



**Commission on Native Children
December 3, 2020
1-3 pm ET/9-11 am AK**

**Virtual Hearing: The Potential of Tribal Colleges and Universities to
Support Native Children's Success**

In collaboration with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), 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. 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 promoting 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 culture and language programs, 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, three TCU presidents will have a moderated question and answer session and open discussion with the Commissioners about the potential of TCUs to improve outcomes for Native children.

Witness Bios:

Carrie Billy, President and CEO, American Indian Higher Education Consortium

Carrie Billy, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and attorney from Arizona, was appointed President & CEO of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) in June 2008. Carrie is a graduate of the University of Arizona and the Georgetown University Law Center. Her career reflects a

commitment to public service and to protecting and promoting the cultures, rights and wellbeing of American Indians and improving the quality of life and educational status of all Americans.

Sandra Boham, President, Salish Kootenai College

Sandra Boham is President of Salish Kootenai College (SKC) and the American Indian College Fund 2020 Tribal College and University Honoree of the Year. She began her career working for the Salish Kootenai College's Tribal Work Experience Program (TWEPE), an adult basic education program. Boham gained a wide array of experience learning about the tribal college from the ground up. She later became the college's registrar and the director of admissions. She also served as the assistant director of Upward Bound and Gear Up and worked in financial aid before pursuing other education career opportunities both outside of and in the state of Montana with a variety of learning communities. She worked at the Northern California Indian Development Council in Eureka, California where she taught Indian Studies at Humboldt State and the College of the Redwoods. She rounded out her education experience back in Montana serving students from K-12 as the Director of Indian Education for the Great Falls School District in Montana, and at the Department of Corrections as the Education Director for women. After returning home to SKC, in 2013-14 she was named Academic Vice President and later Acting President in 2015, until she assumed the role of president in February 2016.

Cynthia Lindquist, President, Cankdeska Cikana Community College

Cynthia Lindquist, Ph.D., whose Dakota name is "Star Horse Woman," serves as the president of Cankdeska Cikana Community College in North Dakota and is the current chair of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Board of Directors in Alexandria, VA. AIHEC is the member organization for the 37 tribal colleges and universities in the United States with one located in Canada. As a Bush Foundation Leadership Fellow, she earned a doctorate in educational leadership at the University of North Dakota in 2006. She began responsibilities as president of Cankdeska Cikana (Little Hoop) Community College in October 2003, which serves the Spirit Lake Dakota community and is her home reservation. She is a founding member of the National Indian Women's Health Resource Center, a nonprofit advocacy organization. Lindquist served as member of the Council of Public Representatives (COPR), an advisory council to the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and is a former executive director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the American Indian College Fund which is the scholarship fund raising organization for tribal colleges and universities. Dr. Lindquist served for six years on the Board of Trustees for the Higher Learning Commission, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Charles "Monty" Roessel, President, Diné College

Dr. Charles Monty Roessel is the 17th president of Diné College. He has a background in K-12 education at the national and local level. In addition, he has been a Navajo business owner, a community development organizer, a photographer and a journalist. He received his doctorate from Arizona State University, masters from Prescott College and undergraduate from the University of Northern Colorado. Roessel has published widely in journals, books and magazines. He is from Round Rock, Arizona.

Part 1: 1-2 pm ET

- Introductions and welcome (5 minutes)

Chair

- Overview of Commission and goals of meeting (5 minutes) Chair
- Carrie Billy, CEO, American Indian Higher Education Consortium (10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)
- Sandra Boham, President, Salish Kootenai College (10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)
- Student, Salish Kootenai College (10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)

Part 2: 2-3 pm ET

During Part 2, Commissioner, Dr. Leander McDonald will moderate a panel with three TCU presidents. He will ask each of the panelists 3 questions, giving each of them about 2 minutes to respond to each question. This will be followed by an open opportunity for questions from the Commissioners.

- Facilitated Conversation (30 minutes) Dr. McDonald
 - 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?
- Open Discussion (25 minutes) Chair
- Closing Remarks (5 minutes) Chair