

**Commission on Native Children  
National Indian Education Association Virtual Meeting Session  
October 8, 2020**

**Date**

Part 1: 11 am-12 pm MT  
Part 2: 12:15-1:15 pm MT

**Title**

The Potential of Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) to Support Native Children's Success

**Description**

In collaboration with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children will hear from TCU stakeholders about the potential of TCUs to support the success of Native children. The Commission on Native Children was established by Congress to conduct a comprehensive study of issues, programs, and supports impacting American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children (ages 0-24). The 11-member Commission will issue a report to Congress and President with recommendations for actions that could be taken at the federal level and in states and tribal communities to improve outcomes for Native children.

During this session, the Commission will hear about innovative approaches taken by TCUs to meet the needs of both their students and Native children in their communities. Though TCUs vary in enrollment, focus, location, and student population, they share a mission of tribal self-determination and service to their respective communities. Highly qualified TCU staff engage in teaching and research, but also serve as counselors and mentors to students – and TCUs provide a variety of supports to help students succeed, including wellness programs, child care, and transportation and housing assistance. TCUs also serve as important resources to their communities, providing libraries and computer labs as well as a range of community service programming.

During part 1 of this session, the Commission will hear from the AIHEC President and CEO, a president of a TCU, and a student at a TCU about the contributions of TCUs to the health and well-being of their students and Native children more broadly. During part 2 of the session, the speakers will be joined by two additional TCU presidents for an open discussion with the Commissioners about the potential of TCUs to improve outcomes for Native children.

**Speakers**

- Part 1 (October 8, 11 am MT):
  - Carrie Billy, President and CEO, AIHEC
  - Sandra Boham, President, Salish Kootenai College
  - Student from SKC, to be named
- Part 2 (October 8, 12:15 pm MT):
  - Sandra Boham, SKC
  - Cynthia Lindquist, President, Candeska Cikana Community College

- Charles “Monty” Roessel, President, Dine College

### **Session flow**

- Part 1: We'll start with an introduction and welcome from the Chair of the Commission, Gloria O'Neill. Then each presenter will have about 15 minutes to speak. There may be an opportunity for 1-2 brief clarifying questions following each presentation. Presenters should cover the following:
  - Provide an overview of your work (for student: tell your story)
  - Share any challenges you've experienced with implementing your goals
  - Discuss any models of best practices you want to highlight or that should be replicated more widely (for student: what has been most helpful to you about the supports you've received from SKC?)
  - Share any recommendations you have for the Commission's consideration
- Part 2: The panel will be moderated by Chair O'Neill. She will ask each of the panelists 3 questions, giving each of them about 2 minutes to respond to each question (total time up to 35 minutes). This will be followed by an open opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. Questions:
  - What's one creative idea you've had to support your students and community that you'd implement if you had the opportunity and resources?
  - We know that TCUs have Native language and culture programs for students. What is your college doing to reach out to the community with those language and culture programs?
  - What has the impact of COVID-19 been on your educational and community efforts? What supports would be helpful right now?