

EDUCATION NEWS FOR NOVEMBER

By Barbara Ramos, Education Director Sac and Fox Nation

Happy fall to everyone. This is my favorite time of the year and I am sure many of you enjoy this time of year as there is so much going on what with the holidays, kids being back in school, etc.

The Education Department has been busy putting paperwork together on our students so that we can begin processing payments for a variety of activities related to school activities. The good news is that our Department of Interior (DOI) budgets were approved and the Finance Department has put the funds into the Education Departments accounts. With this being said, Jean has been processing some payments for services provided under the JOM EDUCATION PLAN and we are grateful to the JOM Coordinators who work within the schools for submitting the required information.

The funds for HIGHER EDUCATION/DOI are now available and I have begun to send out Acceptance Letters to those college students who applied for the DOI Grant. The DOI grant pays \$800.00 toward tuition which is sent directly to the college/university. I have also sent out Denial Letters to students who failed to submit all the required documentation needed for either the RAP College Education Program and/or the DOI Education or both. Students need to read the guidelines as they explain exactly what they need to submit. I sent out e-mails to each student applicant to make them aware of what document(s) were missing; however, this year I placed a disclaimer in bold print that advised the student that this was the only notice they would receive. The Education Department no longer needs the students to submit a W-9 form as the education assistance funds are non-taxable. I went through the fall applications to ensure that a student was not denied education assistance due to not having submitted a W-9 form.

The Education has had a significant increase in the number of Higher Education applications; therefore, students are encouraged to submit the applications and the supporting documents before the March 1, 2018 deadline. Completed applications are recorded and stamped on

the date we receive them and once they are reviewed and if funds are available they will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. We are aware that the fall college transcripts may be delayed; however, we will accept those when we receive them as long as it is within a reasonable time frame. The importance of our requesting a current college transcript is to allow us to see what type or progress you are making and whether or not you have been placed on Academic Probation. Funding for college is limited and we want to ensure that the dollars spent on education are being spent appropriately.

The funding for the RAP Education Program is pending the approval of our RAP budget which should take place on October 28, 2017. Once our budget is approved and Finance puts the funds into the Education Department's account we will begin processing payment for the fall 2017 semester. If all goes as plans it is our hope that we can begin getting payments to the college/university and the students beginning in mid to late November. **JUST A REMINDER THAT THE RAP COUNCIL MEETING HAS TO BE HELD, USUALLY THE LATER PART OF OCTOBER, BEFORE RAP BUDGETS ARE APPROVED. THIS IS THE REASON ALL THE SAC AND FOX NATION'S PROGRAM ARE DELAYED IN PROVIDING SERVICES THAT ARE DEPENDENT UPON RAP FUNDING.**

THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NIEA) has recently announced the launch of a TEACHER RECRUITMENT WEBSITE: teach.niea.org. The reason for this is that numerous states across the country are experiencing shortages – Natives serving schools in rural areas are often the most negatively impacted. Native teachers make up only 0.5% of teachers nationwide and as a result our students suffer as a result. Education is used to connect our past and our future protecting the uniqueness of our cultural identity. Native schools are looking for Native teachers with:

*Commitment: Culturally-responsive

teachers who embed culture into curriculum and instruction – preparing students to graduate ready for college, career, and community success.

* Adaptability: Teachers with an understanding of the challenges Native student's face, sensitive to the unique cultures of individual tribes and students, comfortable with productive struggle, and responsive to cultural differences while upholding the belief that all children can learn.

* Instructional Expertise: Teachers who know their subject matter inside and out; who understand the importance of instructional planning, using a challenging curriculum to empower students to learn; and who never stop learning and improving themselves.

* Respect for Sovereignty, Identity, and Self-Determination. Teachers focused on shaping the future leaders, honoring tribal languages and traditions, and

protecting cultural identity.

* Qualifications in High-Demand Areas: Teachers with middle and high school, SPED, STEM, and language and culture certification.

Any of you education students who will graduate this spring should look into becoming a teacher at a Native American Indian school. This would be a great learning opportunity for you and there are a number of locations that you can serve an Indian community. This would be an opportunity for you to explore what is out there – an adventure. It would be nice if those of you who receive college educational assistance would work with a Native entity to learn about the culture, sovereignty, identity and self-determination. I know a lot of you who take advantage of the college education assistance program really have no ties to the Tribe and that is a shame as you should know something about your cultural heritage.

Stroud Community Class

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This course will be over numbers and how to use them.

8-Week Sauk Language Beginner Course
on Tuesday's
Beginning Oct. 3 - Nov. 21, 2017
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
At the Classroom in the Cultural Center
920883 S. Hwy. 99

The classes will be a potluck, so bring your favorite dish!

Contact: Eddie Fullbright 918-968-3526 Ext. 1078
 Email: Eddie.Fullbright@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Applications for College - Vocational and Adult Education are on the Sac and Fox Nation Web site - Click on Education for downloads.

Coming soon near you

Central Tribes of the Shawnee Area, Inc.

CTSA HEADSTART

We are proud to let you know we are opening a New Head Start in Stroud, OK

Applications will be taken at the Sac & Fox Education Dept.

Directions: Sac & Fox Education Dept. 5 ½ miles south of Stroud on 930 RD. Go past the clinic on top of the hill. It is located south of the gym.

For more information please call Rita Pine at (405) 915-9187 or (405)275-4870

Required Documentation:

1. Proof of income (at least 2 checks stubs/Income letter/TANF letter/Income tax form)
2. Proof of residence (Utility/phone bill, Housing lease—MUST show physical address)
3. CDIB card, SNAP, WIC or any assistance you are receiving
4. Shot records and Birth certificate and Source of Health Care (Tribal/IHS, Private Ins.)
5. If your child has a Documented Disability, we will need a copy of his/her IFSP or IEP.

With Oklahoma's Promise, the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students whose family income is \$50,000 or less **can earn FREE COLLEGE TUITION**

Apply online at www.okpromise.org or
 Contact the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education by e-mail at okpromise@osrhe.edu or by phone at 1-8-858-1840 (225-9152 in OKC)
 Get an application from your counselor

Attention Tribal Members

If you received funding for your child's school clothing this school year, **be sure** you turn in the clothing receipts **so that you will be eligible** for the 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR'S TRIBAL CLOTHING GRANT

Please turn in your receipts to the **Sac and Fox Nation Education Department**
 920883 S. HWY 99 Stroud OK 74079