Native Agriculture and Food Systems Scholarship

At First Nations Development Institute, we believe that reclaiming control over local food systems is an important step toward ensuring the long-lasting health and economic well-being of Native people and communities. Native food system control has the potential to increase food production, improve health and nutrition, and eliminate food insecurity in rural and reservation-based communities, while also promoting entrepreneurship and economic development.

The Native Agriculture and Food Systems Scholarship program encourages more Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian college students to enter agriculture and food systems fields so that they can better assist their communities with their food systems efforts.

First Nations will award 20 to 25 $1,000 to $1,500 scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic school year to Native college students majoring in agriculture and agriculture-related fields, including but not limited to, agribusiness management, agri-science technologies, agronomy, animal husbandry, aquaponics, environmental studies, fisheries and wildlife, food production and safety, food-related policy and legislation, food science and technology, horticulture, irrigation science, and sustainable agriculture or food systems.

Scholarship Eligibility

- Applicants must be full-time undergraduate or graduate students majoring in an agricultural-related field, or be able to demonstrate how their degree program relates to Native food systems.
- Applicants must be tribally-affiliated and able to provide documentation.
- Applicants must have at least a 2.75 GPA.
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to helping their community reclaim local food-system control.

Scholarship Application Checklist

- Online application
- Proof of tribal affiliation (e.g., enrollment card, CIB, letter from tribe, OHA registry)
- College enrollment verification form
- Unofficial transcript
- Letter of recommendation from faculty member
- Headshot for possible use in First Nations’ publicity activities (optional)

Applications must be submitted at here by 5 pm Mountain Daylight Time on Thursday, September 30, 2021. Please allow enough time to complete the online form, including uploading the recommendation letter. Incomplete applications and applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Additional documentation may be required upon award.

Questions? Please contact Abi Whiteing (awhiteing@firstnations.org) or Kendall Tallmadge (ktallmadge@firstnations.org) via email or by phone at 303-774-7836.