

personal act of giving that made me feel better than any other this season, I gave him a copy of your book. It was inscribed, "To Robert Teyoquah, enjoy this story about an outstanding Native American from Oklahoma, who reached for the stars, as you will." Any ideas you have on this would be sincerely appreciated. Even if you are unable to provide an internship, do you think it would be possible for me to set up a meeting with you, and bring him with me to spend a day at the Cherokee Nation headquarters? This would give him a great lift, I would think.

My second student, Faye Hawks, is a Creek from Oklahoma. Faye is a faculty member at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. I met Faye as a student in our doctoral program in higher education administration. Faye teaches Speech and Forensics at ATU. During her time there she put together a speech and debate team that captured the southwest regional competitions, beating UT-Austin and schools of that caliber on a consistent basis. She commutes 5.5 hours each way from Russellville to be in our program. A position nearer to Stillwater would be a great help to her in completing our program. Under my direction, she began to write grants last summer, and in my opinion has great potential in this area [one grant we worked on had as its purpose to bolster Native American student recruitment and retention in Oklahoma, another matter I'd like to briefly talk about with you].

In your book, you mentioned that "you learned a thing or two about writing a good grant proposal." I am wondering if there are any opportunities of a year or two within the professional staff of the Cherokee Nation for someone like Faye? If there are, I would be more than pleased to advise Faye to come to Talequah and talk to yourself or the appropriate staff member. Again, if you could spend a couple of minutes with her, that would also be great. I believe Faye has four brothers and sisters; they were separated as young kids (from a dysfunctional family), and Faye spent a number of years in and out of foster homes. For her to get as far as she has is a testimony to her drive and survival skills. Again, Faye is one of those students I would like to help (it is my view that she could emerge as Oklahoma's first American Indian female community college president someday).

Any ideas or assistance you might be able to provide would be sincerely appreciated. If it should be more convenient, given your very busy schedule, to call me as opposed to writing, please feel free to do so. My office number is 405/744-7244 (Brenda, my departmental secretary, controls my calendar and my life, and if the best way to talk is set up a telephone appointment, just call her).

Thanks for considering this request, and best wishes for a great 1994!

Very truly yours,


Stephen G. Katsinas
Assistant Professor