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1109 West Panola • Carthage, Texas 75633 • (903) 693-2000

February 24, 1993

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

Dear Ms. Mankiller:

Your Area Office suggested that I contact you directly concerning the educational program that I would like to show to young men and women in your tribal unit. I had recently seen programs of the U. S. Forest Service suggesting jobs for trained Native Americans. I also know that the Bureau of Land Management, the Soil Conservation Service, and your own BIA are looking for trained Native Americans to hire.

The program offered suggested the four-year training program in natural resources. I personally have only seen the majorities of jobs opening at the GS-4 technician level. I would suggest your tribal members seek the Certificate (one-year) or Associate Degree (two-year) routes.

In the region West of the Mississippi River, Panola College is the only one-year forestry program. We are only one of six East of the Mississippi River. Our Certificate is recognized by the U.S. Civil Service Commission as a two-year program; thus, qualifying our graduates to enter the Federal work force at the GS-4 level. This is the same as the Associate Degree program and reduces the education time cost by one full year.

I have enclosed a copy of the General Information Sheet about our program. The 1,878 training hours are packed into a 12-month program by working our students for three 16-week trimesters at 40 hours per week and very little time off. We also spend over 50 percent of the time in hands-on and field activities. We do not require any academic course work outside our own program. Our record over the 15 years of the Program's existence has been an 85 percent graduation rate with an 85 percent job placement rate. I would put that up against any of the one-, two-, or four-year programs in the Nation.

*Jim S. [unclear]
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w*