

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 321

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the American
Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC).

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DOMENICI,
Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mrs. STABENOW, and Ms. CANTWELL)
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee
on Indian Affairs

NOVEMBER 20, 2002

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of
the American Indian Higher Education Consortium
(AIHEC).

Whereas the United States of America and Indian Tribes
have a unique legal and political relationship as expressed
in the U.S. Constitution, treaties, Federal statutes and
Executive orders, court decisions, and course of dealing;

Whereas the United States has committed itself to national
education excellence including excellence in institutions
that educate American Indian and Alaska Native children
and adults;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities are fully accredited community-based educational institutions devoted to the education, welfare, and economic advancement of American Indian communities;

Whereas the populations in the communities served by tribal colleges and universities are among the poorest of the Nation, and the services provided by the tribal colleges and universities enable students to train for and obtain jobs that offer social and economic stability, and serve to reduce welfare dependence in these communities;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities are chronically underfunded, and in addition to offering their communities higher education opportunities, also function as community centers, libraries, childcare centers, tribal archives, career and business centers, economic development centers, and public meeting places;

Whereas in 1970 President Nixon issued his now-famous “Special Message to Congress on Indian Affairs” rejecting the failed policies of assimilation and termination and heralding the new era of Indian Self Determination;

Whereas in 1972 six tribal colleges established the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to empower its member institutions through collective action, construct a national support and communications network, and assist Indian communities and Native people in the field of educational achievement, while nurturing, advocating, and protecting American Indian history, culture, art and language;

Whereas the American Indian Higher Education Consortium consists of 32 tribal colleges and universities located in 12 states that enroll approximately 30,000 full- and part-

time students from over 250 Federally-recognized Indian Tribes;

Whereas on July 3, 2002, President Bush issued Executive Order 13270 ensuring that tribal colleges and universities are more fully recognized and integrated into the American family of institutions of higher education;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities provide access to information technology critical to full participation in American economic, political and social life, bridging great distances and transforming learning environment; and

Whereas tribal colleges and universities and their Native communities continue to play an integral role in American Indian education including assisting in the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, that the Senate of the United States recog-
 2 nizes the essential role tribal colleges and universities play
 3 in American Indian communities, honors the vision and
 4 commitment of the founders of the American Indian High-
 5 er Education Consortium, and celebrates 30 successful
 6 years of implementing that vision for the benefit of Amer-
 7 ican Indian peoples across the United States.

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