

PRESS RELEASE

The National Indian Education Association Applauds Focus on Education and Native Students in Budget Request For Fiscal Year 2017



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C. - On February 9, 2016, President Obama released his final budget request for fiscal year 2017. This request takes continued steps to support the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and begins the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). National Indian Education Association (NIEA) President, Patricia Whitefoot released the following statement:

"We appreciate President Obama for his continued support of Native communities and for his commitment to ensuring Native youth have the resources needed to achieve academic success. Through increased funding to improve dilapidated buildings for BIE schools and funding to support access to broadband internet, the President has reiterated his commitment to ensuring all Native students have access to a quality education. It is imperative that these requests are fully funded. To disregard the budget would further widen the current educational opportunity gaps faced by Native students.

"NIEA stands with President Obama's budget on national priorities. NIEA is especially supportive of the cradle to career approach in the budget - as demonstrated through the \$350 million request for Preschool Development Grants (PDG). Under ESSA, PDG will be jointly administered by the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. We anticipate that tribes will now be considered eligible participants so they can directly apply for and support their citizens in early learning instead of applying through states.

"NIEA looks forward to the bipartisanship of Congress and the continued support of the Administration in upholding the federal trust responsibility. By working together, we can ensure that *all* students have the opportunities they need to achieve their fullest potential."

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For questions, contact Leah Salgado at 202.544.7290, lsalgado@niea.org.

About The National Indian Education Association (NIEA)

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) advances comprehensive educational opportunities for all Native students. Serving as the critical link between Native communities and the diverse array of institutions that serve our students, NIEA holds all accountable for improving achievement. Through advocacy, capacity-building, and education, NIEA supports Native students, and their communities to succeed. Learn more at NIEA.org.