

Oklahoma State University

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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5 January 94

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief
The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Talequah, OK

Dear Chief Mankiller:

I do not know if you remember me. My name is Steve Katsinas; you were kind enough to be a guest speaker to my graduate course in Economic Development and Higher Education in my first year here at OSU (Steve Hinds from Talequah arranged your visit, as I remember). In my second year, you were kind enough to join Alexander Astin to launch our Kamm Lecture in Higher Education.

I trust that this letter finds you in good health and spirits. After returning from Christmas with my in-laws in Texas, and reading your book, I was not surprised to find the attached photograph of you and your husband on the front page of the December 25th edition of The Tulsa World. It just all seemed to fit.

I am writing for exactly two reasons, and both of them are American Indians students enrolled at OSU from Oklahoma. I'd like to solicit your help, ideas and thoughts.

One of my avocations these days is play basketball. I'm not any good, but I get to meet a lot of interesting students. Robert Teyoquah, a Kiowa, has completed about 2.5 years toward a degree in secondary education here at OSU. I met Robert while playing basketball, and have got to know him pretty well. He comes from a broken family, with a history of alcoholism and battering. His twin brother has been in and out of trouble, and Robert is the first member of his family to ever attend an institution of higher education. His friends here do not understand Robert's view of his extended family, and why he feels it necessary to spend \$80-100 per month on long distance telephone calls. I do know, and Robert is precisely the kind of student I am in this business to help. It is my view that our job here at OSU is to help the Roberts of this world, to give chances and extend hope, thereby raising expectations and aspirations.

It is my hunch that Robert has not seen a whole lot of role models in his life. I wonder: do you ever take on interns? It is my belief that if he could do an eight week internship with you, it could probably change his life. This Christmas, in a

