

Carrie L. Billy
President & CEO

January 4, 2011

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Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College

WYOMING

Wind River Tribal College

ALBERTA, CANADA

Red Crow Community College

Carrie L. Billy
President & CEO
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
121 Oronoco Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Carrie,

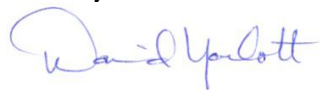
On behalf of the presidents of this nation's 36 Tribal Colleges and Universities, I am writing to express our support for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium's (AIHEC) proposed initiative to conduct research on the implementation of AIHEC's Indigenous Evaluation Framework. We understand that this new phase of the Indigenous Evaluation Framework would be funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation under the *Promoting Research and Innovation in Methodologies for Evaluation* program. We fully support this effort to study and expand the use of one of the most important tool American Indian people have for ensuring program accountability within our STEM and other education and research programs.

By improving the effectiveness of our STEM programs through culturally and community relevant evaluation, we will help encourage more young American Indians on the STEM career path, which is of critical national importance given the current and projected shortages in U.S.-based STEM professionals. By scaling up the use of the Framework, AIHEC's efforts will make a real difference in the number of American Indians pursuing careers in science and technology areas.

We are particularly pleased that AIHEC's proposed project will provide important and much needed "train the trainer" opportunities for Native people. As you know, there is a tremendous shortage of trained American Indian evaluators in this country. To be accountable to our funders, our communities, and our students, we need to take better advantage of tools such as the Indigenous Evaluation Framework.

We look forward to working with AIHEC staff, Joan LaFrance, Richard Nichols and our other partners to move this important initiative forward.

Sincerely,



David Yarlott, Jr., Ed.D.
Chair, Board of Directors
President, Little Big Horn College

Representing the TCU presidents, which compose the AIHEC Board of Directors:

Michael Parish, President

Bay Mills Community College



AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

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