

Oregon Student Assistance Commission

2009 Government-to-Government Report

The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) began participating in the of the Government-to-Government Education Cluster in July 2009. However, Vicki Merkel, OSAC Director for Scholarship and Access Programs has participated in the Oregon Indian Coalition on Post Secondary Education (OICPSE) for a number of years and has communicated with tribal representatives through that organization. Ms. Merkel has been designated as the OSAC representative for the Government-to-Government Education Cluster by Dennis Johnson, OSAC Executive Director.

OSAC has been responsive to requests from OICPSE in the past. In 2005 tribes requested that OSAC establish an administrative rule which allows an expanded definition of “resident of Oregon” to include students who are (1) enrolled members of federally recognized tribes of Oregon or (2) who are enrolled members of federally recognized Native American tribes which had traditional and customary tribal boundaries that included parts of the state of Oregon or which had ceded or reserved lands within the state of Oregon, regardless of their state of residence. This expanded definition applies to programs administered by OSAC including the Oregon Opportunity Grant, targeted public programs and privately funded scholarships.

The rule also specifies that a student seeking to be deemed eligible under the provisions of this rule must follow procedures prescribed by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, including submitting a photocopy of a document confirming the student’s tribal membership.

All students from the tribes below are also recognized as Oregon residents by the Oregon University System for purposes of assessing resident tuition.

In OREGON:

For purposes of this rule, federally recognized tribes of Oregon are:

Burns Paiute Tribe;
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw;
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon;
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon;
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation;
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation;
Coquille Indian Tribe;
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians;
Klamath Tribes.

For purposes of this rule, *federally recognized Native American tribes which had traditional and customary tribal boundaries that included parts of the state of Oregon or which had ceded or reserved lands within the state of Oregon* are:

In CALIFORNIA:

Benton Paiute Tribe;	Melochundum Band of Tolowa Indians;
Big Bend Rancheria;	Montgomery Creek Rancheria;
Big Lagoon Rancheria;	Pit River Tribe;
Blue Lake Rancheria;	Quartz Valley Indian Community;
Bridgeport Indian Colony;	Redding Rancheria;
Cedarville Rancheria;	Roaring Creek Rancheria;
Fort Bidwell Indian Tribe;	Smith River Rancheria;
Hoopa Valley Tribe;	Susanville Rancheria;
Karuk Tribe of California;	Tolowa-Tututni Tribe;
Likely Rancheria;	Winnemucca Colony;
Lookout Rancheria;	XL Ranch;
Lytton Rancheria;	Yurok Tribe.

In IDAHO:

Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho;
Shoshoni-Bannock Tribes.

In NEVADA:

Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes;
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe;
Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe;
Lovelock Paiute Tribe;
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe;

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony;
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe;
Walker River Paiute Tribe;
Winnemucca Indian Colony;
Yerington Paiute Tribe.

In OKLAHOMA:

Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma.

In WASHINGTON:

Chehalis Community Council;
Colville Confederated Tribes;
Quinault Indian Nation;

Shoalwater Bay Tribe;
Yakama Indian Nation.

This information is posted on the OSAC website with the agency financial aid programs at:
http://www.getcollegefunds.org/tribal_residency.html

Peggy Cooksey, Scholarship Coordinator has been designated as the OSAC staff person who responds to individual requests regarding this rule and general tribal questions regarding financial aid.

Ms. Merkel has reported on major financial aid programs administered by OSAC: the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the privately funded Scholarship Program at the two cluster meetings that have been held since July. She has explained the current application processes and the affect of the large number of students returning to school during this financial climate which has impacted the timing of student's receiving their funding.

The Oregon Student Assistance Commission is committed to continuing participation in this cluster and promoting positive government-to-government relations between the state and tribes.