



AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND
EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER

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NATIVE AMERICAN OLYMPIAN FEATURED ON NEW DOLLAR, AND CELEBRATED BY LOCAL NATIVE SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION

February 15, 2018, Denver, Colo.— The Denver-based American Indian College Fund is celebrating the release of a new U.S. dollar coin featuring barrier-breaking Native American Olympian and professional athlete, Jim Thorpe. The national non-profit will mark the coin's release at the Denver Mint February 15.

A member of the Sac and Fox Nation, Thorpe's Native name (Wa-Tho-Hu) means Bright Star, and is engraved on the coin. He is most known for the gold medals he won in the decathlon and pentathlon in 1912; a time when Native Americans did not have the right to vote. At the medal ceremony, King Gustav V of Sweden said "You sir, are the greatest athlete in the world."

In addition to careers in professional basketball and baseball, Thorpe was one of the first professional football stars, playing for the world champion Canton Bulldogs. He eventually helped form the NFL, and became its first president in 1920. In 1963, he was inducted into the Football Hall of Fame's inaugural class. Repeatedly recognized as one of the world's greatest athletes, the Associated Press named him the United States' greatest athlete and American football player of the first half of the 20th century. An ABC Sports poll from 2000 ranked him as the best American athlete of the century.

Thorpe's inspiration is felt even more so today, as the new dollar is issued during the 2018 Winter Olympics and National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week. The staff at the College Fund is highlighting this honor of a Native American and the inspiration Thorpe continues to provide for Native scholars today. Whether competing in athletics or seeking excellence in the fields of rocketry, environmental science, or law, Thorpe's achievements and example remind Native students of the greatness that lies in each and every one of us.

About the American Indian College Fund



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Founded in 1989, the American Indian College Fund has been the nation's largest charity supporting Native higher education for more than 28 years. The College Fund believes "Education is the answer" and provided 6,548 scholarships last year totaling \$7.6 million to American Indian students, with more than 125,000 scholarships totaling \$100 million since its inception. The College Fund also supports a variety of academic and support programs at the nation's 35 accredited tribal colleges and universities, which are located on or near Indian reservations, ensuring students have the tools to graduate and succeed in their careers. The College Fund consistently receives top ratings from independent charity evaluators, and received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and is one of the nation's top 100 charities named to the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance. For more information about the American Indian College Fund, please visit www.collegefund.org.