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NEWS RELEASE  
Institute of American Indian Arts  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
June 27, 1962

Approximately 180 children from the Gallup Area will be accepted in school for another year under the Bureau of Indian Affairs regular school program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. This was decided today at a meeting called by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Santa Fe. This number will be in addition to 150 students planned for the first year's operation of the new Institute of American Indian Arts.

Attending the meeting were ~~representatives of the Albuquerque Council~~ staff of the Institute of American Indian Arts, the Arts and Crafts Board, the Area Director of the Gallup Area and members of his staff, as well as the Commissioner and members of his staff from Washington and Albuquerque.

The decision was made following a building by building inspection of the entire plant of the former Santa Fe Indian School. This inspection and ensuing discussion disclosed the fact that 392 students were enrolled in the Santa Fe Indian School in 1961-1962. The process of remodeling the existing plant to meet the needs of the new Institute of American Indian Arts will temporarily reduce the capacity to approximately 330. One hundred and fifty students will be enrolled in the new Institute during its first year under the new program. These students will be selected on a nation-wide basis. This would have left an idle capacity to house 180 students, and the group was unwilling to permit this to happen in the face of the existing shortage of school seats in the Gallup Area.

In its discussion the group emphasized that this excess capacity will be available for one year only, since the Institute will accept an additional 150 students in its second year of operation and an additional 200 in its third year of operation. The group further emphasized that at the end of the academic year 1962-1963 the 180 students will be transferred to appropriate federal or public schools as additional space becomes available elsewhere under the Bureau's present construction program.

Qualified staff members of the former Santa Fe Indian School who desire will be retained to the extent needed to teach, counsel and care for the 180 students.

"The Institute of American Indian Arts will be a high school and technical training institute with primary emphasis in fine and applied arts," the Commissioner of Indian Affairs said. "We intend to make of this center an institution of national and international importance. Graduates of the Institute will receive a complete high school education with additional grounding in plastic, graphic, textile and related arts, based on American Indian art tradition and culture. Some graduates will be able to move directly into employment in applied art fields, such as commercial art, textile design and illustration. Others may go into institutions of higher education and still others may choose to go on in fine arts. This is the first technical institute to be created within the Bureau of Indian Affairs since the foundation of Haskell Institute in the last century. There is intense interest in the Institute among Indian groups throughout the country. One hundred applications have already been received from individuals representing more than 40 tribes."