



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington

RESOLUTION #08 - 11

"SUPPORT FOR PELL STUDENT GRANT"

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, in September 2007, the College Cost and Reduction Act passed by Congress and signed by President Bush provided a historic funding increase for the Pell Grant program for students seeking higher educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Congress used the budget reconciliation process to reduce subsidies to loan providers, in turn generating funding on the mandatory side of the budget for the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Pell Grant provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post baccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education and unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid; and

WHEREAS, there is growing concern about the overall funding level for the maximum Pell Grant program with the passage of the budget reconciliation, which can change each award year depending on program funds; and

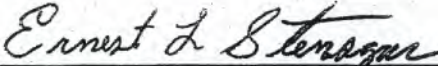
WHEREAS, the conventional wisdom is that the discretionary total for Pell Grants may be reduced due to other competing funding needs; now

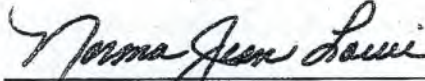
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians urge the U.S. Congress and Member Tribes to strongly advocate for at least maintaining the Pell Grant Level at \$4,731 this year in support of higher education students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ATNI urges the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Education Association to strongly advocate for maintaining the Pell Grant Level in support of Native students.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Washington on January 25, 2008, with a quorum present.


Ernest L. Stensgar, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary