



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

APR 05 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

I invite you to participate in a consultation regarding a strategy to provide funding to Tribal Colleges and Universities for facility needs. The FY 2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act appropriated \$15 million to address Operations and Maintenance (O&M) for Tribal Colleges & Universities (TCUs) and included the following direction in the accompanying joint explanatory statement:

The Committees recognize that many Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) have significant unfunded needs and direct BIE and the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs (ASIA) to work with Tribal leaders and other stakeholders to develop a consistent methodology for determining TCU operating and maintenance needs to inform future budget requests. The Committees previously directed BIE to develop a methodology regarding TCU operating and facility needs. The Committees again direct BIE and ASIA to assess TCU facility needs and to develop a distribution methodology to address these needs.

The Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education seek to:

- Develop an equitable methodology to distribute funding among the TCUs as called for in the joint explanatory statement; and
- Determine what data-driven criteria will be used to assess O&M needs at each of the TCU facilities.

Please join me at the following Tribal consultation session to discuss each of these items:

Date	Time (Eastern Time)	Call-In Number	Passcode
Friday, May 7, 2021	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	(877) 917-3404	5959048

We are also accepting written input on this topic at consultation@bia.gov and ask that you provide any written input you may have by Friday, May 11, 2021.

If you would like additional information in the meantime, please contact Mr. Michael Wischnewski, Deputy Director, Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management, at (703) 390-6548 or michael.wischnewski@bia.gov.

I look forward to your input on Indian Affairs' implementation of this critical funding.

Sincerely,

Bryan Newland
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs