

Oneida Higher Education Newsletter

SPRING 2018

www.oneida-nsn.gov/highered

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS AND CONTINUING STUDENTS

The Oneida Higher Education Department would like to welcome all our new students and continuing students. Please take the time to read our Oneida Higher Education Newsletter to keep yourself informed of program requirements and any new notifications. We wish all students success in reaching their educational goals.

Do You Have A Complete File?



It's important to have your file complete as early as possible to ensure funding is received in a timely manner. A complete Higher Education file includes:

- Initial copy of Official Acceptance Letter
- Annual renewal of FAFSA
- Oneida Application
- Oneida Participation Agreement Form
- Oneida Academic Plan (with all signatures)
- Oneida Financial Need Analysis (FNA) (this form is sent by Higher Education to your school's financial aid office to complete.)
- Official transcripts with grades at the end of the semester/term

Forms (other than FNA) can be found and printed from our website at www.oneida-nsn.gov/highered.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all required documentation is received by the Higher Education office within the required deadlines.

IN THIS ISSUE

In Memoriam of John E Powless	Page 2
Student FAFSA Information	Page 2
Welcome Jennifer Hill-Kelley	Page 3
Cohorts	Page 3
Schreiber Internship Opportunities.....	Page 3
Department Information	Page 4

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HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Central Standard Time)
Monday through Friday
(Closed on Friday from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

The staff of the Oneida Higher Education Department is saddened by the passing of John E. Powless. We gratefully acknowledge his momentous contribution to education and specifically to the creation of the Oneida Higher Education grant which has made it possible for so many tribal members to earn degrees in many different fields. His vision and devotion to providing access for all tribal members to Higher Education has changed the lives of so many members in the Oneida community and across the nation. We are grateful for his concern and insight in helping to build a stronger Oneida Nation.



Student FAFSA Information

In November 2017, the Department of Education's (ED) Privacy and Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) issued guidance to the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) that would prohibit a student from allowing their college/university to release their FAFSA data, even to grant and scholarship sources. Some of the FAFSA data is used to complete the Financial Needs Analysis (FNA) required by Oneida students who are either part time or full time. The guidance did grant exemptions to two large scholarship organizations, The United Negro College Fund and The Hispanic Scholarship Foundation, but not to Indian Tribes who provide funding to their students.

While the information sent to the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) was labeled as "guidance", a number of Financial Aid Offices interpreted it as an approved policy and either refused to complete our Financial Need Analysis (FNA) forms altogether or in some cases, completed them but gave them to students to submit to the Oneida Higher Education office. This process not only created additional steps for students to access funding from their tribes but in some cases created obstacles since the Oneida Higher Education advisors no longer had access to student information that would allow them to advocate for students and obtain the information needed to do so.

The Oneida Nation Legislative Affairs Office, Oneida Higher Education Department, Wisconsin Indian Education Association and the National Indian Education Association, as well as other organizations quickly responded and addressed the barriers the guidance created. The positive outcome was that language was inserted in the Federal 2018 Spring Spending Bill that addressed the issue.

On March 23, 2018 President Trump signed the 2018 Spring Spending Bill which specifically included language that educational institutions are able to share needed FAFSA information with Indian tribal organizations for the purpose of creating grants and scholarships. We anticipate that all schools will be able to return the FNAs directly to our office once again. For those students who received the completed FNAs from their school and were advised to send them to our office, that extra step should be eliminated from this point forward.

If you have any financial aid issues that arise regarding these actions or have questions, please feel free to contact the Oneida Higher Education Office at (920) 869-4332 and ask to speak with an Advisor.



Welcome Jennifer Hill-Kelley

Jennifer Hill-Kelley is the Area Manager for the Oneida Nation Education and Training Area. Her current responsibilities provide leadership for the Nation's Early Intervention, Child Care, Youth Enrichment Services, Higher Education, Job Training, Community Education Center and Arts programs toward the goal of providing educational opportunities for the Oneida people to reach their desired life outcomes.

Ms. Hill-Kelley previously worked in Student Success at the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. She facilitated collaborative cross divisional teams of faculty and staff in development of an electronic academic planning tool, improving developmental education, increasing alumni engagement, supporting the student success course and new diversity/inclusion training for faculty and staff with emphasis on expanding the use of data and evaluation for student success interventions. She was a facilitator for NWTC's Living Inclusively course. For her work with the student success course team, she was named an On Course Ambassador of the Year in 2016.

Her prior experience includes working with tribal governments, leading teams in pursuit of improving organizational alignment, institutional efficiencies and delivering outcomes through restructuring, strategic planning, data collection, and program evaluation. She has over twenty years' experience as a grant writer and program administrator of education, social service and environmental programs and multi-year grant projects.

Ms. Hill-Kelley also lends her expertise and has served on tribal, local, state and national non-profit and advisory organizations. She holds a M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from University of Wisconsin Green Bay and a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Oklahoma.

Cohorts - What are they and what are the benefits?

In recent years, cohorts are becoming more popular, especially for certain educational programs. Cohorts are designed to have a group of students start their program together and take the same classes at the same time until they graduate. There are benefits and downfalls to cohort programs each student should consider when choosing their program of study.

Cohorts provide students the opportunity to develop relationships and support systems with fellow students by helping to develop each other's ideas and getting feedback for improvement. This provides students with a sense of community and an opportunity to form long-term professional relationships which may be harder to develop when choosing from a variety of classes at different times. There can also be potential downsides of a cohort program. A cohort group lacking the same level of initiative, decisiveness and enthusiasm can sometimes create hurdles for students. Your cohort will need a driving force to achieve its best results.

There are also scheduling implications students should consider. When a student is unable to complete the coursework in the designed sequence, their graduation date may be affected. The student may need to take a term or semester off until they can rejoin a new cohort. Students need to be committed to the cohort sequence in order to ensure they graduate on time. Oneida funding is limited to the number of terms allowed for students to complete a program. A delay in a student's cohort or missed sequence of classes alone will not qualify students for additional terms of funding.

Colleges and universities offer cohorts for programs they believe is most beneficial for the student. An example could be a Masters of Nursing cohort or a Masters of Social Work cohort where collaboration between students is necessary and the benefit of knowing the other students in your class personally can enhance the learning environment for students. Although students should not let the presence of a cohort solely dictate their program choice, they should consider it as a factor when comparing programs.



We wanted to let you know about a new partnership with Schreiber Foods in Green Bay to promote the employment of Oneida tribal members at Schreiber. Assistant Manager of Oneida Higher Education, Mitch Metoxen, and Sherry King met with Schreiber March 13 to discuss how our organizations can work together to support Schreiber's diversity efforts and hire interested Oneida students, primarily as paid interns. Schreiber hires a significant number of students who begin as interns in a variety of fields and continue on to permanent employment. Stay tuned for further information about opportunities to current students of the Oneida Higher Education grant.

Two Internships Currently Open: [Treasury Intern](#) and [Supply Chain Planning Intern](#)





**"Oneida Higher Education Department
of Wisconsin"**

Find us on Facebook. We share and post relevant Higher Education articles, updates, and information as well as department information and reminders.



www.oneida-nsn.gov/highereducation

Visit our website for:

[Applications and Forms](#)

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[Scholarship and Resource Information](#)

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Mission Statement:

The Higher Education program of the Oneida Nation promotes higher education to eligible Tribal members by providing guidance, support, and financial assistance to those attending accredited institutions of higher learning with a goal toward self-sufficiency.



Spring 2018 Page 4



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