

## **AIHEC CODE OF CONDUCT**

The values of Integrity, Loyalty, Equality, Respect, Honor, and Trust form the foundation and framework of this Code of Conduct and reflected throughout.

The goal of the AIHEC Code of Conduct is to assist Members of AIHEC in exercising these values at all times when interacting with one another, with Indigenous people throughout the world, and in our daily professional lives.

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Board of Directors adopted this Code of Conduct on March 23, 2007 for the AIHEC members, representatives, and staff (hereafter referred as AIHEC members, representatives, and staff). This Code expresses the ethical principles and guidelines for the conduct of all members, staff<sup>1</sup>, contractors, and sanctioned organizations of AIHEC, when serving as a representative of AIHEC or participating in AIHEC sponsored events. It also informs the public of the standards of ethical conduct for which the members of AIHEC are responsible.

### **PRINCIPLES OF THE AIHEC CODE OF CONDUCT**

The five principles of the AIHEC Code of Conduct include Integrity, Loyalty, Equality and Respect, Honor and Trust, and Confidentiality.

#### **I. INTEGRITY:**

- a. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will act with integrity in their relationships; cooperate and treat others with respect, honesty, and fairness; and recognize and accept the rights of others to hold values and beliefs that differ from their own.
- b. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will maintain the AIHEC Code of Conduct when engaged in AIHEC related activities and when representing AIHEC in any capacity.
- c. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will avoid creating the impression that they are speaking or acting on behalf of AIHEC when acting or speaking as an individual.
- d. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will not use their position with the organization for private gain, for the endorsement of any product, or for the private gain of any friends, family members, or other persons with whom they are affiliated. AIHEC members, representatives and staff will not endorse a particular political candidate or political party on behalf of AIHEC.

#### **II. LOYALTY:**

- a. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will be loyal to AIHEC and its mission.
- b. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will use the AIHEC Code of Conduct as a guideline in conducting their business.

#### **III. EQUALITY AND RESPECT:**

- a. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will respect all cultures and will conduct themselves respectfully when handling sensitive cultural information being shared by others.
- b. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will treat each other with professionalism, courtesy, and respect; will speak professionally, respectfully, and courteously when interacting with one another; and will support and protect diversity of opinion.
- c. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will conduct themselves with full decorum, employing self-discipline and politesse during all meetings of AIHEC. Members will abide by AIHEC bylaws and its Code of Conduct, thereby exhibiting due respect for the rules of AIHEC, its members, representatives, and staff.

d. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will not improperly influence other board members and will preclude intimidation, exclusion, harassment, favoritism, and discrimination.

**IV. HONOR AND TRUST:**

a. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will accurately represent their qualifications, educational background, experience, and professional credentials.

b. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will not allow their private opinions and interests, personal, financial or of any other sort, to conflict or appear to conflict with their professional duties and responsibilities as members, representatives and staff of AIHEC. They will avoid any conduct that could lead a reasonable person to conclude that the individual might be biased or motivated by personal gain or private opinions or interests in the performance of duties involving AIHEC. They will disclose all known or potential conflicts of interest in accordance with AIHEC policy.

c. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will not take credit for others' ideas or work, even in cases where the work has not been explicitly protected by copyright or patent.

**V. CONFIDENTIALITY:**

a. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will respect the privacy and private information of others.

b. AIHEC members, representatives, and staff will not disclose to an unauthorized individual or organization, without the express consent of the Board of Directors, any confidential, privileged, or nonpublic information entrusted to them.