

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD
BOARD REPORT #06-03

Creating an Ex-Officio HEAB
Position for the Tribal Sector

The Issue

There are currently four sectors for which Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (WHEG) or Tuition Grant appropriations are made by the legislature: the Wisconsin Technical College System; the University of Wisconsin System; the Wisconsin Private and Independent Non-Profit Colleges and Universities; and the Tribal Colleges. The only sector without statutory board representation is the Tribal Colleges, most likely because when the Higher Educational Aids Board was created, there was no provision for Tribal College students to receive WHEG.

The Legislature would have to act in order to add a new voting member to the Higher Educational Aids Board. However, the Board does have the authority to create a position for a non-voting member.

Creating an Ex-Officio position could set up a scenario where other groups would ask for similar representation. However, limiting representation to sectors whose students are eligible for WHEG or TG would provide reasonable, manageable guidelines for future boards. With such a scenario, the only qualifying sector not currently represented would be the Tribal Colleges.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Higher Educational Aids Board create one ex-officio board position for the Tribal Sector. The Tribal Colleges would choose their representative. This would be a non-voting member of the board.