

REN-19-038: Calling on Congress for Permanent Mandatory Support for the U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions Program for Tribal Colleges and Universities
Sponsor: American Indian Higher Education Consortium

Summary:

- Without legislative action, current mandatory funding for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) within the Strengthening Institutions Program (Title III) of the Higher Education Act will expire at the end of the current fiscal year.
- Resolution REN-19-038 supports the passage of S. 1279, the FUTURE Act, to extend the HEA Title III-Part F Strengthening Institutions-Tribal Colleges and Universities program at the current mandatory level of \$30 million per year for two years, while working to secure permanent funding of the program.

Issue:

Since FY 2010, the Strengthening Institutions - Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (HEA Title III Part F) has supported the Tribal College Movement in addressing the higher education needs of AI/AN students. Through this program, Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) collectively receive \$30 million in annual mandatory funding. TCUs have used this funding for student support services, faculty development, academic curriculum, and courses to strengthen our tribal nations, library services, classroom construction or modernization, and many other important education activities. Without these funds, TCUs will be forced to reduce services, jeopardizing student completion and success.

The Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act, introduced in the Senate as S. 1279 and in the House as H.R. 2486, will sustain mandatory funding for two more years (FY 2021-2022) at current levels for TCUs (\$30 million), Alaska Native Serving Institutions (\$15 million), and Native American Serving non-Tribal Institutions (\$5 million).

S. 1279 was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, where it awaits further action. H.R. 2486 was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor where it awaits further action.

Action:

Resolution REN-19-038 urges Congress to immediately enact S. 1279 and H.R. 2486, the FUTURE Act, to extend the HEA Title III-Part F Strengthening Institutions-Tribal Colleges and Universities program at the current mandatory level of \$30 million per year for two years, while working to secure permanent funding of the program.

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Resolution Action Plan: REN-19-038

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Action Plan:

- 30 Days:
 - Staff will review pertinent legislation related to resolution subject area.
 - Contact resolution sponsor to coordinate requested assistance.
 - Assess opportunities for cross-coordination with other tribal nations, organizations, and representatives.
- 60 Days:
 - Letter to House and Senate committee leadership in support of pending legislation.
 - Schedule Hill visits to follow-up on support letters.
- 90 Days:
 - Prepare activities update for NCAI Annual Convention.
- 120 Days:
 - Continue Hill visits and track discussions, hearings, and Hill activity pertaining to Title III Part F funding.