



For Immediate Release

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Sacred Wind Communications Presents \$10,000 Check to AIGC

NBC Universal's and American Express' 2009 Most Inspiring Small Business in America donates part of their grant from Shine A Light Contest to American Indian and Alaska Native scholarships.

Albuquerque, NM. – March 2, 2010 – The American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC), the oldest and largest national provider of scholarships for American Indian and Alaska Native graduate students, recognized Sacred Wind Communications, Inc., for their generous \$10,000 donation, at a check presentation ceremony on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Sacred Wind Communications is an emerging small business dedicated to improving telecommunications services to rural and Navajo tribal areas within New Mexico.

“Through the diligent work of Sacred Wind Communications, an increased number of Navajo homes in New Mexico have access to the basic resources essential to improving their education and quality of life,” said David Mahooty, President of the AIGC Board of Directors. “As it is AIGC’s mission to build, promote and honor self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through education and leadership, we will ensure Sacred Wind’s charitable contribution continues to benefit the people they serve through scholarships and services to students.”

Established in December 2006, Sacred Wind Communications spearheaded the initiative to bring basic phone and Internet service to homes in rural areas in New Mexico – particularly on the Navajo reservation. The company is responsible for connecting more than 420 New Mexico residents with these services, for the first time ever, which earned Sacred Wind Communications the 2009 *Most Inspiring Small Business in America* title – a designation presented by the NBC Universal and American Express [Shine A Light Program](#). As the nationwide winner, Sacred Wind Communications received \$50,000 in grant money from American Express, \$25,000 of which they donated to Native scholarship funds.

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“There is no better way to ensure a strong future for our company and our state than to support education. We are proud to assist AIGC in advancing a world of opportunities to our tribal youth, through higher education,” said John Badal, the former president of Qwest Communications.

“Given the current economic climate, I’m overwhelmed with Sacred Wind’s generosity. A small business donating a significant amount of their grant, from the Shine A Light Program, to scholarships clearly shows their commitment to improving Indian communities,” added Sam Deloria, Director of AIGC.

About Sacred Wind Communications, Inc.

Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. is a privately owned, New Mexico-based company, dedicated to improving telecommunications services to rural, mainly Navajo tribal areas, within New Mexico. Primarily focused on introducing basic telephone and high-speed Internet services to the many thousands of unserved homes on Navajo lands, Sacred Wind answers the land use and cost challenges that have deprived the Navajo people of necessary communications connectivity to the rest of the world.

About the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC)

Since it was established in 1969, the American Indian Graduate Center has awarded more than \$44 million in scholarship money to American Indian and Alaska Native graduate students. Each year, the organization awards approximately 350 scholarships, ranging from \$3,000 to \$4,000. As a national, non-profit organization, AIGC is committed to raising scholarship funds for its students and is proud of the fact that 96 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.

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