



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS OFFERS NEW SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUPPORT THE CENTER FOR BRAIDING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES AND SCIENCE

Native Country, U.S.A., Tuesday, January 16, 2024 - The Association on American Indian Affairs has partnered with the [University of Massachusetts at Amherst Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science](#) (CBIKS) to increase scholarships to Native graduate and undergraduate students in biological sciences, STEM, and Native studies.

The goal of the new scholarship program is to increase the number of Native students and professionals that are utilizing Indigenous Knowledges to strengthen and improve upon western science, which consistently ignores the scientific experimentation that Indigenous Peoples have been doing for thousands of years. CBIKS will focus on connecting Indigenous knowledges with mainstream science to address some of the most pressing environmental issues of our time. CBIKS will work on complex, evolving challenges brought on by climate change, including dire impacts affecting land, water, plant and animal life; the danger posed to irreplaceable archaeological sites, sacred places and cultural heritage; and the challenges of changing food systems, all of which disproportionately affect Native Nations and Native Peoples.

“We are excited that CBIKS is supporting Indigenous knowledge systems in the academic STEM space,” said Shannon O’Loughlin, citizen of the Choctaw Nation, CEO and Attorney for the Association. “These scholarships will not only provide Native students a \$2,000 scholarship, but it will also connect those students with CBIKS for fellowships and internships to support important work in climate change.”

The first set of 15 students will be awarded \$2,000 for the Fall 2023/Spring 2024 academic year in February. These students will receive this \$2,000 per year scholarship until they graduate, as long as they maintain full-time status and at least a 2.5 grade point average. Native graduate and undergraduate students from either federally recognized or non-federally recognized Tribes and Nations, that are in the biological sciences within STEM and Native Studies, who are connected to their Native Nation and are planning to work for their Native Nation or within Native Country, are eligible for the Association’s CBIKS scholarship.

The scholarship application period for Fall 2024/Spring 2025 opens on February 1, 2024. The Association also provides 20 scholarships per year for all areas of study to Native graduate and undergraduate students. The Association is the oldest national Native non-profit with the oldest scholarship program, since 1947. Learn more about the Association's scholarships at Indian-Affairs.org/nativescholarship.

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The Association on American Indian Affairs is the oldest non-profit serving Native Country protecting sovereignty, preserving culture, educating youth and building capacity. The Association was formed in 1922 to change the destructive path of federal policy from assimilation, termination and allotment, to sovereignty, self-determination and self-sufficiency. Throughout its 100-year history, the Association has provided national advocacy on watershed issues that support sovereignty and culture, while working at a grassroots level with Native Nations to support the implementation of programs that support Native Peoples.

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