



**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**TESTIMONY OF:
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CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPEMENT**

Introduction

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Committee members My name is Robert Martin and I am the president of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I express gratitude for the opportunity to present this testimony on behalf of the Institute of American Indian Arts. IAIA was established in 1962 as the only Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school teaching arts and culture. IAIA quickly evolved from a high school to a college offering bachelor of fine arts programs in Studio Arts, New Media Arts, Creative Writing, Museum Studies and Indigenous Liberal Studies. IAIA became an independent college when it was chartered by the United States Congress to empower creativity in leadership in Native arts and culture. The enabling legislation states that Native arts and cultures are Indigenous to the United States and thus must be enthusiastically maintained and supported so that they are not lost for future generations.

IAIA currently serves more than 400 students representing 84 tribes from across Indian country.

In 2012 IAIA is celebrating its 50th anniversary as the birth place of contemporary Native arts. During the past 50 years, IAIA has graduated approximately 4,000 award winning artists, writers, film makers and museologists. A few of our internationally renowned artists are T. C. Cannon, Dan Namingha, Doug Hyde, Tony Abeyta, Rose Simpson and Mateo Romero.

Discussion

The President's FY 2013 federal appropriations budget request is \$9,369,000, which is an increase of \$144,000 more than the funding requested by the administration for IAIA in FY 2012. IAIA's enacted FY 2012 federal funding of \$8,533,000 has adversely impacted our ability to provide high quality bachelor's level degrees in Native Arts & Culture to American Indian and Alaska Native students. For example, the summer school program was cancelled, delaying the completion of programs and graduation for

approximately 100 students (25% of the student body). Moreover, a number of positions were eliminated impacting the student support program, i.e. counseling program.

The FY 13 request is \$836,000 more than our FY 12 enacted appropriation and is necessary to assist IAIA in addressing the following issues:

- Increased funding (\$113,000) is required to address the growth in student enrollment. IAIA's student body has grown by more than 100% since September, 2007. (200 students enrolled in 2007; 403 enrolled for the 2011 Fall Semester). An institutional priority is to fully staff the new Sculpture/Foundry facility and to add new faculty positions for the most rapidly expanding programs in New Media Arts and Museum Studies. A total of two faculty and one support position will be added to the aforementioned programs.
- The additional funding (\$100,000) will be used to fully implement a Student Success Center. One of our strategic themes is student success and increasing retention rates is a high priority. To increase retention rates, we are restructuring student support services by establishing a one-stop shop for student services located in the Library and Technology Building. There is a national movement regarding "best practices" among colleges and universities to better serve students with the "One-Stop Shop" model for student services to improve retention rates. IAIA's one-stop center for student success is designed to demonstrate IAIA's commitment to student success through a logistical approach regarding student services. The Learning Support Center will continue to assist students with orientation, tutoring, advising, testing, peer mentoring, early alerts and talking circle. In addition to these student support services, the center also will include financial aid, records and registration, scholarship/career services, student accounts, veteran affairs, disability services, and a National Honor Society. There are several national studies that indicate this model and approach improves retention rates especially for "Minority Serving Institutions".
- An increase would fund (\$134,000) the reinstatement of the summer school program expediting the completion of students' degree program and maximize the use of IAIA state-of-the-art programs, facilities and equipment. New incoming students would be able to enroll in remedial courses and returning students will be able to expedite their graduation by enrolling in additional courses during the summer months. The increase also would permit the rehiring of an additional counselor and address the requirements of an increasing number of students being served in the housing, recreation and food service programs.
- Additional funding (\$100,000) would assist with the operations and maintenance of an expanding campus. The IAIA has added more than 60,000 square feet of operating space with three new campus buildings constructed since November, 2009. In addition, recently opened on campus are three much-needed facilities - a childcare center, family housing and a bookstore. As a result of the growth of the campus' physical plant, the IAIA's operating and maintenance costs have

increased by 30 percent in less than one year. In addition, energy costs have increased more than 40 percent due to both square footage and rate increases.

- Additional funds (\$45,000) are required to integrate financial, advancement, human resource and student data systems to enable sharing of information among our various offices and divisions. This funding would permit the achievement of this strategic initiative as well as acquisition of a Blackbaud Fixed Asset module and acquired related tracking and tagging equipment and software for improved property management inventory control.
- The increase would fund (\$144,000) a modest 2% cost-of-living adjustment for faculty and staff. IAIA froze personnel salaries last year and no employee received a cost-of-living adjustment. The institution also absorbed fix costs increases associated with FICA, workman's comp and retirement, insurance and unemployment benefits.
- The increase would provide funding (\$200,000) for capital improvement. The original campus buildings are now twelve years old; IAIA must begin to replace roofs, HVAC and re-stuccoing to ensure that we prolong and safeguard the useful lives of our structures and are not faced with unfunded major capital repairs in future years. In FY 2013, the HVAC system and ventilation systems in the academic/administration building should be replaced with a more efficient and cost effective unit.

Conclusion

IAIA continues an aggressive fundraising campaign matching its federal appropriations for core activities with grants and donations from individual, corporate, foundation and competitive federal agency resources. For federal fiscal years 2007 through 2011, the total combined federal payments appropriated by Congress for the IAIA were \$37.869 million. During the same five-year period, the IAIA raised more than \$51 million from all other sources, including earned revenue. Moreover, an IAIA Foundation has been established to increase monetary support from individual donors for IAIA.

If the President's budget request for IAIA is sustained, we will be able to continue to provide high quality educational programs and services to our students. This concludes my testimony. I again thank the Chairman and the Committee members for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the IAIA. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.

