



Two Native Americans Detained on Colorado Campus Tour, American Indian College Fund Urges Colleges to Make Institutions Welcoming

May 7, 2018, Denver, Colo.— The story of two young Native American men detained by CSU Campus Police after a nervous parent called to report them has been in the news. The American Indian College Fund is urging education institutions to take steps to make their campuses welcoming environments for Native people and other people of color.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, released a statement, which was featured on [Denver7 and TheDenverChannel.com](#).

“We at the Denver-based national non-profit, the American Indian College Fund, were angry to learn about the incident at Colorado State University. People of color deserve to be included in higher education like anyone else.

College visits are an important part of the pre-college experience, and we encourage potential students to visit colleges to feel safe and accepted at the college of their choice. It is upsetting when Native students are hesitant to consider a college based on experiences, such as what occurred at Colorado State University (CSU).

American Indians and Alaska Natives have a 14% degree-attainment rate, according to the National Center for Education statistics—which is less than half of the national average.

Colleges and universities must promote access to an equitable higher education for Native American students by investing in education, resources, and processes to eliminate institutionalized racism and to provide an equitable education. Native American students comprised only 1% of CSU’s undergraduate and graduate student body in 2015, according to the CSU web site.

We urge higher education institutions to join us in our efforts to increase the numbers of Native people with college degrees by making their institutions more welcoming. They can acknowledge the indigenous people on whose lands work is being done and where institutions exist; implement training to help students, faculty, and staff to name racism when it happens; train college personnel about indigenous culture, history, and inclusion; and examine existing curriculum to ensure fair representation of Native people’s history, accomplishments, and contributions. Finally, we urge higher education institutions to report on the status of Native



American students at their institutions by including their student data in all institutional data points.”

--Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO
American Indian College Fund
www.collegefund.org

Attention Journalists: The American Indian College Fund never uses the acronym AICF and does not have the legal rights to do so. On second reference, please refer to the College Fund as the College Fund.

About the American Indian College Fund

Founded in 1989, the American Indian College Fund has been the nation’s largest charity supporting Native higher education for nearly 30 years. The College Fund believes “Education is the answer” and provided 6,548 scholarships last year totaling \$7.6 million to American Indian students, with more than 125,000 scholarships totaling over \$100 million since its inception. The College Fund also supports a variety of academic and support programs at the nation’s 35 accredited tribal colleges and universities, which are located on or near Indian reservations, ensuring students have the tools to graduate and succeed in their careers. The College Fund consistently receives top ratings from independent charity evaluators, and received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and is one of the nation’s top 100 charities named to the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance. For more information about the American Indian College Fund, please visit www.collegefund.org.