

The American Indian Scholarship Fund for American Indian Graduate Students at The University of Arizona in Tucson

The Scholarship Fund for American Indian Graduate Students at The University of Arizona provides two opportunities to finance American Indian students through graduate school. The first opportunity is through the *Scholarship Accounts* established by donors for the here and now awarding of scholarships to UA American Indian students. Awards can be made anonymously or be named and awarded by the donor in partnership with the American Indian Scholarship Fund. The second

opportunity is through the *Endowment Fund*, a long-term project to create a \$2.25 million fund to meet the long-term higher education needs of Indian people. Each year, the fund will provide fifteen scholarships at roughly \$12,000 annually to outstanding American Indian scholars pursuing master's, doctoral and professional degrees ranging from science and engineering to art and the humanities. Tuition expenses, housing costs and a monthly stipend will be provided in the annual scholarships.

The need for a scholarship fund is pressing:

- American Indians currently earn only 0.3% of all graduate degrees granted in the U.S.

Of the approximately 23,000 doctorates awarded annually in the U.S., only 90 go to American Indians. A similarly small percentage occupy upper-level professional career positions, because in many cases educational qualifications can not be met. Lack of financial support is the primary constraint preventing American Indians from obtaining higher education degrees.

- No other university with similar quality or scope of programs provides this level of financial support through internal fellowships specifically directed to American Indians.

Most Native American students must compete for funding allotted to non-specific minority groups and often, because of language or cultural barriers, do not successfully obtain these funds.

The University of Arizona is in a unique position. It already provides a wide range of crucial services to its American Indian students.

The American Indian Graduate Center, the only one of its kind in the nation, offers research, publication and social opportunities. Tribal and student-related issues are addressed by the UA Office of Indian Programs while five separate American Indian student organizations actively promote success in other areas. With nearly one-eighth of all American Indians in the U.S. located in Arizona, The University also has access to a rare degree of indigenous cultural diversity. Twenty-one tribes are based within the state, representing three major linguistic families.

All of these factors put The University in a prime position to increase the percentages of American Indians making a significant positive impact in our communities, states and reservations. Your help in building the scholarship fund is urgently needed. We invite you to join other individual supporters, foundations and corporations in our fund-raising events and welcome your direct personal involvement and financial support.

For more information, contact
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