

Native Health Initiative

“Education is Ceremony” College Scholarships

Purpose for the scholarship: To assist Indigenous scholars pursuing their dreams through ceremony of higher education.

Education as a way of ceremony: In the same way that one can go through a traditional ceremony for purification, enlightenment and healing, we see higher education as a modern-day ceremony offering the same rewards. Traditional ceremonies require, and help grow, one’s discipline, patience, gratitude; these same attributes are required and increased through the ceremony of education

About Native Health Initiative (NHI): NHI is a community-driven partnership working toward health equity through Loving Service. We value the Indigenous wisdom and knowledge of our communities. You can learn more about our work at www.loving-service.us

Scholarship amount: Selected full-time scholarship recipients will receive \$2,000 for the 2026-2027 academic year. Selected part time scholarship recipients will receive \$1,000. The award will be given in two payments, half of the award payment per semester. The scholarship will be paid directly to your educational institution to cover tuition expenses.

Application deadline: June 30, 2026

Submit applications by email to: lesley@loving-service.us

***PLEASE NO LATE SUBMISSIONS**

Any questions, please call (505) 508-2075

Or email: lesley@loving-service.us

Required criteria for applying for this scholarship

- Undergraduate (sophomore – senior), Graduate, or Professional student (post graduate, medical school).
- Education is Ceremony Application submission
- Pursuing a degree in health in higher education in the 2026-2027 school year
- Taking 6 or more credits per semester (part-time or full-time student)
- Proof of Enrollment/Acceptance from a university or college
- Indigenous identity and/or affiliation
- More than \$1,000 in unmet need for tuition for the 2026-2027 school year
- Financial Need Analysis (FNA) from your current academic institutions Financial Aid Office
- Unofficial transcript –university/college
- At least one Letter of Recommendation

Additional criteria (not required) that we are looking for

- Commitment to service; active involvement in Indigenous culture, language, health and advocacy
- Interest in serving Indigenous populations with the career/degree you are working toward

Checklist for completed applications:

- ___ Application form
- ___ Financial Need Analysis (FNA) form *can be downloaded from the NHI Website*
- ___ Letter of Recommendation
- ___ Transcript and proof of enrollment/acceptance to university/college

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NHI “Education is Ceremony” Scholarship Application

Please type or print legibly as you answer the following questions.

Section 1: Personal Information

Name:

Gender identity:

Date of birth:

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

Indigenous identity/affiliation:

Phone:

Current Email:

What degree are you pursuing? (Please be specific):

What is your degree level and university/college?

Section 2: Essay Questions (4-page response max)

Please respond to each question individually.

- 1) Please describe your heritage and provide a brief description of who you are.





2) How would you describe “loving service” (using words and concepts from your own community, culture, or language)? How do you currently demonstrate it in your community, and how do you envision using your education to improve the health and well-being of your community?





3) Please reflect on the phrase “Education is Ceremony.” What does this statement mean to you, and how do you interpret its significance?

4) Tell us a good joke (keep it clean!)



Section 3: Additional Requirements:

- 1) **Financial Need Analysis Form**, which involves sending it to your academic institution. This form is due to NHI's office by July 15, 2026. It should be sent directly from your school's financial aid office to NHI via email to lesley@loving-service.us.
- 2) **Unofficial college transcripts**, sent via email by June 30, 2026.
- 3) **Letter of Recommendation**

Please ask one leader in your community to write a letter of recommendation that addresses your involvement in your Indigenous community. This letter must include phone and/or email contact information for the author to allow NHI to contact them for additional information. This letter is due to NHI by email sent directly from the writer on behalf of the applicant by June 30, 2026.