



For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephine Poston (505) 379-6172
stephposton@msn.com

American Indian Graduate Center Announces New Board Members and President of the Board

Prominent leaders of Indian Country join the oldest and largest national provider of scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native graduate students

Albuquerque, NM. – February 8, 2010 – The American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving cultural and economic wellbeing for individuals and tribes through graduate education elected a new President and officers for 2010/11 and appointed two new board members. Mr. David Mahooty will serve as President of the Board and Governor Bill Anoatubby and Ms. Danna R. Jackson will assume positions as Board Members.

Mahooty is Assistant Vice President and Relationship Manager for the Wells Fargo New Mexico Commercial Banking office in Albuquerque, NM. He also serves on the Laguna Education Foundation Board and the Advisory Council for the Native American Initiative for Junior Achievement. An AIGC alumnus, Mahooty earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Master of Business Administration from the University of New Mexico. He is also a graduate of the New Mexico Military Institute. Grayson B. Noley, Ph.D. was elected Vice President and Melanie Patten Fritzsche was elected Secretary and Treasurer.

An active member in tribal government for 35 years, Gov. Anoatubby has served as Governor of the Chickasaw Nation since 1987. He also holds board positions for Integris Health, Inc., Oklahoma Heritage Association, Oklahoma State Fair, Native American Cultural and Educational Authority (chairman), Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (president), Federal Reserve Oklahoma City Branch, and Arkansas Riverbed Authority. He received an Associates Degree in Business from Murray State College and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from East Central University.

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Jackson is an attorney at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in Washington, D.C. where she specializes in Indian gaming, economic development on tribal lands, Native American housing and education, and tribal trust. Jackson formerly advised Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) on legislative issues relevant to Indian Affairs and Judiciary committees. She also served as an attorney to the National Indian Gaming Commission. Jackson earned her Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor from the University of Montana.

“The AIGC Board of Directors is composed of a diverse, dynamic group of professionals and leaders in the nationwide Indian community. Mr. Mahooty, Governor Anoahtubby and Ms. Jackson will infuse new vigor into our organization and ensure our mission to provide education and leadership opportunity to American Indian and Alaska Native students is realized,” said Elizabeth Rodke Washburn, AIGC’s outgoing President. “AIGC is a world-class organization with a sound commitment to advancing the lives of our Indian people – from the more than 15,000 students who have received scholarships to our newest board members.”

AIGC has awarded more than \$44 million in scholarship money to American Indian and Alaska Native students since it was established in 1969. Each year, the organization awards approximately 450 scholarships in the range of \$3,000 to \$4,000. AIGC is headquartered in Albuquerque, NM.

About the American Indian Graduate Center

AIGC works to improve cultural and economic wellbeing for individuals and tribes through graduate education. Since its founding in 1969, AIGC has awarded over \$44M to 15,000 graduate students in all fields of study. As a non-profit organization, AIGC is committed to raising scholarship funds for its students and is proud of the fact that more than 90 percent of every dollar raised goes directly to scholarships and services for students.

To build, promote and honor self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through education and leadership.

American Indian Graduate Center, Inc.
4520 Montgomery Blvd. NE, Suite 1B, Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 881-4584 www.aigcs.org

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