davis, Animal Sciences
Dear AIS Donor:

My name is Susie Small. I am from Crow Agency Montana. I am a part of the Apsaalooke tribe, or Crow tribe as it's known to others. The school I am attending is the University of Montana Western and majoring Early Childhood Education. I am a part time student who takes online classes so that I can work full-time as a teacher’s Aide in our public preschool program. I have two beautiful boys who are part Blackfeet, they are five and one. I am blessed to be working toward achieving a lifetime dream of mine, to hold a Bachelor’s degree.

The number one hardest challenge I had to overcome was actually enrolling in school. I always had excuses: “It costs too much”, “Now’s not the right time”, “It’s too hard with a little one” and so on. I kept on with the excuses until one day my dad told me the hard truth, he said “It’s never going to be the right time Sus, or the perfect time, you spend time waiting for the right moment and it won’t come and time’s going to pass anyway.” That really made me think, and it really touched my heart when he started brainstorming ways to help me come up with money to pay off a college bill so I could go back to school.

He was willing to sell a very personal painting he had received from a now famous Native American artist. That’s my dad though, my number one supporter. So with my family’s support I started to work towards my goal one small step at a time.

I saved up money to pay off my debt at an old college to receive my transcripts (without selling my dad’s prized painting), and started researching different programs for my career in Early Childhood Education. During the summer of 2018 I started my first semester through UM Western, and have been taking classes there every semester working my way through their online program. When I first started taking courses it was too late to apply for scholarships for the summer session. I had come this far and I was not turning back, so with a little mindful planning and money managing I had been paying for my classes out of my own pocket. This has meant going without the internet. It’s a little confounding isn’t it? An online college student without internet? I am so thankful for the capabilities of the modern day cell phone. I have been able to see my coursework through my phone, complete assignments on my computer and then transfer files from my computer to my phone to access the internet on there and turn in assignments. It’s not ideal, and little more time consuming but I have been getting it done.

After graduating next year I plan on teaching within our preschool program. I have never given a second thought to teaching off the reservation and I don’t plan on it. Not when there is such a big need for quality education on the reservation. Getting and affording an education are two separate things. For students such as myself, funding is always an issue. The money you have graciously donated will go a long way in helping me attain my dream of getting my bachelor’s degree by helping me pay for my Spring semester at the University of Montana Western as well as getting internet at my house. I thank you from the bottom of my heart!