

**TENTH LEGISLATURE
OF THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
SPECIAL SESSION
October 14, 2025
LCR, CONCHO, OK**

A Resolution to Appropriate Funds to the Department of Education for Scholarships

RESOLUTION NO: 10L-SS-2025-1014-001

DATE INTRODUCED: October 8, 2025

SPONSOR: Kendricks Sleeper, District A2

CO-SPONSOR: Rector Candy, District A4

SUBJECT: A Resolution to Appropriate Funds to the Department of Education for the Higher Education Scholarship Program

WHEREAS: The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are a federally recognized tribe with their own form of self-government organized under a constitution approved by Tribal membership on April 4, 2006, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS: Article VI, Section 5(a) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the “power to make all laws and resolutions in accordance with the Constitution which are necessary and proper for the good of the Tribes;” and

WHEREAS: Article VI, Section 5(a) of the Constitution requires that all actions by the Legislature shall be embodied in a written Law or Resolution; and

WHEREAS: The Legislature has the Constitutional obligation and public responsibility to the Tribes to oversee the Tribes’ operations in order to establish and promote justice, establish guidance and direction for the government and advance the general welfare of the Tribes; and

WHEREAS: Article VI, Section 5(d) of the Constitution authorizes the Legislature shall have the power to raise revenue and appropriate funds for expenditure; and

WHEREAS: The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education Higher Education Scholarship Program assists tribal citizens in attaining their higher education goals by providing grants, incentives, and supplemental awards.; and

WHEREAS: The Higher Education Scholarship Program continues to increase services provided each year to both high school and college students; and

WHEREAS: The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Higher Education Scholarship Program has observed the need for additional funding due to the growing tribal membership and increase in students needing assistance; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that additional funding is needed in the amount of \$474,723 to assist the remaining estimated 240 students; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Tenth Legislature of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes authorizes and appropriates additional funding for the Department of Education Higher Education Scholarship Program in the amount of \$474,723 from Tax Commission.



Kendricks Sleeper
Speaker of the Tenth Legislature
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

ATTEST:

I, Jodi White Buffalo, Legislative Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is a True and Accurate Copy of the Original Bill No. 10L-SS-2025-1014-001 which was acted upon by the Legislature of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in the Tenth Legislature Special Session, by a roll call vote on the 14th day of October 2025.

VOTE RECORD:

DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
A1	Diane Willis	✓			
A2	Kendricks Sleeper	✓			
A3	Travis Ruiz	✓			
A4	Rector Candy	✓			
C1	Bruce Whiteman, Jr.	✓			
C2	George Woods				✓
C3	Thomas Trout	✓			
C4	Byron Byrd	✓			
TOTAL		7			1
Passes (☒) Fails (☐) Tabled (☐) Allowed to Die (☐) No Action (☐)					


Jodi White Buffalo, Legislative Clerk
Tenth Legislature, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

ATTEST:

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 7, subsection (a)(iv) of the Tribes Constitution reads in part: "All Bills passed by the Legislature shall be presented to the Governor for signature or veto. All laws shall take effect thirty days after signature by the Governor or veto override by the Legislature unless any Member of the Tribes submits to the Coordinator of the Office of Tribal Council a petition signed by at least one hundred fifty Members of the Tribal Council seeking to repeal the law or resolution at the next Tribal Council meeting. If the Tribal Council fails to repeal such law or resolution at the next Tribal Council where the matter has been properly placed on the agenda for the Tribal Council meeting, such law or resolution shall become effective immediately."

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 4, subsection (g) of the Tribes Constitution reads: "The Governor shall have the power to sign any enactment passed by the Legislature into law or to veto any enactment passed by the Legislature within ten days of passage with a written explanation of any objections; and if the Governor takes no action within ten days, then the enactment shall become law in accordance with this Constitution."

{  } APPROVED

{ } VETOED: Attachment ____; Governor's written explanation of any objections.

On the 14th day of October, 2025.



Reggie Wassana, Governor
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

TRANSMITTAL OF DOCUMENTS:

From the Legislative Branch to the Office of Records Management

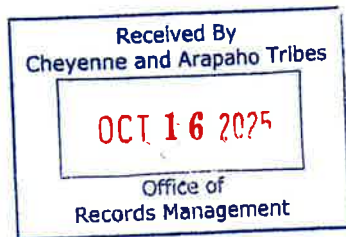
ATTEST:

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 7, subsection (a)(v), of the Tribes Constitution reads, "The Office of Records Management shall compile all Laws and Resolutions into a comprehensive Code in an orderly manner that shall be published annually."

Office of Records Management Staff, hereby certify that the foregoing is a True and Accurate Original Resolution No. 10L-SS-2025-1014-001.

Space below is reserved for Stamp:

Received (Date) Office of Record Management



Signature: Cheryl Blind
Print Name: Cheryl Blind
Title: Director
Date: 10/16/25

Office of Records Management
Department of Administration, Executive Branch
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Education Numbers

Here are the estimated award amounts based on the applications we received by our Oct. 1st deadline. We have several new student files that are incomplete, so we're unable to determine their classification and estimated award amount. We added those students as freshmen for estimation purposes. We will have a number of students that won't complete their files of course, so we likely won't need the entire amount. Students that submitted their application by Oct. 1st have until Nov. 1st to submit their remaining documents. They will not be awarded if they don't submit the remainder of their documents by Nov. 1st.

ESTIMATED FALL 2025 SHORTFALL		
	ESTIMATED AWARDS	ESTIMATED AMOUNT:
FRESHMEN	113	\$ 167,250.00
SOPHOMORE	46	\$ 88,505.00
JUNIOR	32	\$ 76,270.00
SENIOR	26	\$ 71,250.00
GRADUATE	16	\$ 51,335.00
DOCTORAL	7	\$ 20,113.00
TOTAL:	240	\$ 474,723.00

Here are the scholarship awards that have already been paid out this semester.

PAID FALL 2025 AWARDS		
	AWARDS	AMOUNT:
FRESHMEN	16	\$ 22,525.50
SOPHOMORE	9	\$ 16,342.00
JUNIOR	9	\$ 22,500.00
SENIOR	14	\$ 39,000.00
GRADUATE	8	\$ 25,668.00
DOCTORAL	0	\$ -
CONCURRENT	3	\$ 1,521.07
TOTAL:	59	\$ 127,556.57

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Higher Education Scholarship Program assists tribal citizens in attaining their higher education goals by providing grants, incentives, and supplemental awards. Grants are awarded to students attending accredited two-year and four-year colleges and universities. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, pursuant to P.L. 93-638, have been contracted to administer this program for enrolled tribal citizens. The Higher Education Scholarship Program continues to increase services provided each year to both high school and college students. For the 2024-2025 academic year, a total of 1,027 financial awards were granted for a total of \$1,114,373.04.

2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR OVERVIEW

	SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TOTALS					AWARDS BY CLASSIFICATION			
	FALL 2024	SPRING 2025	SUMMER 2025	TOTAL		FA24	SP25	SU25	TOTAL
FRESHMEN	\$128,604.00	\$86,750.00	\$13,000.00	\$228,354.00	FR	89	63	13	165
SOPHOMORE	\$71,309.00	\$101,533.00	\$22,461.95	\$195,303.95	SO	38	55	23	116
JUNIOR	\$74,579.25	\$85,212.50	\$20,123.00	\$179,914.75	JR	34	37	14	85
SENIOR	\$83,400	\$104,494.75	\$25,820.00	\$213,714.75	SR	30	37	17	84
GRADUATE	\$45,505.00	\$59,491.67	\$23,337.00	\$128,333.67	GR	15	20	9	44
DOCTORAL	\$23,591.00	\$25,260.00	\$10,668.00	\$59,519	DO	8	9	3	20
CONCURRENT	\$1,365.93	\$2,297.43	\$0.00	\$3,663.36	CO	5	3	0	8
TOTAL	\$428,354.18	\$465,039.35	\$115,410.95	\$1,008,803.48	TOTAL	219	224	79	522

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS		
TYPE	AWARDS	AMOUNT
EMERGENCY	17	\$16,096.78
GRADUATING	33	\$27,000.00
ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT	3	\$2,250.00
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE	1	\$1,000.00
CONTINUING EDUCATION	4	\$1,483.00
TOTAL	58	\$47,829.78

COLLEGE DEGREE INCENTIVE AWARDS		
TYPE	AWARDS	AMOUNT
ASSOCIATES	9	\$3,600.00
BACHELORS	25	\$12,500.00
MASTERS	5	\$3,000.00
DOCTORATE	1	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	40	\$20,100.00

HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANCE AWARDS		
TYPE	AWARDS	AMOUNT
SENIOR EXPENSE	37	\$3,712.78
COLLEGE PREP EXPENSE	12	\$3,077.00
GRADUATION INCENTIVE	147	\$22,050.00
TOTAL	196	\$28,839.78

COLLEGE GPA INCENTIVE AWARDS		
TYPE	AWARDS	AMOUNT
3.00 - 3.49	67	\$6,700
3.50 - 3.99	81	\$16,200.00
4.00	63	\$18,900.00
TOTAL	211	\$41,800.00

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SCHOLAR PROFILES

The Higher Education Scholarship Program has empowered many tribal citizens to reach their educational goals. Many scholars have returned to their communities to use their education to affect positive, lasting changes. These scholars have a direct hand in nation-building efforts for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.



HERSHEL GORHAM, LT. GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES**

The Honorable Lt. Governor, Hershel Gorham graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's degree and returned to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, initially working in the Indian Child Welfare program. He continued his educational journey at East Central University where he obtained a Master of Science in Human Resources. He also served in the Army National Guard for 12 years and achieved the rank of Captain. He went on to obtain a Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University before returning to work for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes as the Tribal Attorney for the Executive Branch. Hershel was later appointed to the Lt. Governor position in January 2024 and has a direct hand in many of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes legislative and economic efforts.



TERESA DORSETT, CHIEF OF STAFF

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES**

Teresa currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the Executive Branch of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. She has a Bachelor in Social Work from East Central University, a Master of Education in Adult and Higher Education, and a Master of Education in Education Administration both from the University of Oklahoma. Ms. Dorsett has worked for the Tribes for more than 30 years serving in various capacities, including Executive Director of Administration, Executive Director of Education, Indian Child Welfare Coordinator, Substance Abuse Coordinator, and Lt. Governor. She has also worked for UNITY, United National Indian Tribal Youth, and SIPI, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute out of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Teresa served two terms as the President of the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education. She continues to serve all tribal citizens and tribal employees to accomplish the Executive Branch's strategic goals.



CARRIE WHITLOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES**

Carrie has served the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes as the Executive Director of the Department of Education for 10 years. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University. She went on to receive a Master of Education in Adult and Higher Education from the University of Oklahoma. She is set to defend her doctoral dissertation in October 2025 and will receive a Doctor of Philosophy in Adult Education and Leadership from Kansas State University. Carrie has served the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for over 19 years in various capacities. Through her leadership, the Department of Education serves thousands of students of all ages across the country through gaming, federal, and grant funded programs.

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SCHOLAR PROFILES



**BREANNA FARIS, DIRECTOR
HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES**

Breanna currently serves as the Director of the Higher Education Scholarship Program. She graduated as a valedictorian from Watonga High School before attending the University of Oklahoma. There, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Native American Studies and a Master of Education in Adult and Higher Education. She worked for the Tribes in 2014 and 2015 in Social Services and the Higher Education Scholarship Program before accepting an Assistant Director position for Student Life at the University of Oklahoma. She returned to the Tribes after almost 4 years at OU where she served as the Executive Director of the Department of Enrollment before accepting the Director position in Higher Education. She is set to defend her doctoral dissertation in the Spring 2026 semester when she will receive a Doctor of Philosophy in Adult and Higher Education from the University of Oklahoma.



**EMILY CHAVEZ, COORDINATOR
HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES**

Emily currently serves as the Coordinator of the Higher Education Scholarship Program. She obtained an Associate of Science in General Studies from Redlands Community College before attending the University of Oklahoma. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership from OU in 2021. Emily began working for the Higher Education Scholarship Program in March 2016 and has been a pillar to the program since her hire. Emily supervises the advisory staff in the Higher Education Scholarship Program and takes on special cases, such as incarcerated students. She is responsible for relationship building and communicating with institutional financial aid offices and has streamlined many Higher Education processes so that students receive financial assistance in a more efficient manner.



**MORGAN BULLCOMING, COLLEGE STUDENT SUPPORT ADVISOR
HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES**

Morgan currently serves as a College Student Support Advisor in the Higher Education Scholarship Program. She obtained an Associate of Science in General Studies and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University before joining the Higher Education Scholarship Program. Morgan first began working as the High School Student Support Advisor before transitioning to her current role. Morgan wanted to work for the Higher Education Scholarship Program after obtaining her degrees because she wanted to give back to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in return for the support she received during her educational journey. Morgan now has the opportunity to support tribal college students in their own educational endeavors through her work and commitment to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SCHOLAR PROFILES



MAXINE WATAN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES

Maxine currently serves as the Administrative Assistant to the Higher Education Scholarship Program. She obtained an Associate of Science in General Studies and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She began working for the Department of Social Services at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in 2023. Maxine applied for the Administrative Assistant position in Higher Education and received exceptional referrals from her supervisors and coworkers in Social Services. Since joining the Higher Education Scholarship Program, she has helped oversee the transition to a new software system that will allow the Program to go paperless in the future.



TAYLOR HOLLAND, DOCTORAL STUDENT
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
Major: Indigenous Health

Taylor is a doctoral student at the University of North Dakota majoring in Indigenous health. She hopes to impact the community through research, advocacy, and language revitalization. She wrote, "By conducting evidence-based studies, I aim to generate data that can inform local health initiatives and policies, ultimately leading to improved health outcomes for our people." She went on to say, "One of my primary advocacy goals will be to push for increased federal funding for Indian Health Service (IHS). I will also assist with grant writing to secure funding for health programs tailored to our specific needs. By providing my expertise in public health science, I can help develop compelling proposals that highlight the importance of investing in our community's health." She also expressed her commitment to further language revitalization efforts in the community by saying, "Language is a fundamental aspect of our cultural identity, and supporting programs that promote its use will strengthen our community ties and preserve our heritage for future generations." By focusing on this multifaceted approach, she wrote, "I aim to create a lasting positive impact in the Cheyenne and Arapaho community, ensuring a healthier and more vibrant future for our Tribes."



PARKER OLSSON, JUNIOR
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
Major: Engineering

Parker is a junior at James Madison University majoring in engineering. He is a very successful student that has a passion for problem-solving with his engineering skills. Currently, he is working on a mobile robotic prototype designed to assist hospital staff by locating and transporting medical items. This project includes a robotic appendage and an autonomous system capable of identifying objects and delivering them to designated spaces in healthcare settings. Parker wants to use his training and knowledge to help others and said, "This experience has expanded my technical abilities and reinforced my commitment to using engineering as a tool for practical, impactful solutions that benefit not only the Cheyenne and Arapaho, but all communities." He also stated, "I envision using my degree to address challenges in healthcare, education, and sustainable infrastructure." In addition to his passion for finding practical solutions with engineering, Parker also expressed an interest for teaching in the future. He currently serves as a tutor and engineering ambassador at JMU, and he said, "I plan to use this degree to its fullest after I graduate, but professionally teaching engineering after gaining experience in the world and helping the next generation would be my final goal."