



**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
FIFTIETH SENATE  
6<sup>th</sup> SESSION  
4 NOVEMBER 2020**

**BILL #5002  
COVID-19 Indigenous Student's Travel Grant**

**SPONSORED BY:**

**WRITTEN BY:** Lizzy Osterhoudt, Senator, Native American Cultural Center

**COLLABORATED WITH:** Gemma Buhaenko, Chair, Budgetary Affairs Committee, Senator, College of Health and Human Sciences

**ENDORSED BY:** Hannah Taylor, Student Body President; University Affairs Committee; Budgetary Affairs Committee; MiaRitter, Associate Senator, Native American Cultural Center; Paulina Villasenor, Senator, El Centro; Diego Tovar, Senator, College of Natural Sciences; Emely Cruz, Associate Associate Senator, El Centro; Miguel Ojeda, Senator, El Centro; Miles Robinson, Senator, Student Disability Center; Ariadne Athey, Associate Senator, Student Disability Center; Jaquieyah Fields, Senator for the Women And Gender Lexi Orgill, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources; Brandon Lowry, Senator, Pride ResourceCenter; Kaylee Rookey, Associate Senator, College of Health and Human Sciences, Isaiah Dennings, Associate Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Ben Torres, Senator, Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; Bri Riofrio, Student; Casey Key, Student; Jacob Valdez, Student; Mathis Quintana, Student; Kimiko Numkena, Student; Amber Kruis, Student; Morgan Billow, Student; Sydney Collins, Student; Andrew Carlson, Student; Josh Waring, Student; Hannah Liebman, Student; Sarah Shassetz, Student; Anna Griffin, Student; Megan Feller, Student; Goran Shikak, Student; Audrey Bowman, Student; Faith Henry, Student; OliviaMarques, Student; Aparna Ayyangar, Student; Halle Maxwell, Student; Kacey Bethe, Student; Marco Rascon, Student; Samantha Preuss, Student; Kylee Patterson, Student; Claire Kissela, Student; Emily Perkins, Student; Taryn Dowden, Student; KateHeffernan, Student; Lauren Hatch; Kaitlyn Almquist, Student; McKennon Wiles, Student; Marika Van Gent, Student; Violet Nichols, Student; Carole Ryan, Student; MichaelWatson, Student; Adri Rotondi, Student; Laudan Archuleta, Student; Nyerrie Lewis, Student; Maddy Stevens, Student; Vanessa Soto De La Paz, Student; Ally Gould, Student; Victoria Thompson, Student; Addison Simons, Student; Rachel McMillan, Student; Madison Rattler, Student; Elizabeth Brisnehan, Student; Erin Citarella, Student; TaliaByrne-Haber, Student; Sarah Hallberg, Student; Taryn Dowden, Student; Julia Vance, Student; Cateria Darling, Student; Audrey Bowman, Student; Isabel Garvey, Student; Julia Frawley, Student; Juniper Vane, Student; Christopher Gomez-Hernandez, Student; Jessica Steen, Student; Alayssa Camano, Student; Justin Arndt, Student; Michael Freihaut, Student; Sydney Collins, Student; Ashlynn Madril, Student; Ryan Danford, Student; Fabiana Rojas Sillie, Student; Chloe Smith, Student; Ava Barnes, Student; Rachael Isdale, Student; Henley Morse, Student; Hannah Van Buiskirk, Student; Marissa Cribar, Student; Hannah Caracalas, Student; Anna Biolchini, Student; Kayla Fairweather, Student; Catalina Mazariegos, Student; Janie Christensen, Student; Tabor Horrigan, Student; Shayla Goddeeris, Student; An-

Ping Yu, Student; Mana Acosta, Student; Reagan Maydew, Student; Camden Byers, Student; Hannah Willia, Student; Soutine Casasanto-Zimmermann, Student; Sophia Kirk, Student; Ethan Corrigan, Student; Janie Christensen, Student; Lilliana Boyer-Rosales, Student; Larisa Birjulin, Student, Claire Castellanos, Student; Hannah Knox, Student; Mikayla Knezevich, Student; Lilliana Boyer-Rosales, Student; Autumn Onsurez, Student; Julia Sanders, Student; Vanessa Soto De La Paz, Student; Peyton Harper, Student; Kendall Bush, Student; Alayssa Camano, Student; Erin Johnson, Student; Jason Jackson, Student; Sidney Dionisio, Student; Ian Perry, Student; Kamryn Jones, Student; Morgan Vigo, Student; Jasia Hill, Student; Isabel McPherson, Student; Cam Reynolds, Student; Isabel McPherson, Student; Chloe Smith, Student; Bridgette Coughlin, Student; Caroline Loewecke, Student; Riley Massiha, Student; Addison Simons, Student; Camden Meyer, Student; Dayton McGrail, Student; McKenna Harrington, Student; Jenna Linenberg, Student; Anna Baize, Student; Lindsay McCarron, Student; Emily Lange, Student; Faith Largo, Student; Taslima Yusuf, Student; Prayash Ghimire, Student; Brittani Meis, Student; Ashley Stewart, Student; Rachael Isdale, Student; Avery Schneider, Student; Emily Perkins, Student; Olivia Marques, Student; Andrew Carlson, Student; Nathan Soiland, Student; Danielle Horick, Student; Joseph Adenowo, Student; Kate Heffernan, Student; Sydney Crowe, Student; Deja Blanton, Student; Salem Simerville, Student; Joslyn Orji, Student; Jocelyn Lapham, Student; Jilda Nevarez Ruiz, Student; Cindy Hoang, Student, Julia Garcia, Student; Jasia Hill, Student; Hannah Liebman, Student; Laudan Archuleta, Student; Annabella Martinez, Student; An-Ping Yu, Student; Erin Keown, Student; Caitlin Daly, Student; Kelsey Burian, Student; Jack Mirenda, Student; Nathaly Ingle, Student; McKennon Wiles, Student; AJ Buttala, Student; Janna Novak, Student; Sarah Shassetz, Student; Larisa Birjulin, Student; Kristoff Trbovich, Student; Roger Richardson, Student; Camden Byers, Student; Tayla Putman, Student; Emily Rooks, Student; Matthew Allison, Student; Isabel Garvey, Student; Tina Hoang, Student; Martiza Nevarez, Student

ABSTRACT: This bill seeks to allocate \$10,000 from the Senate Discretionary Fund to provide financial support for Indigenous students who wish to travel home during the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill also recognizes the pain and suffering inflicted on Indigenous nations during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a disproportional toll on Native Nations resulting in the loss of jobs, income, highly regarded elders, and loved ones; and,

WHEREAS

Indigenous students make large sacrifices to continue their higher education at Colorado State University during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in doing so, may struggle financially. Associated Students of Colorado State University recognizes that these students may not have the funds to go home to their families; and,

WHEREAS

The Navajo Nation has received little to no support from federal or state governments throughout the pandemic. Tribes continue to fight for the U.S. Department of Treasury to fund Native Nations as legally stated in the CARES Act; and,

WHEREAS

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Many Indigenous students rely solely on Indian Health Services (IHS) for healthcare. As there are no IHS medical units in Fort Collins, Colorado and students may not be able to pay out-of-pocket to see medical professionals in the area, Indigenous students residing in and around Fort Collins lack access to medical care; and,

**WHEREAS**

“American Indian and Alaska Native people have suffered a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 illness during the pandemic,” CDC Director Robert Redfield (Aljazeera). Native Americans are 3.5 times more likely to get infected at a younger age by coronavirus compared to any other racial or ethnic group (Aljazeera). The Navajo Nation has the third highest infection rate in the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**

During this unprecedented public health crisis, it is vital to the health and wellbeing of our greater CSU community that every community member has access to healthcare. This bill will lessen the financial burden on Indigenous students to travel to IHS medical units for medical care; and,

**WHEREAS**

Many Indigenous students prioritize their spiritual health as it is within their cultures and traditions. There is a great diversity in spiritual practices, and this bill “fails to share every nuance of these practices across tribes and throughout various geographical locations” (PowWows, 2019); and,

**WHEREAS**

Fort Collins lacks resources for Indigenous students to gain spiritual guidance. There is one Native American counselor on CSU campus. The spiritual care and guidance provided by CSU’s counselor is intertribal, not specific to an individual’s tribe; and,

**WHEREAS**

Indigenous students cannot access sufficient spiritual care in or around the Fort Collins area. They must travel home to take care of their mental and spiritual health; and,

**WHEREAS**

Traveling home can be a large financial burden on Indigenous students and their families; and,

**WHEREAS**

The International Student Travel Grant, funded by the Diversity and Inclusion budget within the Executive Branch, treated international students with the same level of respect, empathy, and compassion at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; so,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ENACTED**

That the Fiftieth Senate of the Associated Students of Colorado State University allocates \$10,000 of the Senate Discretionary Fund to the Native American Cultural Center for the Indigenous Students Travel Grant; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

That there will be an open application process, created by the Native American Cultural Center, open to all students who identify as Indigenous/Native American; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

That Associated Students of Colorado State University establish the Indigenous Students Travel Grant Application Review Board consisted of (2) representatives from the Associated Students of Colorado State University Legislative branch and (5) representatives from the Native American Cultural Center (NACC); and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

The (2) representatives from the Associated Students of Colorado State University Legislative branch shall be ratified by the Senate body

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

The review board will review all applications fairly, with no judgements based on identity, tribal affiliation, or lack thereof, sexuality, or other intersecting identities etc.; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

All board reviewers will practice the Principles of Community while approving applications; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

Each member of the review board shall have one vote per application; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

In the case that a member of the Indigenous Students Travel Grant Application Review Board submits an application for travel reimbursement, said member shall not be privy to their application's review, nor shall they have a vote in the matter; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

In the case of a tied vote, Director Ty Smith and Assistant Director Tiffani Kelly shall make the final decision; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

The Indigenous Students Travel Grant Application Review Board shall create bylaws, deadlines for applications, and deadlines to submit invoice documentation; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

The Indigenous Students Travel Grant Application Review Board will have the discretion to determine if a student is eligible for the travel grant based on the application submitted. All applications will be created in conjunction with the Native American Cultural Center; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

Any funds not allocated by the Indigenous Students Travel Grant Application Review Board as of June 30, 2021 will be returned to the Senate Discretionary Fund; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Dr. Joyce McConnell, Colorado State University President; Tony Frank, Colorado State University Chancellor; Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs; Mary Ontiveros, Vice President of Diversity; Ty Smith, Director for Native American Cultural Center; Tiffani Kelly, Assistant Director for Native American Cultural Center, Danita Ordaz, Admissions Counselor for Native Americans; Hannah Taylor, Student Body President; Noah Schindler, Student Body Vice President; Merry Gebretsadik, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer; Alex Farias, Chief Financial Advisor; Bailey DinsdaleASCSU Accountant; Gaby Brown, Chief Health Officer.

29-0-0

11/18/2020

PASSAGE

DATE

  
PRESIDENT

11/20/2020  
DATE

TAGS: COVID-19, Travel Grant, Indigenous & Native American Students, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Out-of-state travel, In-state travel, NACC, Indigenous Students Travel Grant Application Review Board, Student life  
Citations for any external references:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/8/19/indigenous-americans-hit-harder-by-covid-19-cdc-report>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/05/05/native-americans-look-to-future-amid-grim-coronavirus-numbers/>

[https://ravallirepublic.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_f99ac532-e68c-51d1-9b6a-23860eb6872b.html](https://ravallirepublic.com/news/state-and-regional/article_f99ac532-e68c-51d1-9b6a-23860eb6872b.html)

<https://apnews.com/article/0f44f46abf994293acded741ff0dd403> <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2020/04/14/483125/economic-fallout-coronavirus-people-color/>

<https://www.powwows.com/native-american-religion-and-spirituality-common-threads-unique-beliefs-and-too-many-misconceptions/>