

Society of American Indian
Government Employees

P.O. Box 7715, Washington, D.C. 20044



Honoring Our Ancestors
Through Government Service

www.saige.org

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION

SAIGE IS NOW ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Deadline for National Training Conference Scholarship approaching - COB 01 April

PURPOSE: To provide assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) federal employees holding Term, Seasonal, Career Conditional, or Career appointments for either: 1) pursuing college level course work leading to a Bachelors, Masters, or PhD degree, 2) attendance to the SAIGE Annual National Training Conference, and 3) for professional development courses/training.

BACKGROUND: SAIGE has created a scholarship fund for our members so that we can increase our educational qualifications and by doing so enable AI/AN employees to rise in the professional and/or managerial ranks in Federal service. Recent OPM statistics show that AI/AN personnel have the lowest average grade level among all Federal employees and fewer Native American employees have college degrees. Through our scholarship program, we can do something positive to improve these statistics and the lives of the Native employees they represent.

According to the U.S. Census 4.3 million people or 1.5 percent of the total U.S. population reported that they were American Indian and/or Alaska Native. The educational levels of American Indians and Alaska Natives are below those of the total population according to the census. Seventy-one percent of American Indian and Alaska Natives 25 years of age and older had at least a high school education compared with 80% of the total U.S. population. Eleven percent of the American Indians and Alaska Natives had at least a bachelor's degree; this is less than half when compared to all people at 24%.

Within the Federal workforce, American Indians and Alaska Natives represent 1.9% (32,318) of the permanent Federal Workforce. Of those 32,000 AI/AN employees, only 1.0% hold positions at the GS 13-15 and less than 1% at the Senior Executive Service level. The majority of the American Indian and Alaska Natives are employed at the GS 01-04. This has got to change. If American Indian and Alaska Native federal employees hope to influence the workings of the federal government and the programs and services we provide to the American people, we must be at a level of responsibility to do so. The tools to do this are gained through education and skills training; they are key to this effort.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS:

The SAIGE Scholarship will consist of three types of scholarships: Academic Scholarship, SAIGE Conference Scholarship and Professional Development Scholarship.

Academic Scholarship - Subject to the availability of funds, one or more scholarships may be awarded to assist American Indian and Alaska Native federal employees to obtain college level course work to be applied toward receipt of a Bachelors, Masters, or PhD degree.

SAIGE Conference Scholarship – Subject to the availability of funds, scholarships will be awarded for attendance to the SAIGE Annual National Training Conference. Scholarship will include registration, travel and lodging for attendance to the SAIGE conference.

Professional Development Scholarship - Subject to the availability of funds, one or more scholarships may be awarded for registration reimbursement for professional development courses/training.

ELIGIBILITY

- Permanent, term, or career seasonal Career Conditional, or Career Federal American Indian and Alaska Native employees who are members of SAIGE
- For academic scholarships, nominee must be enrolled or plan to enroll in an accredited post secondary school in a course of study, certificate program or professional development program that will lead to a two-year, four-year or graduate degree
- If a continuing student, the student must have at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Complete and submit the attached application package to the SAIGE and include the following:

- For academic scholarships, complete academic record, including fall semester grades OR an Individual Development Plan (IDP) signed by applicant's supervisor, if entering an institution of higher education for the first time or after a substantial break in education
- For the National Training Conference (NTC) or professional development, an Individual Development Plan (IDP) signed by applicant's supervisor identifying related course work or NTC.
- Letter of Recommendation (character reference)
- Narrative of extracurricular and community service activities
- Essay – Topic: Describe your educational and workplace advancement goals and how this scholarship will assist you in meeting these goals.

AWARDS

- Applications will be evaluated strictly on the merit and integration of the items listed above that comprises the application package. The merit of the applications will be determined on the basis of how the subject-training course will serve to advance and/or develop the employee's career in the federal government.
- SAIGE scholarship awards are for one year or semester, if applicable.
- A new complete application is required each year.
- Awards generally range from \$300 to \$500 (dependent on the educational institution the applicant is planning on attending) per semester or a total of \$500 to \$1,000 each year.

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Applicants may apply for up to \$500.00 each semester or a total of \$1,000.00 each year.

AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND DISBURSEMENT:

For SAIGE NTC scholarship, SAIGE will pay for travel and lodging arrangements and provide \$35/day for meals. Arrangements will be made and/or the amount will be awarded to the recipient prior to the National Training Conference. For all other scholarships, once an applicant has been awarded a scholarship, reimbursement will be made upon receiving a passing grade. Scholarship recipients must submit proof of completion of course work in the form of a certificate, in the case of government provided training, or a passing grade as reflected on a college transcript or notification of final grades. If you do not complete the course, or if you receive a failing grade, you will not be reimbursed by SAIGE.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: The scholarship committee shall consist of five members:

One or more SAIGE board members

SAIGE treasurer

Two SAIGE general members (not from the board of directors)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AS FOLLOWS:

Academic scholarship fall semester, applications are due by June 1 of each year.

Academic scholarship spring semester, applications are due by Nov 1 of each year.

NTC scholarship application is due April 1.

Professional development scholarship applications are due by Nov 1 or June 1 of each year.

Applications can be downloaded from the SAIGE website.

Applications packages with enclosures must be post marked by the dates identified above. Send application package to:

Applications can be email to Edwards.Jason@epa.gov, faxed to (202) 565-2925 or mailed to the following address:

SAIGE Scholarship Committee

Post Office Box 7715

Washington, D.C. 20044

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

The scholarship committee will make their determination:

Academic Scholarship – by July 1 or December 1 of each year

SAIGE Conference Scholarship – By May 15 of each year

Professional Development Scholarship - by July 1 or December 1 of each year

Notification of award selections will be either by July 1 or December 1 depending on the scholarships applied for.

SAIGE Scholarship Application

Name: _____

Address Street _____

City :State Zip Code _____

Phone Number: _____

Program of Study/Major: _____

Targeted position/series:

Are you a member of SAIGE? [] Yes [] No

Are you employed with the Federal Government:? [] Yes [] No

Employer Name _____
And address _____

1. Please indicate the type of scholarship for which you are applying:

[] For tuition assistance please provide the following information for each class:

<u>Class Name</u>	<u>Semester/quarter units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
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[] SAIGE Conference Scholarship

[] For professional development courses please provide the name of the course, program or workshop and the training provider (including payable party):

ESSAY SUBMISSION

Briefly describe your educational and workforce advancement goals and how this scholarship will help you achieve your goals. Your response must be limited to one page. No attachments are to be provided unless it is required for an eligibility criterion (ex: official school transcripts).



Please sign application _____ Date: _____

To be completed by SAIGE Scholarship Committee

Total Requested _____

Amount Awarded _____

NARRATIVE OF EXTRACURRICULAR AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Briefly describe your involvement and participation in extracurricular and community service activities. Describe any initiatives you have developed and implemented, committees you participated in and your contributions to the committee efforts. Activities can include American Indian and Alaska Native and non-Native organizations. Your response must be limited to the space provided below. No attachments are to be provided unless it is required for an eligibility criterion.



Signature is required: Please sign and date this form below:

Date: _____