



2ND ANNUAL CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS MEETING REPORT

COA Meeting

2nd Annual CAO Meeting sponsored by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium for the Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Deborah His Horse is Thunder, Consultant
8/24/2013

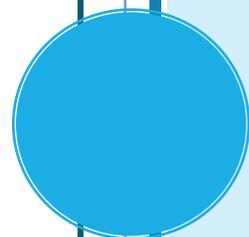


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COA MEETING

INTRODUCTION

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) sponsored the second annual meeting of the Chief Academic Officers who work for tribal colleges and universities throughout the nation. This meeting was held on August 8 through August 10, 2013 as part of the AIHEC 40th Anniversary Summer Meeting in Santa Fe, NM at the Buffalo Thunder Resort. Dr. Deborah His Horse is Thunder, CEO of Wiya & Associates, LLC was contracted to work with a planning committee to organize and implement this annual event.

Networking is a valued component of this meeting for the CAOs.

PLANNING

Members of a Planning Committee were those who assisted in planning the first CAO meeting with a couple of minor changes. The Planning Committee was made up of Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) from seven tribal colleges:

- Dr. Diane Morris, College of Menominee Nation
- Ms. Carmen Taylor, Aaniiih Nakoda College
- Dr. Sharon Marcotte, Leech Lake Tribal College
- Dr. Koreen Ressler, Sitting Bull College
- Dr. Venida Chenault, Haskell Indian Nations University
- Ms. Samantha Cameron, Bay Mills Community College

- Mr. Phil Baird, United Tribes Technical College

*Ms. Carmen Taylor was the only TCU from the NWCC Accreditation area.

The Planning Committee conference call was conducted on June 11, 2013 to begin planning the 2nd Annual CAO meeting. The report of the 1st Annual CAO meeting was sent out prior to the conference call without the budget information. The Planning Committee gave some excellent suggestions for the meeting as well as guidance on the format of the meeting. The Committee wanted to continue to include as much opportunity for networking as possible to allow peer input and small group discussion.

AIHEC determined the meeting site at the Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino which is located fifteen miles north of Santa Fe, NM. It was the 40th anniversary for AIHEC and the establishment of the first Tribal Colleges and Universities so it was a great opportunity to combine these sessions.

Ms. Kay Heatly of AIHEC designed the agenda, name badges, meeting cover materials, and table cards for this meeting. She did an outstanding job

THE AGENDA

The Planning Committee identified seven topics of great priority to be addressed at this annual event. Two of the Planning Committee members were also involved with the Walmart Student Success Project and it was suggested that the CAOs all attend the retention strategies of those participating TCUs. These took place on Friday and included in this agenda. These topics were as follows:

1. **Best Practices: Program Review** - Colleges are expected to develop a systematic academic program review process. Two TCUs, Sitting Bull College and College of Menominee Nation, presented their processes. The Program Review process included analyses of achievement of the program's learning objectives, program outcomes, student persistence retention, completion, and where appropriate,

licensing exam and placement results. The program review process also included evidence from external stakeholders.



Ms. Bernice Portervint, NWIC; Ms. Ann Bunner, CMN; Ms. Cory Sangrey Billy, SCC; Ms. Fredericka Lefthand, LBHC

2. **Best Practices: Faculty Handbooks** - Faculty Handbooks are critical documents for higher education institutions. This session provided an overview of expected elements of a Faculty Handbook. The CAOs were asked to bring one hard copy of their Faculty Handbook and an electronic copy for sharing but only four colleges brought electronic copies. Dr. Sharon Marcotte, AVP for Leech Lake Tribal College facilitated this session and developed a PowerPoint presentation reflecting research on faculty handbooks.

3. **Distinctive and Connected: Tribal Colleges and Universities and HLC Accreditation – Considerations for Peer Reviewers** – Dr. Mary Vanis, HLC Consultant and Peer Review presented the recently published HLC document which is titled the same as this session. This document’s primary purposes is to provide important context to HLC peer reviewers who may not be familiar with the unique characteristics of TCUs. The document was prepared at the special request of HLC’s President Sylvia Manning in concert with a team of individuals with experience and expertise working with tribal colleges. The session was

intended to encourage discussion about the important aspects of accreditation for the Chief Academic Officers and areas of emphasis important in the training of HLC peer reviewers. Copies of this paper will be available prior to the meeting.

It should be noted that President Cynthia Linquist who is a Commissioner for HLC requested time on this agenda to share some accreditation concerns impacting sixteen of the twenty six TCUs within the HLC accrediting region. Dr. Vanis presented part of her PowerPoint and Dr. Linquist addressed the CAOs in attendance. Dr. Vanis took additional comments regarding the HLC document but did not have adequate time to go through her prepared presentation.

4. **Effective Strategies: 1st Year Experience Class** - Sitting Bull College is the mentor college that is working with Fort Peck Community College. These two institutions shared their efforts to develop and implement a more effective First Year Experience class for entering college students. Ms. Lorie Hach of SBC and Mr. Richard DeCelles of FPCC presented this information.



Ms. Lorie Hach, SBC and Mr. Richard DeCelles, FPCC

5. **Effective Strategies: Learning Centers and Monday Drum** - Leech Lake Tribal College has worked closely with its mentee institution, Stone Child College to help them create a more effective Learning Center. Specific strategies used in refining the Learning Center and some of the challenges were presented. In addition, one of the very successful student engagement strategies has been the

Monday Drum and the presenters also described this weekly event and its impact.

6. **Effective Strategies: Retention Plans** – The Institute of American Indian Arts has taken the lead in assisting its mentee, Ilisagvik College, in developing a strong retention plan for implementation. The challenges that Ilisagvik College faced in starting this process and where they are at this point were described. Key features of retention planning were shared.



Ms. Diane Reyna, IAIA, Ms. Chelsi Danner, Ilisagvik College, and Ms. Jeminie Shell, IAIA

7. **Best Practices: Enrollment Management Plans** – TCUs recognize that strategic enrollment management is an institution-wide responsibility and a significant component of an effective overall strategic plan. Sitting Bull College has developed an Enrollment Management Plan that focuses on what is best for their students and how to insure their success while addressing all aspects of the College's mission. Like strategic planning, their plan is mission driven and includes a strategy for marketing, recruitment, retention, financial aid, and data

collection and reporting. Ms. Lisa McLaughlin of SBC provided an overview.



8. **Trending Issues and Information Nuggets** – This final session was to address a number of issues that TCUs are continually facing. The Planning Committee suggested topics such as the implications of the Affordable Health Care Act on employment benefits of adjunct faculty, the Federal government’s new credit hour compliance requirements, changes in accreditation requirements regarding distance education, and so forth.

Dr. Joan LaFrance and Mr. Richard Nichols have been discussing the need to conduct a study of the accreditation goal that was established 40 years ago when AIHEC was established. They have been in discussion with AIHEC about this and asked to discuss this with the CAOs. The greatest concern expressed was the “value added” aspect of additional accreditation review. They did not want to expend the time and resources without their institutions benefitting in some way.

There were a few additional comments but the group had reached its meeting time limit and the session wrapped up with some additional discussion but not the depth initially envisioned. It was a very long meeting.

The CAO meeting was held in conjunction with the AIHEC 40th Anniversary meeting which allowed the participants to attend all of the plenary sessions, enjoy lunch with the larger group, as well as the reception and other meals.

PRESENTERS

The presenters on each topic were as follows:

1. **Best Practices: Program Review** – Dr. Diane Morris, Vice President of the College of Menominee Nation and Ms. Lorie Hach, Student Success Coordinator at Sitting Bull College presented their program review processes. Dr. Koreen Ressler of SBC was scheduled to present but was unable to do so due to a death in her family.
2. **Best Practices: Faculty Handbooks** - Dr. Sharon Marcotte, AVP for Leech Lake Tribal College facilitated this session and developed a PowerPoint presentation reflecting research on faculty handbooks.
3. **Distinctive and Connected: Tribal Colleges and Universities and HLC Accreditation – Considerations for Peer Reviewers** – Dr. Mary I. Vanis has thirty five years of experience in education, which encompasses over 30 years in higher education as an administrative, instructional, and student services leader within the Maricopa Community Colleges (MCCD) and within the private higher education community in Arizona. She has a successful track record in building strong collaborations with private and public higher education, employers and communities to ensure effective and timely undergraduate and graduate transfer and general education, workforce development and professional programs. Dr. Vanis has experience in higher education accreditation standards and protocols and has served as a Consultant-Evaluator and Team Chair on over 30 evaluation visits working with community colleges, tribal colleges and private higher education institutions.
4. **Effective Strategies: 1st Year Experience Class** - Ms. Lorie Hach, Student Success Coordinator at SBC and Mr. Richard DeCelles, Program Coordinator at FPCC presented this information.

5. **Effective Strategies: Learning Centers and Monday Drum** – Dr. Sharon Marcotte, AVP at Leech Lake Tribal College and Dr. Kadene Drummer, Project Director at Stone Child College presented this information.
6. **Effective Strategies: Retention Plans** – Ms. Diane Reyna, Project Director, at the Institute of American Indian Arts and Ms. Chelsi Danner, Project Director at Ilisagvik College conducted this presentation.
7. **Best Practices: Enrollment Management Plans** –Ms. Lisa McLaughlin, Institutional Research Director of SBC provided an overview. The original presenter was Dr. Koreen Ressler who could not attend due to a death in her family.
8. **Trending Issues and Information Nuggets** – Ms. Carmen Taylor, Academic Dean and Ms. Samantha Cameron facilitated this session. Dr. Joan LaFrance and Mr. Richard Nichols did provide an overview of how they thought their work on TCU accreditation might develop but really wanted the thoughts and concerns of the CAOs to be expressed.

PARTICIPATING TCUS

Twenty seven (27) of the thirty seven (37) tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) were represented at this meeting which represents 73% of the TCUs. There were thirty one (31) participants officially registered for this meeting with a number of unregistered general conference participants reported by AIHEC staff. Several TCUs sent more than one representative and others send other individuals to take back this information. There were also twenty one (21) participants officially registered in the Student Success Strand who were also integrated into the CAO Conference Strand. Unofficially, we had over sixty participants at several of the sessions including a president or two who were interested in the topic or supporting staff who may have been presenting.

Those TCUs represented included:

1. Aaniiih Nakoda College*
2. Bay Mills Community College
3. Blackfeet Community College*
4. Cankdeska Cikana Community College*
5. College of Menominee Nation
6. College of the Muscogee Nation*
7. Dine College
8. Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
9. Fort Peck Community College
10. Haskell Indian Nations University
11. Ilisagvik College*
12. Institute of American Indian Arts
13. Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
14. Leech Lake Tribal College
15. Little Big Horn College
16. Little Priest Tribal College*
17. Navajo Technical College
18. Nebraska Indian Community College
19. Northwest Indian College*
20. Red Lake Nation College*
21. Sisseton Wahpeton College*
22. Sitting Bull College
23. Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
24. Stone Child College
25. Tohono O'odham Community College
26. Turtle Mountain Community College*
27. United Tribes Technical College

- Ten of the TCUs attending had Chief Academic Officers who had two years or less experience in their positions which is 38% of the TCUs.

Several TCU representatives simply could not attend due to last minute situations or schedule conflict.

MEETING EVALUATION

Ms. Katherine Page compiled the meeting evaluation results for the overall AIHEC 40th Anniversary Conference. Unfortunately, the evaluation was very general and did not address each specific session but the various meeting strands. The CAO strand was extremely well received with all ratings at good to excellent with one exception on Saturday. General impressions from the written comments suggest that the CAO meeting needs to be:

- Held as a separate meeting (although the historical information was very appreciated);
- Held earlier as this meeting was only two weeks from the beginning of the semester which is too rushed for the CAOs;
- Cognizant of the new CAOs and include a session for these individuals;

It also appears that all handouts and PowerPoint presentations need to be placed on a flash drive to be distributed to the participants. The technology issues were also cited although the only time this was a concern was the late session when the wireless microphone was put away by the hotel staff. It was retrieved by the middle of the session. There were also some recommendations for next year in the comments. These were:

- A focus on student orientation (what are other TCUs doing);

- Various types of software used and effective for tracking student success;
- More information on faculty advising;
- More information on enrollment management;
- More information on retention plans;
- More discussion time for the CAOs is desired.
- Institute guidelines on PowerPoint usage so there is less text.

Overall, this meeting was very well received. Attachment A has the evaluation compilation.

MEETING FOLLOW UP

All of the handouts and presentation PowerPoints were sent to Mr. Larry Milask to be posted the AIHEC website for participants to readily access. An email notification will be sent to all of the CAOs when this information is available. Thirteen faculty handbooks were submitted to be placed on the website for reference by other TCUs.

The advisory committee was also asked for recommendations pertaining to the website in terms of open access or a set up requiring a passcode. Three of the advisors responded with a leaning toward the use of a password IF there would be a notification when there was any activity. The password would also have to be very easy for the CAOs to remember so insure their use of the site.

CONCLUSION

The Planning Committee was clearly right on target in selecting the topics that were most critical to CAOs. Allowing this meeting to be part of the greater 40th Anniversary event allowed CAOs access to information that would not have been included such as the history of tribal colleges. It also allowed for greater networking between and among

TCUs. It is hoped that the 3rd Annual CAO meeting will move to an earlier time, e.g., mid-summer and be hosted as a separate meeting. It was definitely a pleasure to serve as the coordinator to implement this meeting.

ATTACHMENT – MEETING EVALUATION RESULTS

AIHEC 40th Anniversary Conference

Buffalo Thunder Resort, Santa Fe, New Mexico

August 7 – 10, 2013

Plenary and Strand Sessions							
Wednesday, August 7	N=	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor	Did not attend
Opening Ceremonies	46	43%	43%	9%	4%		10
Dinner and Anniversary Commemoration	49	59%	33%	2%	6%		8
The 1491s	33	27%	39%	15%	9%	9%	21
The 1491s (students removed)	25	28%	32%	16%	12%	12%	
Thursday, August 8	N=	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor	Did not attend
Morning Plenary: AIHEC's History (David Gipp, Deborah Jackson, and Lionel Bordeaux)	54	39%	41%	9%	7%	4%	3
Unknown Strand	2	50%	50%				5
Presidents	6	33%	50%	17%			
CAOs	9	67%	33%				
Student Support/Walmart	6	50%	33%			17%	
Students	9	89%	11%				
STEM	5	20%	40%		40%		
Native Language & Culture	4	50%		25%	25%		
AIHEC AIMS	8	25%	63%	13%			
Lunch Plenary: Educational Sovereignty	50	44%	48%	6%		2%	4

(Richard Williams)							
Unknown Strand	3	33%	67%				3
Presidents	4	50%	50%				
CAOs	11	64%	36%				
Student Support/Walmart	5	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	
Students	10	40%	20%	40%			
STEM	2	50%	50%				
Native Language & Culture	6	50%	17%		17%	17%	
AIHEC AIMS	8	13%	50%	38%			
Afternoon Plenary: Indigenous Research and Sovereignty (Evan Adams)	39	59%	38%	3%			14
Networking Reception	37	22%	46%	22%	8%	3%	14
Friday, August 9	N=	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor	Did not attend
Morning Plenary: First Year Experience (Betsy Barefoot)	44	45%	32%	11%	7%	5%	10
Unknown Strand	6	50%	33%		17%		7
Woksape Oyate	3	67%	33%				
AIHEC Student Success Initiative	18	61%	33%				
A*CF Scholars and Faculty Programs	1		100%				
Wakanyeja: "Sacred Little Ones"	4	100%	0%				
AIHEC AIMS	10	10%	60%	10%	10%	10%	
Lunch Plenary: From Student to Leader (Ernest Stevens, Kevin Killer, Clarena Brockie, and Brandon Stevens)	42	45%	43%	10%	2%		8

Unknown Strand	7	57%	43%				6
Woksape Oyate	3	33%	67%				
AIHEC Student Success Initiative	19	47%	42%	5%	5%		
A*CF Scholars and Faculty Programs	4	25%	50%	25%			
Wakanyeja: "Sacred Little Ones"	4	100%					
AIHEC AIMS	3		67%		33%		
Saturday, August 10	N=	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor	Did not attend
Morning Plenary: Global Indigenous Research and Partnerships (Trevor Moeke, Wesley Thomas, and Verna Fowler)	45	38%	49%	11%		2%	10
Unknown Strand	4	50%	50%				11
Presidents	3	33%	33%	33%			
CAOs & Student Support/Walmart	15	47%	47%	7%			
Students	6	50%	50%				
STEM	3	33%	67%				
Native Language & Culture	1	100%					
AIHEC AIMS	1		100%				
Lunch Plenary: Indigenous Knowledge Creation (Gregory Cajete)	29	55%	38%	7%			15
Unknown Strand	2		100%				19
Presidents	3	33%	33%	33%			
CAOs & Student Support/Walmart	7	57%	43%				
Students	7	86%	14%				
STEM	3	33%	33%			33%	

Native Language & Culture	0						
AIHEC AIMS	0						
Closing Ceremony and Lecture	24	63%	33%		4%		17

Overall Conference						
<i>Rate each individual item below.</i>	N=	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Overall Conference	46	50%	39%	4%	4%	2%
Meeting Materials	42	38%	43%	7%	7%	5%
Meeting Logistics:						
• Hotel & Meeting Rooms	45	62%	20%	9%	7%	2%
• Meetings/presenters scheduled	46	41%	37%	9%	9%	4%
AIHEC Staffing:						
• Meeting preparations	45	62%	24%	4%	7%	2%
• Staffing of meetings	45	58%	31%	4%	2%	4%

1. Which part of the conference did you find most beneficial or was just your favorite part and why?

Strand Attended	Comments
Multiple or unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPEDS (AIMS & CAOs) • The opening ceremonies and tour of IAIA and cookout (Native Language, Student Support/Walmart, A*CF Scholars, Woksape Oyate, CAOs & Student Support, STEM) • The Wakanyeja strand session was the best presentation, and I returned for the afternoon. I appreciated the work at A*CF. The children's project is one of

	<p>the best I've heard about and the projects at the TCU grantee sites is inspirational. I wish other sessions were well prepared, presented, and professional. It's a shame that only a few people attended when we need new strong practices at our TCUs and their communities. (also attended Native Language)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different cultural of many Native American tribes. The hoop dance was awesome; never seen the dance before. Always keep promoting the cultural in AIHEC. I was hoping that the AIMS would but didn't; disappointing. (Students & AIMS) • Strands and concurrent sessions. They were the only ones who prepared to start on time (and attempting to be mindful of their time). Their PowerPoints showed planning, as did their presentations of them. It was great that the smaller sessions were a different topic each time, and that the groups were small enough to allow discussion and interaction. I feel like this is when I learned about successes and challenges facing other TCUs and that I gained knowledge I could take back to my school to benefit my students. (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Gregory Cajete was my favorite part as I appreciate his scholarship and research, and he is an excellent speaker. (STEM, Native Language, AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • I really enjoyed the PowerPoint presentation where they showed that new student orientation should be mandatory for first years. Too many first years drop out because they were not paid attention. • Really enjoyed the opening reception, especially the hoop dance! • The educational presenters were very knowledgeable and provided insightful information regarding education. • The presentation on National Indian University on Saturday morning.
CAOs and Student Support/Walmart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAO breakouts were engaging. It was something different every session. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • IPEDS training and AIHEC Student Success Initiative. Betsy Barefoot – excellent!! (also attended A*CF Scholars & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Faculty handbook and student retention and persistence • CAO working/discussion groups. Networking with other colleges at meals and social events. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Getting additional ideas to increase student retention. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betsy Barefoot presentation was great. Very well presented and much needed information. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Networking with other vice presidents and academic officers. Location was excellent as well! (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Retention plan and enrollment management plan was most beneficial. These are areas we are currently working on. My favorite part was bringing in WINHEC. Very informative. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Communicating/collaborating with TCU staff in my field...student support services, retention and persistence, student success, recruitment (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Interacting and learning from other TCU supporters. Evan Adams is an inspiration. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • The CAO sessions were wonderful, well planned, and informative. I would like to see these held yearly but not in connection with other sessions or groups. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • CAOs had good practical advice. We need to hold our own trainings (first year experience, networking opportunities, practical, HLC, take aways, social media. CAO training, sharing more than once per year. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • CAO sessions pertained to my position. However all sessions and plenaries were interesting and enlightening. Networking with others. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative)
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2. Was there any part of the conference that you thought should have been done differently? Please explain how and why

Strand Attended	Comments
Multiple or unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaks (AIMS & CAOs) • Technology problems (AIMS & CAOs) • Everything was great (Native Language, Student Support/Walmart, A*CF Scholars, Woksape Oyate, CAOs & Student Support, STEM) • Get a professional tech to take care of sound. Don't use paper form for survey/evaluation. You will not get all the surveys returned. Use iPads/technology like apps "Quick Tap Survey." I use this tool and it is awesome. AIMS – have a plan B when the wi-fi is out. Provide materials.

	<p>(Students & AIMS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better scheduling of speakers. If there's only an hour or so for a plenary session, don't schedule four elders to speak. Also, improved communication regarding what should happen when a location is changed or timing is off. Technology during most sessions left a lot to be desired (poor audio, trouble with computer). Would have been nice to at least have a short description of each session all in the same book or PDF. (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Would have appreciated being advised of the change of date. Advertised 7 – 11 August but when I arrived it had been changed to 7 – 10 August. (STEM, Native Language, AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • More breaks between long seminars • Native America Calling should be invited to broadcast some of the events/speakers either live or recorded for rebroadcast.
CAOs and Student Support/Walmart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saturday session was good. Too bad morning plenary ran over and took up their time. • Time management: Have someone sit up front and hold a card up – 10 minutes left, 5 minutes left, etc. Allow time in the evening to wind down or investigate area museums. Larger variety of sessions. Have a late start the last morning to give people time to pack up. Registration needs to include regents, board directors, all other TCU staff. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Shorter and facility more consolidated. It was difficult to continue to be mentally alert when there is this much information, and it was hard to get slots of rest and breaks because plenary sessions went long. Two days – student success initiative would be good and then absorb, plan, implement – another two days assess and do data. • Don't let speakers talk through bathroom breaks. Could CAO meeting be held separately next year. The anniversary conference was beautiful and very beneficial. Thank you for including us this year. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Less pastries, more oatmeal or fruit (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • There should have been more sessions geared toward student support. A few of the sessions had nothing to do with that department. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Less plenary sessions and more time in with academic officers. Choices for

	<p>outside sessions such as AIMS, IPEDS, etc. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make sure speakers are within their time limit so workshops are not delayed; or make more time for plenary sessions. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Many of the Student Support/CAO joint sessions were not applicable to student support. Ex: faculty handbooks, program review, accreditation. Instead this valuable time with colleagues should have been focused on student support only, like the Thursday morning session. More time for that. Maybe a student handbook session or an accreditation session focused on student support services rather than academics. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Betsy Barefoot is knowledgeable and is a good speaker for a mainstream gathering, but she didn't address the audience. She should have come with information about working with tribal students. Many of us have paid them good money, and they have access to our information. She could have taken the time to provide information that would guide our work with Native students. Disappointing. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Our CAO sessions were oftentimes very rushed because of the plenary sessions running long. Many times they ran over quite a bit which cut our sessions because of something to follow. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Plenary talks were valuable, but they often started late and lasted too long taking time from the break out sessions. More mixing activities – People tend to only interact with those they already know, so new people – unless they are very outgoing – do not have opportunity to meet and network. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • The conference could have ended on Friday. Days were long, and Saturday seemed to be more a wrap up. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • If anything, perhaps allow for longer and fewer workshops. Ex, CAO workshops – program review/faculty handbook/accreditation were very helpful but were a little short. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative)
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3. Do you feel that you received value for the amount that you paid?

Strand Attended	Comments
Multiple or unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • Not for the AIMS portion. Not really, but I think with the support and money participants pay to attend conference, the event could improve. Please use Diné concept of NNIS (Nitsahkees, Nahata, Iina, Siih Hasin – thinking, planning, implementation, reflection). Really use and plan the conference using the participant’s feedback. (Students & AIMS) • No, I don’t think the expense was justified. Because of poor planning regarding the timing, most of the sessions were reduced to getting a handout that could have been e-mailed out. (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Absolutely! Thank you for the opportunity to attend. (STEM, Native Language, AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Yes, very professional and well done. Really enjoyed myself and learned a lot. Great job! • Yes, presentations were very informative.
CAOs and Student Support/Walmart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • Absolutely! Awesome – should meet 2x/yr minimum (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Yes, but I feel that if TCUs shared with other TCUs what has worked for them and to collaborate more that all TCUs would be stronger. AIHEC would be stronger. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • I did – most was eye opening as a first time attendee (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Definitely! (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative)

4. Additional comments regarding the AIHEC 40th Anniversary Conference:

Strand Attended	Comments
Multiple or unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love Santa Fe! (AIMS & CAOs) • Should have the participants vote on the next AIHEC conference ((Native Language, Student Support/Walmart, A*CF Scholars, Woksape Oyate, CAOs & Student Support, STEM) • Opening ceremonies – improve the technology; dinner & commemoration – good food, good speakers; 1491s – funny but some problems, work on the tech next time (Students & AIMS) • Educational Sovereignty plenary – food was good, think about serving non-spicy food (Students & AIMS) • Evan Adams – was great, laughing (Students & AIMS) • Closing ceremony – very great (Students & AIMS) • Meetings/presenters scheduled – needs improvement; show presenter and topics (Students & AIMS) • We pay so much money to attend the conference, the least you could do is provide participants with free internet access. Work on creating a better conference package. Please, please hire a professional tech person to take care of sound and projector. The location of the conference was great but hotel services was poor...but beautiful place. Good food – thank you cooks. Have/key-in speakers to stay within talk time. Some went over and threw off our schedule. I love the campus tour of IAIA...keep this up because it's great to network and visit other schools' location/services. E-mail agenda to register participants 1 or 2 weeks prior to conference, 'cause this helps our college support/fund our trip and helps with planning. Encourage presenters to use PowerPoint slides so we can pay more attention to the speakers; it helps with notetaking. Attend AIMS and spend 2+ hours watching staff trying to get online. Unorganized. Staff started presenting but audience didn't pay attention. Group disconnected. Be prepared if wi-fi does not work. Give out handouts. Staff at AIMS was in "rush" mode. Did not use the time given; dismiss super early. Please provide materials. Please, please put the AIMS link on the AIHEC page. Get organized. Provide a list to participants of all the schools attending the session from where each school is at (provide reservation map). (Students & AIMS) • Awful communication regarding location change for opening ceremonies, and it was difficult to see. For the 1491s, there were too many tech problems, and

	<p>it was hard to hear. (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday morning plenary had too many people scheduled. (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Networking reception should have happened more than once. This was a great opportunity to meet colleagues from other TCUs and exchange information. Not necessary to have the drawing, just let people meet each other and learn things to take back home and use. (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Friday morning plenary would have been better if had info related to TCUs or tribal students. There were too many speakers for the Thursday lunch plenary. Too many on the schedule for the Saturday morning plenary. (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Closing ceremony was very hard to hear. I have no idea what he talked about. (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Meeting materials were poor – info into many different places. In the meeting rooms, it was difficult to see, hear and temperature was too cold. Very poor scheduling. Was AIHEC staff even in the meetings? (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • I like the use of the projector to show the speakers at the closing ceremony. Should have been doing that all along. I've heard a few people say the PowerPoints will go onto the AIHEC web site so we can all access the info. I truly hope that happens, but next time, maybe the sessions could be recorded and the videos made available afterward. (Oftentimes a PowerPoint is useless without the speaker explaining the meaning.) If the agenda had included the title of each session (instead of just the strand name), it would have been more useful. At many TCUs the same person wears many hats, and so sessions from more than one strand applied; but it was ridiculous to have to look at so many different documents to find out about each strand's sessions. There were too many plenary sessions. Smaller sessions were when information was actually exchanged between schools and organizations. When the plenary sessions ran over, it drastically took away from the small-group sessions, which should have been the focus of the entire conference. Instead, a vast majority of the week was spent checking watches and wondering when it would be acceptable to stand up and stretch. (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Friday morning plenary – deficit model! (rated poor) (STEM, Native Language, AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Staff did an excellent job!
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would have been nice if the coordinating committee recognize the past AIHEC Indian college presidents. Many of them have contributed much to AIHEC, and recognizing them by providing a list of the names in the celebration of AIHEC 40th year anniversary.
CAOs and Student Support/Walmart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would have been much better if they'd had their full time! (STEM, CAOs, CAOS & Student Support, & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Variety of food – We all come from other areas, and some may not care for southwestern food every day; fruit as an option for dessert. Loved the note pad to take notes. Request all PowerPoints in advance and all PDF handouts from presenters and place them on a thumb drive for each participant. Go paperless and use guidebook. Program should have description of breakout session for each strand. Most helpful if one does not fit into the CAO or STEM area. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Thursday lunch went long, and we only had time did introductions. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Worked with Ken Hermonat from Empower on Saturday – very helpful. Meeting materials – waiting for web site links (also attended A*CF Scholars & AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • It was good. However it just went too long. By the last day I wanted to make a plan and move some items forward. My ability to retain new ideas was maximized. • It was great and learned a lot about AIHEC history. • Thursday morning plenary was excellent but stay on schedule. Overall it was excellent and motivating, renewing to the mission of TCUs. CAOs should hold separate meeting. Round table topics for sharing dual/concurrent enrollment, prior learning, accelerated pathways, etc. Discuss a mentoring process. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Please put sessions (hands on techniques) for improving student retention for faculty in student AIHEC conference in the spring. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • This conference gave us the opportunity to collaborate with other TCUs. Great opportunity. It would be helpful if AIHEC sponsored more annual gatherings for TCUs to get together and share strategies and struggles. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Thursday CAO sessions – Awesome! (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • More frequent meetings (2x/year) possibly coordinate with local events –

	<p>Gatherine of Nations, Indian Market, etc. Reinstitute best practices gatherings for CAOs to share/network/etc. Training for new CAOs would also be nice. Deb His Horse Is Thunder is an AWESOME facilitator! (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a conference where all TCUs gather to share and network. TCU conference. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • The Thursday afternoon Student Support/Walmart session was not applicable to student support professionals. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Student Success/First Year Experience Conference for Tribal Colleges would be very beneficial. We need professional development specific to Tribal College needs. Training for TCU enrollment, recruitment, planning, and programming. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • I am happy to have participated in this gathering and am proud to have a connection with AIHEC. Thank you. I learned at this meeting that the TCUs need to have more opportunity to work together and learn from each other. In the past TCUs have gathered for assessment conference and FYE convening. Reviving these gatherings would benefit us all. I wanted to see more data. What are the results of the changes. We still present in a feel good manner. Can AIHEC help develop the capacity of our TCUs' comfort with data and sharing the data? (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Really enjoyed the hoop dancing. Liked having all the bios in the program. The location is great! Would like to have just the CAOs session. While the others were good, the information in the CAO sessions was wonderful. This visiting with other CAOs is wonderful. Would have been good to have had lunches with just the CAOs. Would like to know what others do for orientation of students, different software that has worked or is available to track student success. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • Thursday CAOs – more discussion time needed in large and small groups. Networking reception was not that well attended. Friday morning plenary was too little TCU specific. AIHEC Student Success Initiative – Need a forum to share TCU best practices in first year experience. Saturday morning plenary was too long. The Saturday morning CAOs session was way too short. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative) • It is nice to be part of the larger AIHEC meeting, but as a CAO it is not good for me to be off campus in the two weeks prior to the start of classes. Either the AIHEC or CAO meeting should be earlier in the summer or both. Multiple smaller focus meetings – possibly even via distance – on particular topics – faculty advising, enrollment management, retention plans, etc. (also attended
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	<p>AIHEC Student Success Initiative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saturday morning plenary was excellent, but went long; where was AIHEC?? Saturday morning CAOs session was too short; people had to check out; not anyone's fault. The Saturday lunch plenary was very good – something to take away. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative)• Well done! Suggestions: Give guidelines/parameters for PowerPoints. Some have too much text. Can't read. (also attended AIHEC Student Success Initiative)
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