

## FUND DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

**Program:** Science Post Graduate Scholarship Fund

**Type of Funding:** Recurring (Non Base) -- Contractor

**Funding Authority/Responsibility:** 25 U.S.C. 13 (The Snyder Act of November 2, 1921), 42 Stat. 208, Pub.L. 67-85; 90 Stat. 2233, Pub.L. 94-482. 25 U.S.C. 461 et seq. (The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934), 48 Stat. 984, Pub.L. 73-383; Pub.L. 103-263. 25 U.S.C. 450 (The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act), 88 Stat. 2203, Pub.L. 93-638. 20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq. (The Higher Education Act of 1965) Pub.L. 89-329, as amended, Pub.L. 102-325, 105-244, 110-315. 25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq. (Tribally Controlled Colleges or Universities Assistance Act of 1978) Pub.L. 95-471, as amended, Pub.L. 105-244, Sec 901, 122 Stat. 3078, Pub.L. 110-315. 25 U.S.C. 640a-640c-3 (Navajo Community College Act of 1971) 85 Stat. 646, Pub.L. 92-189, 122 Stat. 3468, Pub.L. 100-315, as amended, Authorized through 2014.

The Director, Bureau of Indian Education has responsibility for these funds.

**Criteria for Distribution:** The Science Post-Graduate Scholarship Fund (SPGSF) program provides funding and awards specifically for post-secondary and post-graduate-level fellowships, professional development, internships and training opportunities. These awards are provided in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) such as agricultural, geological, and biological and life sciences, computing, communications, networking, information technology; and biomedical programs.

Many tribal lands are situated on lands with great natural resource potential that require individuals with education, skills, and expertise to sustainably develop resources. American Indian/Alaska Native students in STEM fields often recognize the importance of reinvesting their knowledge back into their home communities, bringing their skills back to their home tribes or other tribal communities. There is a high deficiency in STEM fields and urgency for research to understand why. A portion of the SPGSF was directed towards a research study to understand the barriers that discourage Native student participation in these fields and expanding STEM opportunities at Tribal Colleges and Universities.

The BIE contracts with the American Indian Graduate Center for the operation of this program annually. The contractor awards students through an application process that is based on need and demonstrated desire to help their local Native communities through applicant's selection of professional development, internship opportunity or area of study with priority given to tribal colleges and universities.

### **Distribution Process:**

- IA Budget notifies the Bureau of Indian Education Budget of the total Special Higher Education Scholarships as appropriated by Congress. (within 5 days of apportionment)
- The BIE notifies the contractor of fund availability.
- The contractor forwards proposed applicant listing to BIE for approval.
- The BIE approves the final list of applicants before they are awarded.