



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE STUDENT TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: CONNECTING SCIENCE TO CRIME AND JUSTICE



**Are you an American Indian or Alaska Native student who is enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program?
Are you interested in issues related to tribal and/or criminal justice and public safety?
Would you like to learn how your education can be used to solve complex issues in these fields?**

If so, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) would like to invite you to apply for a conference scholarship to help you explore science in criminal justice and public safety!

Student Scholarship Opportunity

NIJ will support up to fifteen (15) American Indian and Alaska Native students to attend a criminal justice-related conference to explore the role of science in solving complex problems to increase public safety. Attendance at these conferences will allow students to explore the ways their interest in science applies to crime and justice, and to meet researchers and practitioners currently engaged in similar work. In addition, students will learn about innovative, evidence-based, and technological solutions to justice issues.

Funding and Logistics

Funding will cover the costs of conference registration fees, round-trip airfare, lodging, ground transportation, baggage fees, meals, and incidental expenses. Scholarship recipients will be expected to arrange their travel so they arrive prior to and depart after the conference dates listed on the back of this page. Throughout the conference experience, scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to interact with and learn more about the work of NIJ, and its scientists, researchers, and practitioners from the field of criminal justice. Specific meeting information will be sent to selected applicants at a later date.

Eligibility

Conference scholarships will be available to individuals who:

- Self-identify as an American Indian or Alaska Native person who is enrolled in, affiliated with, or a descendant of a federally recognized tribe,
- Are at least 18 years of age at the time of application submission,
- Are enrolled full-time at an eligible academic institution (including public and private colleges and universities, tribal colleges, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools),
- Are an undergraduate or graduate student interested in research or evaluation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), or a social and behavioral science field, (priority will be given to STEM students),
- Must commit to attending the entire conference, including travel days before and after the conference, and,
- Have not previously received a travel scholarship from NIJ under this program.

Application Deadline: May 17, 2019

Application Requirements

To apply for NIJ's scholarship opportunity, submit the following items to AIAN_Scholarship@ojp.usdoj.gov by 11:59 EST on Friday, May 17, 2019:

- A completed application form, which can be downloaded from <https://nij.gov/Documents/native-student-travel-scholarship-application-2019.pdf>.
- A biographical sketch describing the student's educational and training background, work experience (paid and unpaid), professional and academic accomplishments and honors, organization participation interests, and skills. A biographical sketch should be one to three paragraphs in length and no more than 250 words.
- Verification of current school enrollment and standing.
- Undergraduate and graduate transcripts (unofficial accepted).
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae.
- Letter of Support from
 - Academic Advisor, Professor/Instructor, Program Director, or Dean which:
 - ◇ Explains how the writer knows the student and the duration of the relationship.
 - ◇ Describes the student's current status in the program of study and evaluates their progress.
 - ◇ Evaluates the student's characteristics, skills, capabilities, and ethics.
 - ◇ Highlights the student's outstanding work, accomplishments, and experiences, academic or otherwise.
 - ◇ Verifies that the student has permission to attend the event during the academic school year.

Note: Additional Letters of Support will also be accepted on behalf of the student from tribal representatives and the student's employers (paid or unpaid); however, this is optional and not required.

- Statement of Interest (no more than two single-spaced pages). The statement should address how the applicant's current field of study could be applied to issues affecting crime and justice. Questions to consider and address in the statement include, but are **not limited** to:
 - How can your area of study be applied to tribal and/or criminal justice and public safety?
 - Are you interested in a practical or academic future in tribal and/or criminal justice and public safety?
 - What are your future aspirations and goals?
 - Why are you interested in attending your selected conference(s)?

Although applicants will likely be selected for only one conference, applicants may apply to attend more than one conference to increase their likelihood of selection. Applicants applying to more than one conference must discuss each conference separately in their statement of interest.

The above application elements are required. **Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.**

Conference Options

The 12th Annual National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference (MUPC), September 16-18, 2019, Las Vegas, Nevada

MUPC offers concrete and effective strategies, approaches, and techniques for investigating, identifying, recovering, and reunifying missing persons regardless of the circumstances surrounding their disappearance. More information on this conference can be found at: ncjtc.org/mupc.

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) – 126th Annual Conference & Exposition, Oct. 26-29, 2019, Chicago, Illinois

IACP brings together thousands of criminal justice and public safety professionals from federal, state, local, and tribal organizations. Its primary focus is on new strategies, techniques, and resources that may produce more effective policing. More information on this conference can be found at: theiacpconference.org.

American Society of Criminology (ASC) – 75th Annual Meeting, Nov. 13-16, 2019, San Francisco, California

ASC's multidisciplinary meeting brings together scholars from the social and behavioral sciences (criminology, psychology, sociology, public health) and STEM fields. The meeting focuses on research to address the causes and consequences of crime, crime prevention, and the treatment of crime and delinquency. More information on this conference can be found at: asc41.com.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) – 72nd Annual Scientific Meeting, Feb. 17-22, 2020, Anaheim, California

AAFS convenes chemists, biologists, physicians, dentists, engineers, anthropologists, and others from a broad range of disciplines. It is committed to the use of science in legal systems with a primary focus on the importance of accurate and precise forensic sciences. More information on this conference can be found at: aafs.org.

For more information on this opportunity, please contact AIAN_Scholarship@ojp.usdoj.gov



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Selection Process

All complete applications will be reviewed by an internal panel composed of representatives from each of NIJ's science offices, the Office of the Director, and representatives serving in tribal-specific roles at the Department of Justice. Although all application materials will factor into selection, particular emphasis will be placed on the statement of interest. NIJ may also consider other factors, such as geographic location and current academic status, to ensure broad representation among selected students.

Priority will be given to STEM students under the following disciplines:

- Anthropology (Physical)
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Cognitive Science
- Computer Science
- Geographic Information Systems
- Neuroscience
- Geoscience
- Information Sciences
- Materials Science
- Mathematics
- Pathology
- Physics
- Engineering

Decision notices will be sent to all applicants by August 2019.

About NIJ

NIJ is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. NIJ is dedicated to improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science and comprises three science offices.

- The Office of Investigative & Forensic Sciences enhances the quality and practice of forensic science through innovative solutions that support research and development, testing and evaluation, technology, and information exchange.

- The Office of Research & Evaluation develops, conducts, directs, and supervises social and behavioral science research and evaluation activities across a wide variety of issues.
- The Office of Science & Technology manages technology research and development, supports the development of technical standards and testing, and provides technology assistance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement and corrections agencies.

Learn more about NIJ at NIJ.ojp.gov.

NIJ supports research, evaluation, and development projects in seven key areas:

- Causes and correlates of crime.
- Crime prevention and control.
- Prevention of violence and victimization.
- Forensic sciences.
- Corrections practice and policy, including community corrections.
- Law enforcement effectiveness, legitimacy, accountability, and safety.
- Courts and adjudication.

Tribal Crime and Justice

In line with federal trust responsibilities, NIJ is committed to enhancing the public safety of American Indian and Alaska Native nations and persons through research and evaluation that is ethical and engaged. NIJ supports research that addresses important issues facing tribal nations and aims to encourage the next generation of tribal justice researchers and scholars.

Learn more about NIJ's work on tribal crime and justice at NIJ.ojp.gov, keyword: tribal justice.

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