EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3-2-2011
HB 2

Salish Kootenai College

P.O. Box 70
Pablo, MT 59855
Ph. (406) 275-4800
Fax (406) 275-4801

February 9, 2011

Honorable Walter McNutt
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Montana Legislature
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Appropriations Committee Members:

I have been teaching at Salish Kootenai College for over 17 years. Over those many years, I have seen many our students move from the GED to the PhD, to employment and to tax payers in the state of Montana. Many pf our students are non-beneficiary students who receive only the Pell Grant. I am writing you write to ask the Legislature to provide SKC full funding of $3,024 per non-beneficiary student per year, just like the last year two years.

I am concerned that tuition for non-beneficiary students may have to be increased if the Legislature cuts the current level of funding of $3,024 per non-beneficiary student. If tuition were raised, it would cause a financial hardship on many of these students.

All non-beneficiary students and families pay Montana state taxes and I believe the Legislature should provide adequate funding for non-beneficiary students so that we can continue to receive the quality education that SKC provides. Maintaining non-beneficiary funding at the $3,024 level is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Lori Lambert, PhD, DS

Lori Lambert
PO Box 387
Pablo, Montana

All Nations Louis Stokes
Alliance for Minority Participation
Salish Kootenai College

February 8, 2011

House of Representatives
Attention Chairman McNutt and
House Appropriations Committee Members
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: Non-Beneficiary Fundin

Dear Chairman McNutt and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Salish Kootenai College's Indigenous Math and Science Institute (IMSI) I would like to advocate for the support of non-beneficiary funding from the state of Montana at the minimum level of $3,024/student. IMSI has several programs that work in collaboration with other Montana institutions of higher learning.

The All Nations Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program, a National Science Foundation (NSF) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program, under the IMSI umbrella provides research opportunities, stipends, and other benefits to STEM students from the Montana State University – Bozeman (MSU-B), Montana State University – Northern (MSU-N), and University of Montana – Missoula (UM-M), in addition to Rocky Mountain College and the six other Tribal Colleges in the state.

The Tribal colleges in this state serve communities where attending college would otherwise be a great burden and hardship. We urge the state House Appropriations Committee to maintain the current level of non-beneficiary funding so that SKC and the other tribal colleges can maintain the same level of quality education for all students.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at 406-275-4996 or by email steve_dupuis@skc.edu.

Sincerely,

Steve Dupuis
Indigenous Math & Science Institute Director
Salish Kootenai College

P.O. Box 70, 52000 Highway 93, Pablo, Montana 59855 Phone 406.275.4717 Fax 406.275.4807 www.anamp.org

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February 8, 2011

Honorable Walter McNutt
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Montana Legislator
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Appropriations Committee Members:

This letter is to express concern about a possible cut of the current level of funding of $3,024 per non-beneficiary student to $1,425. Such a cut would most likely mean that Salish Kootenai College (SKC) has to raise its current tuition for non-beneficiary students, which will lead to excessive financial hardship on some of our students and their families.

Generally, students at SKC are highly satisfied with the quality of education at Salish Kootenai College, and appreciate the small class size. It is unlikely that most of our students will attend one of the bigger schools, such as Montana State Univesity, when they have an option of being educated at Salish Kootenai College.

The Department of Information Technology and Computer Engineering has seen a significant decrease in students after they graduated last Summer with an Associates degree in Information Technology. Many of these graduates cannot afford or get a stipend to continue into the Bachelors program at our school, and are currently not enrolled in any other school. Such does not only affect SKC, but more so the students who cannot further their education as well as society and our economy. This is particularly important in our area where unemployment is high and many of our students are the first in their families to pursue higher degrees.

As an example of how a cut may affect SKC in the future, I would like to bring a grant proposal to your attention that has seeks to establish collaboration between Montana State University and SKC.
If the current level of funding for non-beneficiary students is being reduced, we may not have the students to establish the aforementioned collaboration.

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In light of the above, I ask that you keep the funding level for non-beneficiary students at the same level it has been for the last two years.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Stomp, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Information Technology and Computer Engineering
Salish Kootenai College
Pablo, MT 59855

Salish Kootenai College

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House of Representatives
Attention Chairman McNutt and
House Appropriations Committee Members
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Committee Members,

I am the Chairman of the Salish Kootenai College Division of Sciences and wish to express my support for maintaining State of Montana non-beneficiary tribal college student funding at the current level of $3,024 per student. In Fall Quarter 2010 42 non-beneficiary students were enrolled in the twelve Division of Sciences A.S. and B.S. degree programs in science, engineering and technology. The current level of funding provided by the State of Montana has been vital for enabling SKC to provide these degree program opportunities at an affordable tuition rate for these students. Some of these students will complete their college education at SKC, while others will begin their education at SKC and later transfer to Montana State University or the University of Montana to complete baccalaureate or graduate degrees. Although the primary mission of Salish Kootenai College is to serve Native American students, the role of SKC in providing educational opportunities for non-beneficiary students is also an important part of the mission of the College. SKC currently provides non-beneficiary students an affordable, quality education in the sciences, engineering, and technology. I am concerned that some of these non-beneficiary students will not be able to afford SKC tuition if the College must increase tuition for these students by 32% to $6,567 in order to make up for the shortfall should the Montana Legislature decide to reduce non-beneficiary support to $1,425 per student. It would be unfortunate to lose these students from the future workforce in our state because of the lack of affordable educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Olson

Dr. Timothy S. Olson
Chairman, Division of Sciences
Salish Kootenai College
tim_olson@skc.edu
406-275-4898

Salish Kootenai College

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House of Representatives
Attention: Chairman McNutt and
House Appropriations Committee members
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. I have been a member of the SKC Non-beneficiary pool for 8 years in one capacity or another. I started college in 2003, graduated in 2009 and am currently employed full time by SKC. Through my tenure I have served on 3 national champion basketball teams, 2 terms as student body president 8 years as student tutor, 5 years as Career Exploration coordinator, and have earned an Associates degree in business management and a bachelors in Business Entrepreneurship.

I know that students at SKC are treated for their skills, and abilities rather then their status. I also know that as a non-beneficiary student SKC grants me the same opportunities as any other student. Because of these two fundamental facts I would request that SKC be granted the full amount of funding for Non-beneficiary students.

In my own personal experience, I would not have been able to attend college if not for SKC. I was tied into my parents company and did not have plans to pull away from that endeavor. After my time at SKC I was able to assist their business in smooth operations, and now allow myself to grow in my own capacities as a young entrepreneur.

I understand that budgets are tight; I am well aware that the state of the economy is one that requires us all to tighten our belts and strive to cut inefficiencies. However, I do not believe that a cut in a college's ability to hold and educate students, regardless of status, is a wise choice during these difficult times. The future is in the children and the young professionals. Invest our countries funds into the heart of this great nation, into the innovators, and the dedicated. My classmates and I are the future; we are the best investment in stability imaginable.

Thank you

Andrew Zimmer
Career Exploration Coordinator
Salish Kotenai College

Salish Kootenai College

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House of Representatives
Attention Chairman McNutt and
House Appropriations Committee Members
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Committee Members:

Hello. I am writing to ask for your support of funding for the Non-Beneficiary students here at Salish Kootenai College. I believe you are all aware that SKC receives funding for each eligible tribal member student and descendants from the tribal college community act. This amounts to about $4,500 per student. However, we do not receive any funding for our non-member students, except a small increase in their tuition costs.

SKC is located midway between Missoula, home of U of M and the college of technology, and Kalispell, home to Flathead Valley Community College. The enrollment at SKC at any given time is about 70% American Indian and 30% non-Indian. Our non-member students come from all the communities on the reservation. Some come with intention of getting an Associates or Bachelors degree, some come to complete a couple years of pre-requisites before they transfer to some other college in the Montana University System. Some are retired folks, who come because they have the time and a special interest in some course work we offer. Others are housewives who want to take some classes in preparation for seeking a degree later after their children are grown. they are our friends and neighbors. SKC has an open enrollment policy. We believe that diversity is our greatest strength, and welcome their choice to join our SKC family.

In the past the legislature has supported funding for these students in the $3,000 - $3,500 range. I asked that you give strong consideration to, and please provide funding again for these deserving students and SKC. These students will always be welcome here, but it does place an increased financial burden on SKC when we do not receive the funding requested.

Thank you

Roger McClure
Director of Career Services
Salish Kootenai College

Salish Kootenai College

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Date: February 8, 2011

To: Honorable Walter McNutt
Chairman, Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives
Montana Legislature
Helena, MT 59620-0400

From: Carol L Baldwin, PhD
Psychology Department Head
Salish Kootenai College
Pablo MT 59855

Re: NON-BENEFICIARY STUDENT FUNDING

Dear Chairman McNutt and Appropriations Committee Members:

I am the Department Head of the Psychology Program at Salish Kootenai College. Our department offers a Bachelor of Arts degree as well as an Associate of Arts degree in Psychology. Currently we have 70-75 active majors (signed up for courses this quarter), and another 25-30 who are not enrolled this quarter, but are on the active advising list. One fourth to one third of these students are non-beneficiary students.

The psychology degree offers students a broad educational background in the human services fields. Students who live in rural areas are able to attend school without having to move to a bigger university town, such as MSU or UM. Many of these students are struggling to pay the bills (due to low-paying jobs, single parenting, lack of opportunity in rural areas), and the affordable education they receive at SKC is a boon to the community and to Montana at large.

It has come to our attention that the Montana Legislature and House Appropriations Committee is considering cutting non-beneficiary funding by over 50%. I am writing to request that you refrain from doing this, and instead provide full non-beneficiary funding as you have done in the past.

Students work hard to succeed at SKC. There have been times when we (as faculty advisors and mentors) have had occasion to help students out with such basics as food, electric bills or flat tires. It is easy to be unaware of how close to the line students live - in an environment like this, a slight rise in gas prices can make the difference between coming or not coming to class. This is ordinary reality for many of our students. Hence, you can easily imagine that a cut in non-beneficiary funding, with its concomitant rise in tuition, will preclude many good students from continuing to pursue their education.

Please do not cut non-beneficiary funding!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L Baldwin

Salish Kootenai College

Nursing Department

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February 8, 2011

Honorable Walter McNutt
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Montana Legislature
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Appropriations Committee Members:

As the Director of the Nursing Program (both associate and bachelor degrees), I am concerned about the sustainability of the program in the event the non-beneficiary student funding is reduced or eliminated. The nursing program relies heavily on grant funding; however, federal grants are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. Salish Kootenai College has graduated hundreds of nurses since its first nursing graduation class in 1990. I would hope to continue in this tradition, but your fiscal support is essential.

I am concerned that tuition for non-beneficiary students may have to be increased if the Legislature cuts the current level of funding of $3,024 per non-beneficiary student. Salish Kootenai College graduates nurses who wish to stay in the area and work in small rural hospitals. With an increase in tuition, many of these students will no longer be able to afford college, thereby quite possibly reducing the number of nurses who want to work at our rural hospitals.

Please give mindful consideration to appropriations. Thank you for your commitment to the future healthcare of our Montana citizens.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Lackner

Lisa M. Lackner, RN, MSN, PhD
Director of Nursing
Salish Kootenai College
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