Indigenous Education, Inc.

2016 Annual Report

Home of the Cobell Scholarship
Thank you for your interest in Indigenous Education, Inc., home of the Cobell Scholarship Program. It has been an eventful and enjoyable first eleven (11) months for the organization. It is an honor, privilege and daunting task to administer the available scholarship dollars associated with the Cobell v. Salazar Settlement. This first Annual Report for the organization highlights some of this year’s achievements.

This first year couldn’t have been successful without the unending support of the Cobell Board of Trustees, the Indigenous Education, Inc. Board of Directors and the wonderful staff that worked from the ground up to create the “scholarship different” for Native students in higher education. Vendor partners like Obsidian LLC created our website and logo; Pulakos CPAs provide accounting services; Academic Works maintains our application platform; Mark Wipf LLC manages all the IT processes; Beck Office Furnishings decorated our new offices. Roger Cox and Associates Real Estate Brokers toured several potential office spaces with us; Apex Insurance Agency helped to navigate employee benefits; to Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer dispensed hours of legal advice throughout the creation process. and many others who supported us in spirit. This report is as much an annual event as it is a testament to those who support us.

Elouise Cobell has been quoted as saying “I want these kids to understand the way the world works and to question everything that comes before them.” At IEI, we set out to embody this quote as we created the Online Application Student Information System (OASIS). Little things like rapid turn around responses and individualized support prove to scholars that questioning the way things work can not only benefit them but also benefit their peers. The staff at IEI are dedicated to social media outreach in ways that I couldn’t imagine in my early career. I continue to question the way scholarships work, don’t work and should work to elevate the experience of applying and becoming a scholar to feel more supportive and engaging for our Native students. The result is the new Indigenous Education, Inc., home of the Cobell Scholarship Program. Watch for innovations in outreach and support as we continue to grow to remain “the Scholarship Different.”

Melvin E. Monette
Executive Director/President
Indigenous Education, Inc. (IEI) was founded in February 2016 with the primary purpose of advancing experiences in American Indian and Alaska Native Post-secondary Education. The inaugural funding term under IEI began with summer 2016 by supporting 128 scholars with just over $350,000. total Scholarship support continued through the fall term of the 2016-2017 academic year for 580 Scholars totaling just over $1.48 million dollars.

Like many organizations, IEI’s humble beginnings boast a backyard building complete with a crowing rooster and fresh garden vegetables for staff to enjoy. Training and staff development was unique in that every question or concern was a communal event either across the room or at the picnic table. Every member of the team was well versed in one another’s role resulting in students benefitting from any staff’s ability to respond quickly to questions. At the young age of five (5) months old, the organization moved to the current location in the Uptown area of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In this new environment, team building and development continued during lengthy weekly staff meetings where solutions were implemented and responses to inquiries were negotiated quickly. It took some time to decorate each person’s “own” space but soon after the 708th check was in the mail personalizing space became a priority for every team member. Because funds were sparse in the first year, outreach efforts were small and sporadic; however, growth will allow for more marketing of the organization in future years.
Elevating American Indian and Alaska Native Post-Secondary Education in 2016

The total applicant pool of 6,929 applicants* resulted in 778 awards for 2016, totaling $1,836,731.25 in scholarship dollars awarded for Summer 2016 and the 2016 Fall Term.

68 of the 778 total scholars were considered Honorary Scholars, as they exhibited no positive unmet need.

*Please note: The applicant number for the Summer 2016 term is a misleading number that is difficult to break out as the Summer 2016 and Fall 2016 applications were live at the same time. The process has changed dramatically in year two of the process. As a result, the total applicant pool for the 2016 year is not an exact number.
A representation of the various tribes in which scholars are enrolled. The more scholars that are enrolled in a particular tribe, the larger the dot on the map.

138 Tribes Represented
A representation of the various PSIs in which scholars are enrolled. The more scholars that are enrolled in a particular PSI, the larger the dot on the map.

272 PSIs Represented

*Not shown: One student in attendance at Oxford University in Oxford, England*
Home State Representation
*Self-provided by scholars*

40 States Represented
IEI is active on numerous social Media accounts. Handles were created with the intention of branding the Cobell Scholarship name.

The IEI team has begun numerous initiatives to interact with scholars and the greater Native and Educational communities. These include, but aren’t limited to, the “Consider…” campaign, the “Student Spotlight” campaign, and the “Staff Spotlight” Campaign.

The “Consider…” campaign was created with the intention of supplying students with new ideas and concepts varying from potential new areas of study to ways to get active on campus.

The “Student Spotlight” and “Staff Spotlight” campaigns feature some of the scholars and staff members to initiate the building of community between the IEI team and the Scholars, as well as within the scholar community.
As a resource for scholars, IEI has created a webinar series in which we collaborated with community partners. Currently, we use a webinar program, WebinarJam, which operates via Google Hangouts to administer the webinar and then later posts them to YouTube.

During the inaugural 2016 year, IEI has conducted the following webinars:

• Grad School Test Prep with the Princeton Review Foundation (this series includes tips on the LSAT, GMAT, MCAT, and GRE).
• ‘Understanding the FAFSA and Federal Student Aid’ with the U.S Department of Education
• ‘Applying for the Cobell Scholarship: General Application’
Cobell Scholar Experiences

“I am graduating from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing on December 15, 2016. I strongly believe I would not have accomplished this major milestone in my life without the support of Cobell Scholarship. The Cobell Scholarship provided me with the additional financial resources which assisted in covering tuition costs and nursing school expenses, thus allowing me to stay focused on my studies. With the help of the Cobell Scholarship and obtaining my Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing, I am now able to continue my Grandfather’s legacy of compassionate nursing almost 100 years after his passing. Thanks to the support received from the Cobell Scholarship, I hope to make a positive impact on reducing health disparities for all of the Great Spirit’s children.”

- Garrett Hall
Cherokee Nation

“I am graduating in May from Humboldt State University with a Bachelor Degree in Social Work. I am very thankful for all the support received from the Cobell Scholarship while obtaining my degree. The Cobell Scholarship has helped tremendously in my academic success and assisted in achieving my goal. I am a first generation college student; and with me about to receive my degree I feel that I am helping pave the way for other Native youth in my community.”

-April Davis
Hoopa Valley
“Being a Cobell scholar means so much more to me than receiving needed guidance and support through my academic journey at Dartmouth. It means following in the steps of tribal scholars before me and pursuing the subsequent opportunities granted to us from the sacrifices of our ancestors. The Cobell Scholarship Fund is a legacy of decolonization; it is the legacy of reversing years of institutional land theft and the erasure of Native people. Beyond this, it is the legacy of the late Elouise Cobell, which carries her strength and passion for Native education so that Tribal scholars like me can pursue paths to success. This legacy is what motivates me to study Government and Native American studies here at Dartmouth and motivates me to continue working to advance Indian Policy so that one day I too will help combat the legacies of colonialism that afflict Indian Country today.”

-Samantha (Sammie) Maltais  
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head

“I would like to thank [IEI] whole heartedly for being an advocate, not only for education but for all Native American students. If it wasn’t for compassionate people like [IEI], many students like myself, wouldn’t be able to earn an education. Your selflessness is truly inspiring. I will make the scholarship donors proud this semester at South Dakota State University! Thank you, again.”

-Megan Paige Teppo  
Rosebud Sioux
During the inaugural year, the IEI staff was able to participate in a number of outreach initiatives. During these outreach initiatives, staff interacted with both current and potential scholars, as well as various types of community partners including financial aid advisors, scholarship providers, and education professionals, to name a few.

AISES 2016 NATIONAL CONFERENCE - MINNEAPOLIS, MN

MINNEAPOLIS SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

NMSU GRANTS
FINANCES

USE OF FUNDS RECEIVED FROM CBOT

- Direct Scholarship Awards: 91%
- Other Program Expense: 5%
- Administrative Expenses: 4%

Diagram showing the distribution of funds.
Melvin E Monette  
President and Executive Director  
*Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa*

Bridget Neconie  
Director of Scholarships  
*Pueblo of Acoma*

MJ Cordova  
Office Manager

Maloni R. Fox  
Scholarship Associate  
*Three Affiliated Tribes*

Julia Mosconi  
Nonprofit Management Intern
Providing elevated opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native college students through empowering them with an engaging scholarship experience designed to support their success in higher education.