



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2017-2018 American Indian Education Fund Scholarships

December 29, 2016, Rapid City, SD – The 2017-2018 American Indian Education Fund scholarship applications for undergraduate and graduate students are now available for download on our website www.aiefprogram.org.

Last year, AIEF awarded 250 Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students for their 2016-2017 school year. The scholarship is a max of \$2,000 per year (depending on credits being taken) and is intended for a full school year. We accept applications from students who will be attending an accredited school, whether that be a tribal college, state university, or vocational/technical school (online schools are not applicable, ABD not applicable.)

In order to be considered, applicants will have to submit a *complete* application form with an essay, a picture, tribal enrollment documentation, most recent transcripts, and ACT/SAT scores (if taken.)

Undergraduate Applicant Criteria

- Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian (student or one parent must be enrolled and able to provide documentation.)
- Attending an accredited 2 or 4 year university or vocational/technical school (online schools are not applicable.)
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student.
- GPA between 2.0 – 3.4 is desirable (however, all current or future undergraduate students are encouraged to apply.)
- An ACT score of 14 or above is desirable (if applicable.)

Graduate Applicant Criteria

- Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian (student or one parent must be enrolled and able to provide documentation.)
- Attending or have been accepted to an accredited graduate school (online colleges are not applicable, ABD not applicable.)
- Must be enrolled between 6-18 credits (level of scholarship funding dependent on number of credits enrolled.)
- GPA between 2.5 – 3.5 is desirable (however, all current or future graduate students are encouraged to apply.)

Please be aware that the deadline to submit is April 4th. However, if your application is received before March 1st you will receive an extra point towards your score.

For more information about how AIEF supports Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students, please visit www.aiefprogram.org.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **How do I prove that I am Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian?**
 - A. Are you enrolled in a federally recognized tribe?
 - a. If **yes**, then you will submit a copy of your tribal card/enrollment document.
 - b. If **no**, you can demonstrate lineage by submitting a copy of your parent's enrollment document/card.
 - B. If you know that you are Native and do not know if you are enrolled, please call your Tribal enrollment office. Follow this link to the Tribal Leader Directory for this information:
http://www.bia.gov/tribalmmap/DataDotGovSamples/tld_map.html
 - C. If you are Native Hawaiian, please submit a copy of your birth certificate or your OHA Hawaiian Registry card (which you can apply for here: <http://www.oaha.org/registry>)
2. **Does a one year certificate program count?**
 - A. Yes.
3. **What if my GPA isn't the highest?**
 - A. We encourage you to apply! The American Indian Education Fund selects students who are often overlooked by other scholarship programs. This can mean students with GEDs, mid-range GPAs, and adult students who may not have taken the typical path in terms of higher education. As long as you show focus, determination, and a passion to improve life for you and others, we would love for you to apply!
4. **ACT/SAT – are they required?**
 - A. Not necessarily. If you are an incoming freshman and you have taken the ACT and/or SAT, we request that you submit your scores in the designated section on the application and also attach your score sheets to the end of your application. (Your ACT and SAT score sheets can be printed online.)
 - i. If you have not taken the tests, that is fine as well.
 - ii. If you are not going to be a college freshman, they are not necessary.
5. **Online schools – are they applicable?**
 - A. If the school is strictly online, and does not offer traditional on-campus courses, then it is not eligible.
 - B. However, if you are enrolled in classes both online and on-campus, then you can still apply.
6. **Is this scholarship for tuition and books only?**
 - A. Yes. If your tuition is taken care of and you still have AIEF scholarship funds in your student account, they may be applied towards books. You will need to contact your school's financial aid office to do this.
7. **How much and when is it awarded?**
 - A. The scholarship is worth \$2,000/ for a full year (\$1,000 Fall & \$1,000 Spring semester.)
 - i. Graduate scholarship funds are dependent on the amount of credits being taken.
8. **When will the students be notified?**
 - A. The scholarship award recipients will be notified by mid-July. (Unfortunately, due to staffing, we are not able to notify everyone.)