



INSTITUTE of
AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS

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

**TESTIMONY OF:
DR. ROBERT MARTIN, PRESIDENT
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE
CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT**

April 8, 2014

Introduction

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Subcommittee 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 my institution: for clarification, our official name is the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development (IAIA). IAIA was established in 1962 as the only Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school teaching arts and culture. IAIA is the birthplace of contemporary Native art.

In 1986, IAIA became an independent college 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 is only one of three schools in the United States chartered directly by the Congress. The other two are Gallaudet University and Howard University, located in the District of Columbia.

IAIA's congressional non-profit charter encourages IAIA to raise funds from private sources while authorizing basic, core funding from the Congress. Over the course of 28 years, IAIA has taken this charge to raise private funds very seriously. In the past five fiscal years we have raised approximately \$40 million in funds from external sources—almost equal to the \$42.4 million we have received in federal core funding. It is our intention to maintain, if not exceed, that level of external fund raising in the future. Recently, IAIA achieved its 50th Anniversary Campaign goal of raising \$1,000,000 to partially fund our new Welcome Center; renovate the vacated space in the administration/academic building for painting studios, classrooms and expanding the student gallery; and \$200,000 for equipping and staffing the Student Health Clinic. The

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newly established IAIA 501c3 Foundation also has bolstered funding support from individual donors.

Program and Campus Development

IAIA has evolved from a high school in the early years to a college offering bachelor's programs in Studio Arts, Cinematic Arts and Technology, Creative Writing, Museum Studies and Indigenous Liberal Studies. In 2013, IAIA again expanded its mission to offer a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. IAIA currently serves more than 450 students representing 84 tribes from across Indian country. Our student enrollment has more than doubled from the 200 students enrolled in 2007.

IAIA is unique in that it is accredited by two organizations – the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, and by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. We are proud of our dual accreditation and work hard to maintain it.

In addition, IAIA has added more than 75,000 square feet of operating space with four new campus buildings constructed since 2009. On March 26th, we dedicated our new Welcome Center, which will provide a focal point and an easily identified entrance to greet visitors, prospective students, parents, and employee candidates. We now have a front door to our beautiful campus. In addition to adequate space for admissions, recruitment, marketing and communications, Institutional Advancement, classrooms and administrative activities, the Welcome Center features gallery space and a Tech Center to help students and staff with ever evolving applications of information technology. Funding for the building was provided by the state of New Mexico, the US Department of Education Title III program, USDA Rural Development and private donors.

FY 14 Budget

On behalf of IAIA's faculty, staff and students, I express appreciation to the subcommittee for its strong, consistent support for our core funding request throughout the Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations process. IAIA's FY 14 appropriation of \$9,369,000 is almost a \$1.3 million increase over the sequestered amount received in FY 13. In fact, this is our first funding increase since FY 10. Although the final core funding amount did not include the \$2 million included Committee appropriations bill for forward funding, the \$9.4 million funding level will permit us to address critical strategic priorities: restore our suspended summer school program; reinstate a counselor position in our student support services division; fund three additional faculty positions in our Academic Division; continue to fund our new Master of Fine Arts graduate program in Creative Writing; fund increased facilities operations and maintenance costs; and fund the first employee cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in salary in more than three years.

FY 15 Budget Request

The President's FY 2015 budget request for IAIA is \$9,469,000 million in federal appropriations, a small increase of \$100,000 over the amount enacted in FY 14. The additional funding will be used to provide an extremely modest COLA increase for faculty and staff.

Fortunately, the President is again requesting \$2,000,000 in forward funding that would alleviate the uncertainty caused by continuing resolutions and federal government shutdowns. The shutdown had a devastating effect on the morale of the faculty, staff and students. There were rumors abounding that faculty and staff would be furloughed and not receive their paychecks. Students believed that the college would be forced to close and they would be sent home. Continuing resolutions bring their own challenges. It is difficult to operate a college when the funding level is not known until well into a given fiscal year.

IAIA is one of five tribal colleges (along with Navajo Technical University, United Tribes Technical College, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute and Haskell Indian Nations University) that do not receive forward funding. The nation's other tribal colleges have received forward funding for the past three years. Forward funding has helped our sister tribal colleges (which are funded under different authorizing legislation from us) by providing greater predictability and timeliness in receiving their core funding. For certain, forward funding would have the same positive impacts on IAIA. As you know, forward funding is not new funding but is rather an advance of funding for the subsequent year.

Conclusion

If IAIA is to continue offering high quality bachelor's and master's degrees in Native Arts & Culture to American Indian and Alaska Native students, it is imperative that IAIA's FY 15 funding level is maintained at essentially the FY 14 base funding level with a small increase for an employee COLA. Accordingly, I respectfully request that the subcommittee act again in Fiscal Year 2015 as you did in FY '14 – support the Administration's request for IAIA core funding in the Independent Agencies title of your bill. That request again includes \$2 million in forward funding, to place IAIA on equal footing with other tribal colleges and help stabilize all aspects of our operations. Again, we greatly appreciate your consideration, in view of the many challenges that come with a constrained budget allocation.

This concludes my testimony. I again thank the Chairman and the Committee members for the opportunity to speak on behalf of IAIA. I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to visit us in Santa Fe to see first-hand our beautiful campus and state-of-the-

art facilities as well as meet our creative and talented students. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.