

American Indian Scholarship Fund

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ARIZONA
TUCSON ARIZONA

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Tucson, Arizona 85721
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December 3, 1993

Wilma Mankiller
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465

Dear Chief Mankiller:

This letter is a request for your acceptance of the honorary role of Co-Chair of the American Indian Scholarship Fund. If you accept, you would join fellow Co-Chairs President Peterson Zah, Navajo Nation, Doris Leader Charge, Instructor, Lakota Studies Program, Sinte Gleska Community College, and Dr. Manuel Pacheco, President, University of Arizona.

I make this request primarily as an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation who is employed as Director of the American Indian Graduate Center at the University of Arizona and Chair of its American Indian Scholarship Fund steering Committee. My grandfather is Clifford Johnson, my father is Billy Wayne Johnson, my aunt is Virginia Johnson; I have been told that I am a member of the Bird Clan. Of 120 self-identified American Indian graduate and professional students at the UA, 10 are Cherokee, representing 8% of the total--last year Cherokees represented over 10% of graduate and professional students. Cherokees at the UA are second only to Navajos. Now deceased Dr. Bob Thomas, a Cherokee Professor, was a respected and long-time faculty member of our American Indian Studies program. The Cherokee presence at the UA continues to be significant.

In 1990 the University of Arizona created the American Indian Endowment project to raise funds to provide graduate fellowships at the UA in order to promote American Indian self-determination and further enrich U.S. society. In 1993 the name of the project was changed to the American Indian Scholarship Fund, reflecting a broadening of the scope of the project from an endowment to the addition of scholarship accountants for immediate disbursement to our Indian students. The endowment fund represents our long-term goal of creating a \$2.25 million fund to meet the long-term



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