

## **US Department of Education Indian Education Professional Development Grant**

Sitting Bull College has been awarded a US Department of Education grant that will provide training and support for 10 Native American college students who are pursuing a Bachelor's degree and certification in early childhood, elementary, or secondary science education. Based on needs that Sitting Bull College has identified through continuing contact with the school systems on the reservation, the project will take these 10 students through graduation and teacher certification in three years. In the fourth and final year, the College will assist them in placement in their first teaching positions and provide induction services during that first year. Students will be selected for the project based on their selection in the teacher training program with priority given to seniors. The ultimate result of the project will be 10 more certified Native American teachers on the reservation which will substantially reduce the high turnover rate that is brought about by rural isolation and the need for teachers to commute

### **Who would be an ideal candidate for the pre-service teacher program?**

Ideal candidates would be Native American individuals who have completed their general undergraduate requirements and are enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, education coursework in preservice teacher training. The candidate has to be able to complete their bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, or Secondary Science Education by May of 2019 and be able to participate in induction services within the four-year grant period. A Native American means an individual who is-- **(1) A member of an Native American tribe or band, as membership is defined by the Native American tribe or band, including any tribe or band terminated since 1940, and any tribe or band recognized by the State in which the tribe or band resides; (2) A descendant of a parent or grandparent who meets the requirements described in paragraph (1) of this definition; (3) Considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be a Native American for any purpose; (4) An Eskimo, Aleut, or other Alaska Native; or (5) A member of an organized Native American group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988 as it was in effect on October 19, 1994.**

Full-time students are eligible to receive a stipend of \$1775 per month and dependent (child under age 18) care support per month. Full-time student is defined in our regulations at 34 CFR 263.3 as a student who is **a degree candidate for baccalaureate or graduate degree, carries a full course load (minimum 12 credits), and is not employed more than 20 hours per week.** Part-time students may participate in the professional development program, but only full-time students who meet the definition in 34 CFR 263.3 may receive the stipend.

Before receiving any funding under the program, participants must attend a payback meeting with the grantee to understand the costs of training and payback responsibilities following training. After a participant completes training, the participant must fulfill the payback

obligation, either through work-related payback (also called service-related payback), cash repayment, or a combination of work-related payback and cash repayment.

### **How is the payback obligation calculated?**

**The length of the work-related payback obligation is based upon the accumulated total months of training for which the participant received financial assistance, rather than the amount of funding received.** To fulfill the work-related payback obligation, a participant's work must be in his or her field of study under the PD program and benefit Indian people.

**The total amount of time to be served through employment as work-related payback is equivalent to the time training was funded, calculated in months of training received. For example, if a participant receives funding for a semester that totals four months, the length of the work-related payback obligation is four months.** If a participant does not secure employment that satisfies the work-related payback agreement within twelve months of program exit or completion, the participant will automatically be referred for a cash payback. Alternatively, for participants that initiate, but cannot complete, a work-related payback, the payback converts to a cash payback that is prorated based upon the amount of work-related payback completed. Cash payback is equivalent to the amount of funds received and expended for training under the PD program. Applicable regulation may be found here: 34 CFR 263.8.

### **How do I apply for this opportunity?**

Contact Chris Fried, Division of Education Director, with any questions or for an application. Chris can be reached at 701-854-8040 or [chris.fried@sittingbull.edu](mailto:chris.fried@sittingbull.edu) His office is located in the Family Support Center building office number 142 in Fort Yates. Applications are due by October 28<sup>th</sup>.