

January 2004

Dear Alumni:

Ya'at'eeh/Greetings! I am excited to provide this update to you regarding our recruitment and outreach efforts. There are many wonderful developments to report, ranging from university support and collaboration to current student and alumni involvement. (I have provided a listing of our recruitment and outreach events on a separate page at the end of this letter.) With these collaborative efforts in place, we hope to surpass the enrollment record from last year, which was 114—an all time high!

### Current Enrollment

Our enrollment this year is 111 students (unofficially), with 56 undergraduates and the remaining number spread throughout the various graduate schools<sup>1</sup>. Here is a breakdown of our current enrollment:

Harvard College	56
Arts and Sciences	13
Business	3
Dental Medicine	1
Design	1
Divinity	0
Education	7
Extension	2
Government	6
Law	9
Medical	9
Public Health	4

Our current student body is comprised of members from over 20 tribal nations/groups from throughout North America, including Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. Tribal affiliations include: Aleut, Anishaanabe, Athabaskan, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Choctaw, Crow, Hochunk, Juaneno, Lenape, Mohawk, Navajo, Osage, Seneca, Taino, and Tlingit. New to our community are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Chitimacha Nation of Louisiana, and the Xaxli'p Nation of Canada.

### University Support and Collaboration

One of the most significant developments this year was a university-wide admissions meeting which was called by the Provost's Office on behalf of HUNAP. The purpose of the meeting, which was hosted by Sean Buffington, Deputy Chief-of-Staff to the President and Provost, was to raise Harvard's profile with Native America. This unprecedented event was the result of numerous discussions and meetings that took place between the Provost's Office and myself. At this meeting, everyone engaged in lively discussions regarding strategies that are effective in Native American recruitment. For the first time in recent memory, we came together to discuss viable options that will enhance our partnerships for future years. This gathering also allowed admissions officers an opportunity to become better acquainted with the mission of HUNAP.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: We will have the official count at the end of the academic year—this is primarily due to the process of voluntary self-identification. It is also important to keep in mind that not every Native American student wishes to be a member of the HUNAP community.

The following topics were addressed:

- importance of our Native American community to Harvard;
- cultural identity and awareness;
- identifying and targeting pools of Native American applicants;
- national Native American conferences and events.

All participants agreed that this exchange of ideas was essential as well as productive, and it should be an annual event. (I intend to host a follow-up meeting in the spring to assist in planning summer and fall travel recruitment trips, and to discuss advertising options in native publications.) A notable suggestion was having all graduate admissions offices collaborate to conduct information sessions at colleges and universities with prominent Native American populations. Also at this meeting, Jay Rosner, President, Princeton Review Foundation, presented information regarding biases in standardized tests, especially for students of color. A lively discussion ensued and most of the officers present found some value in the information that was presented. (NOTE: Mr. Rosner and I had previously worked together at the “Counselors of Color” workshop sponsored by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors.)

As a result of this meeting and my continued communication with admissions offices, our partnerships were strengthened and we attended the following conferences to jointly recruit:

- **Society of the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)** national conference, where I assisted Kerri Noonan, Assistant Director of Admissions, Harvard School of Public Health;
- **National Indian Education Association (NIEA)** national conference, where we were assisted by Gregg Glover, Associate Director of Admissions, Harvard Graduate School of Education;
- **National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)** annual session, where we were assisted by Michael Burke, Associate Director of Admissions, John F. Kennedy School of Government;
- **American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)** national conference, where we were assisted by Juan Jimenez, Assistant Director of Admissions, Harvard Business School.

These partnerships have generated an enthusiastic environment that strengthens our credibility in regard to university recruitment initiatives. In that vein, I have been participating in admissions committee meetings at Harvard College, and I have been nominated to participate as a reader for admissions processes at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard School of Public Health. Eventually, I hope to be able to participate in each of the admissions processes throughout the university so that I can better serve in my recruitment role.

### Student Ambassadors

Student involvement is crucial to recruitment as they serve as ambassadors for Harvard while providing firsthand information about Harvard today. The following examples illustrate the important role that our current students play in our recruitment efforts both on and off campus:

- **Joseph “Gus” Bracamontes** (Juaneno) AB ’04, continues to serve in his valuable role as the Native American Coordinator of the Undergraduate Minority Recruitment Program (UMRP) in the Harvard College Admissions Office;
- **Sean Benally** (Navajo), AB ’06, assisted at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society national conference in Albuquerque, NM;

- **Lynda Leal** (Athabascan), EdM '04, assisted at the Alaska Federation of Natives conference in Anchorage, AK;
- **Jackie Old Coyote** (Crow/Hochunk), EdM '04, assisted at the National Indian Education Association national conference in Greensboro, NC.

### Alumni Network

Alumni involvement is also important, because they provide valuable advice about academics and life in Cambridge. Alumni assisted at the following events:

- Navajo Nation Fair, Window Rock, AZ; **Lester Tsoisie** (Navajo), MPA '03, assisted at our recruitment booth;
- National Indian Education Association national conference, Greensboro, NC: **Tim Begaye** (Navajo), EdD '03, assisted at our recruitment booth;
- National Congress of American Indians annual conference, Albuquerque, NM: **Lester Tsoisie** (Navajo), MPA '03, and **Maxine Etter** (Navajo), EdM '99, assisted at our recruitment booth.

We invite you to become involved in our recruitment and outreach efforts. You can do this by referring talented candidates to consider Harvard, speaking with prospective students in your area, and utilizing “Take Home Harvard”<sup>2</sup> materials. Harvard College also encourages alumni to become alumni interviewers. If you are interested, I can provide your name and contact information to the Harvard College admissions office.

### Outreach Efforts

My outreach efforts include the following:

- participating in summer recruitment programs;
- conducting admissions and financial aid workshops;
- collaborating with other colleges and universities; and,
- conducting Native American recruitment workshops for admissions and financial aid professionals.

For the past 5 years, I have been a counselor and workshop presenter at the “College Horizons”<sup>3</sup> summer enrichment program for rising Native American high school juniors and seniors. Through this program, I have assisted many talented and competitive students to matriculate at Ivy League and other selective colleges and universities, some will be graduating this spring! I have also counseled prospective students in the University of Colorado’s Upward Bound program.

My collaborative efforts extend beyond Harvard, as I have collaborated with colleagues from Cornell, Dartmouth, Stanford, and the University of California, Berkeley, to conduct admissions and financial aid workshops. Most recently, I collaborated with Bridget Wilson (Acoma Pueblo), Native American Outreach Coordinator, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, University of California-Berkeley, and Dr. Whitney Laughlin, Program Director, College Horizons, to conduct a workshop entitled, “*Native Students Access to Higher Education: You Can Do It and We Can Help,*” which focused on admissions and financial aid, at the

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<sup>2</sup> “Take Home Harvard” enables current students to conduct information sessions at high schools and undergraduate institutions that they graduated from. They can also conduct these sessions in their home communities or at Indian Centers in nearby towns and cities. This is a recruitment initiative developed by Eileen Egan, EdM '00, and myself in 1998, while we were graduate students at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

<sup>3</sup> “College Horizons” is a nation-wide program that is designed specifically for Native American high school students, and our participation is made possible by the generosity of the Harvard College Admissions Office.

national conference for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). Sean Benally, AB '06, was gracious enough to share his experience with workshop participants about life as a Harvard College student as well. Through these programs, workshops, and presentations, my colleagues and I strive to promote postsecondary educational opportunities.

In March 2002, I was nominated to become a faculty member for the annual “Counselors of Color Workshop” sponsored by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC). I conduct workshops entitled, “*Cornerstones of Effective Native American Recruitment*,” and “*Recruiting the Other Minority*.” This faculty appointment will end in July 2004. Additionally, through the Association of Black (& Minority) Admissions and Financial Aid Officers in the Ivy League and Sister Schools (ABAFAOILSS), I have collaborated with Angela Parker, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, Dartmouth College, and Jarrid Whitney, Assistant Dean of Admissions, Stanford University to conduct a workshop entitled, “*Components of Effective Native American Recruitment*.”

### Recent Developments

An exciting highlight to begin the New Year is the recent Early Action admission of April Youpee (Fort Peck Sioux) to the Class of 2008! April currently attends Poplar High School in Poplar, Montana. She participated in the HUNAP Summer Enrichment Program<sup>4</sup> that was begun three years ago by Drs. David Potter and Edwin Furshpan, Harvard Medical School faculty members in Neurobiology. (Both of these fine gentlemen are members of our Faculty Advisory Board and they are ardent supporters of HUNAP.) After participating in the HUNAP Summer Enrichment Program in 2002, April attended Harvard Summer School last year and it was this particular experience that was instrumental in her decision to attend Harvard. Needless to say, this is a prime example of the valuable role that HUNAP plays in recruiting a student body that is representative of Indian Country.

I'd also like to mention that last summer four Native American students attended the Harvard Secondary Summer School Program, another first! I have the fortune of working with Harvard Summer School administrators to recruit prospective Native American high school students. For the past few years, I have assisted Elizabeth Hewitt, Director of the Secondary School Students Program, in reviewing applications and providing recommendations for admission. In addition, I work with Peter Buck, Dean of the Harvard Summer School, to secure tuition waivers for admitted students.

In closing, I believe we have made great strides these past few years—especially this year! It has been a pleasure to work with our incredible student ambassadors and august alumni at the various recruitment venues we have attended. I truly appreciate the time they invest to assist in our efforts. I am especially encouraged by the support of the Provost's Office and all university admissions offices. With this momentum established, I look forward to continue working with the HUNAP community as well as my university colleagues in building a prominent Native American student body. On a final note, I am working toward institutionalizing many of these initiatives that are currently in place to ensure continuity for a prosperous future. For more information or to assist with recruitment, please contact me at (617) 495-9058, or via email at [lee\\_bitsoi@harvard.edu](mailto:lee_bitsoi@harvard.edu).

Sincerely,  
Lee Bitsoi, EdM '98  
Associate Director of Recruitment and Student Affairs

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<sup>4</sup> The HUNAP Summer Enrichment Program focuses on math and science for Native American high school students. Participants explore science through scientific research and mathematics. This program aims not only to encourage the pursuit of math and science, but also to make Harvard an imaginable place to pursue an education in those fields. While this program is nascent, our objective is to expand it for more inter-tribal participation.

## Recruitment and Outreach Events:

- **June 13-18, 2003**, College Horizons 1, at Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA, **Counselor** and **Workshop Presenter** for “*Financial Aid Basics*” and “*Native American Students in College*”
- **June 26-July 3, 2003**, College Horizons 2, at Washington University St. Louis, MO, **Counselor** and **Workshop Presenter** for “*Financial Aid Basics*” and “*Native American Students in College*.”
- **July 17-21, 2003**, Counselors of Color Workshop sponsored by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC) Salt Lake City, UT, **Counselor** and **Workshop Presenter** for “*Cornerstones of Effective Native American Recruitment*,” and “*Recruiting the Other Minority*.” (This is a NACAC faculty appointment that ends July 2004.)
- **September 2-6, 2003**, Navajo Nation Fair Recruitment/Exhibit Booth, Window Rock, AZ
- **October 2-5, 2003**: Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM, where I assisted Kerri Noonan, Assistant Director, Harvard School of Public Health. The Harvard School of Public Health graciously sponsored this event.
- **October 19-23, 2003**: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK, joint recruitment with Angela Parker, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, Dartmouth College. This event was co-sponsored by the Dartmouth College Admissions Office.
- **November 1-5, 2003**: National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC, assisted by Gregg Glover, Associate Director of Admissions, Harvard University Graduate School of Education.
- **November 16-21, 2002**: National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Conference, Albuquerque, NM. The John F. Kennedy School of Government co-sponsored this event.
- **November 21-23, 2003**: American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Conference, Albuquerque, NM, assisted by Juan Jimenez, Assistant Director of MBA Admissions, Harvard Business School. **Workshop Co-Presenter** “*Native Students Access to Higher Education: You Can Do It and We Can Help*”. Collaborated with Bridget Wilson, Native American Outreach Coordinator, Office of Admissions, University of California-Berkeley, Dr. Whitney Laughlin, Program Director, College Horizons, to conduct a workshop regarding admissions and financial aid.
- **January 8-10, 2004**: Association of Black (& Minority) Admissions and Financial Aid Officers in the Ivy League and Sister Schools (ABAFAOILSS), hosted by Columbia University, New York City, NY. **Co-Presenter** for “*Components of Effective Native American Recruitment*,” with Angela Parker, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, Dartmouth College, and Jarrid Whitney, Assistant Dean of Admissions, Stanford University.