American Indian College Fund: Native Pathways Guidebook

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Overview

“As you prepare for a college or university education, remember you carry cultural knowledge, identity, strength, and resilience that evolved from this land, which will help you adjust to a different place and challenges that may confront you in that new educational environment.”

- Dr. Henrietta Mann

4 Components of Guidebook

- How to get into college
- How to pay for college
- How to choose a college
- What to expect your first year
Inspiration for the Guide

- National and American Indian/Alaskan Native (AIAN) College Going Rate
  - 70% Nationally, no national data on AIAN, but several state data is around 40%
  - Reservation-based data ranges in the 10-24%

- Representation Matters
  - The need for Native students to see themselves represented in literature, professions, and on campus

- Native student encouragement and support
Arizona State University's Turning Points Magazine: A college guide created by and for Native students
How to Get Into College

- College Bound Native Student Programs
  - Fly-in and college prep programs, and Native American visit days

- Personal Statement
  - Integrate cultural identity and community influence

- Admissions Chat
  - Native student population, student groups, scholarships and tuition waivers, and cultural support on campus
How to Get Into College cont.

Additional Support
- Help identify, train, and make available other people to support college going environment
- Tribal education departments, Native professionals, local organizations, National organizations.

Planning
- Prepare for students who do not follow traditional admissions plan/calendar.
- Some students may struggle with grades, getting rejection letters, or decide to attend college late in process.
How to Pay for College

- Money management skills
  - Budgeting

- Understanding differences in tuition
  - TCU, community college, four-year public, four-year private

- Applying for Native scholarships
  - Myth, "If you're Native you get to go to college for free!"
  - Help students find reliable and legitimate funding
How to Choose a College

- **Family**
  - Distance from home, plan to stay in contact with family in general but also for holidays, ceremonies, and emergencies

- **Affordability**
  - Emergency aid, funds to purchase books on time, when does financial aid or tribal scholarships come in, financial aid package vs. cost.

- **Personal**
  - Majors, grades and test scores to get in, what percentage of freshman class graduate in four years? Six years? What percentage of Native students?

- **Belonging**
  - Smudging on campus, land acknowledgment policy, Native resource centers, faculty, staff, other students.

"If I had accepted my fate and not advocated for my future, I would not be attending my dream school today." - Tina
What to Expect Your First Year

- How to interact with faculty
  - What to ask during faculty office hours, why attend faculty office hours, and how to communicate through e-mail

- Native presence on campus and campus size

- Build and embrace your identity on campus
  - Language classes, history, service learning, and other leadership opportunities
Why are books like this critical for Native students?
Questions

How is this book different from other college-going guides?
Who was involved in creating this book?
Where can people get a copy of the book?
Contact Information

- https://collegefund.org/student-resources/native-pathways-to-college/
- Link to online guidebook: https://bit.ly/2UH5Hn2
- Email: NativePathways@collegefund.org