



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land that is now Oklahoma is the homeland of the Wichita, Caddo, Apache, Comanche, Kiowa, and Osage. It is also the homeland of many non-human relations that were negatively impacted by settler colonialism, which forced the people who cared for them into reservations. The Potawatomi do not belong to this land. We belong to the lands in the Great Lakes region, where food grows on water. Many Potawatomi remain there to this day, but Citizen Potawatomi came to Oklahoma through a mix of forced removals, allotment, and broken treaties. Today, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is headquartered south of Shawnee, Oklahoma, and tribal members live across the United States and around the globe. We continue to practice our traditional teachings and uphold our traditional values as we look to building a world for all our relations for the next Seven Generations and beyond.

CONTACT US

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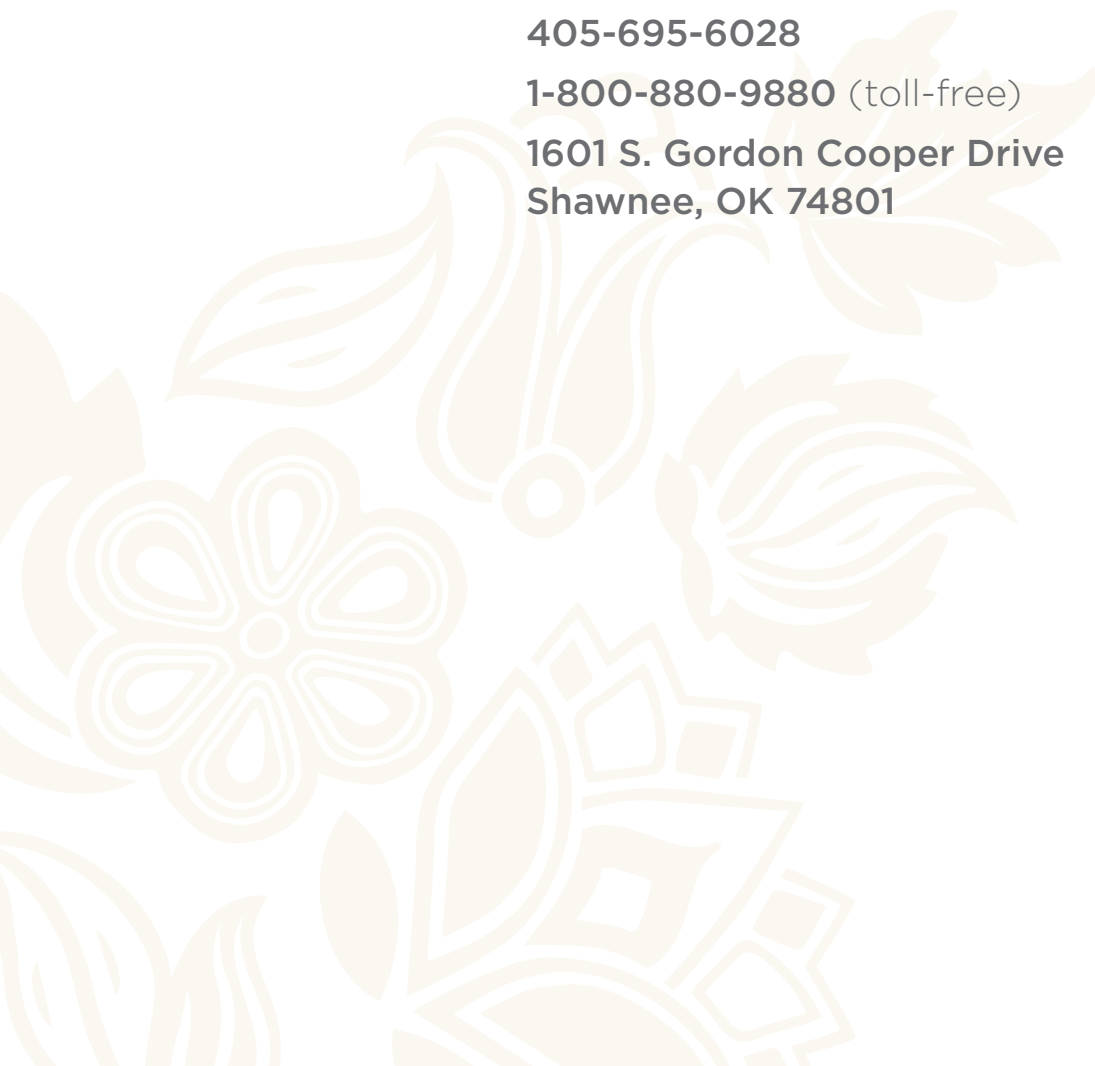




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OVERVIEW

ABOUT US

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education is devoted to supporting students and helping ensure their educational success. We offer scholarships for students attending colleges and universities as well as students in career and technical education programs. Additionally, we provide advising for anyone who needs some extra help or guidance. All told, we want to make a student's academic success a certainty!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We fan the flames of the Seventh Fire for the next seven generations by connecting Citizen Potawatomi to their Nation through support of their learning goals.

DEPARTMENT VALUES

Based on the No'ek Nmeshomesek Zhezhitwewenen (Seven Grandfathers) teachings, the following values guide our work:

- **Mbwakawen Wisdom** – Lead by example by committing to continued learning.
- **Debandewen Love** – Carry out responsibilities with passion.
- **Mnadendemwen Respect** – Honor every person with whom we interact.
- **Wedasewen Bravery** – Encourage students to be brave by taking the next step in their education.
- **Gwekwadzewen Honesty** – Ground our conversations in honesty and straightforward compassion.
- **Gdemagendemwen Humility** – Understand and model that we do not have all the answers.
- **Debwewen Truth** – All seven teachings together prepare us for the next seven generations.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

THE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

The CPN College and University Scholarship is a non-competitive scholarship available to all tribal members who are either taking dual-enrollment classes or pursuing an associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree. Doctoral degrees are funded on a case-by-case basis. This scholarship is available for the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The amount awarded for this scholarship is \$2,000 for full-time students, and \$750 for part-time students.

REQUIREMENTS

To apply for this scholarship, tribal members must:

- Have a GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4-point scale.
- Be enrolled at an accredited, not-for-profit institution.
- Provide proof of either Full-time or Part-time enrollment
- Provide a zero-balance document if you want the check in your name.

DEADLINES

Fall

Opens July 15, 8 A.M. Central Time
Closes September 15, 5 P.M. Central Time

Spring

Opens November 15, 8 A.M. Central Time
Closes February 15, 5 P.M. Central Time

Summer

Opens March 15, 8 A.M. Central Time
Closes June 15, 5 P.M. Central Time

RECEIVING AWARDED FUNDS

During the application process, you will be prompted to select one of three avenues for receiving your scholarship check. The first, most common avenue is making your check directly payable to your school. The second is making your check payable to both your school and you, opting for this method sends the check directly to you, while also allowing it to be cashed by your institution for payment purposes. The final way you can receive funding is by requesting the check in your name. To do this, you will need to provide a zero-balance document during your application, which shows that you have no outstanding balance with your institution. Finally, if you have already received aid or otherwise paid for your tuition payments and now need to cover room and board costs, you may opt to designate the scholarship funds as “for room and board only.”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To apply for any of our scholarships, you'll need to go through our online portal at portal.potawatomi.org and create an account. Once you sign in, you can find the applications by clicking the "Education" tab. Once you've applied and been accepted for the scholarship, *you still need to keep applying to continue receiving funding*. Additionally, you will need your full academic transcript and a schedule document to apply. If you're applying for your first semester of college, you will need to supply a high school transcript. For more detailed information about our scholarship policy and procedure, please refer to our Scholarship Policy Handbook on the Department of Education website.

THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Career and Technical Education scholarship is available to all CPN members just like the College and University scholarship is. However, the main difference is that this scholarship is only for those who are seeking vocational technology certificates or other career training. This scholarship awards recipients with \$2,000 if they are enrolled in their program full-time, and \$750 if they are enrolled part-time.

REQUIREMENTS

To apply for this scholarship, tribal members must:

- Be enrolled in a vocational technology program, work training program or similar.
- Provide their high school diploma and GPA.
- Write a short essay on how the certification applies to their future career goals.
- And their most recent transcript from the program/enrollment verification

DEADLINES

Because CTE programs are often available year-round, so is the scholarship. There are no deadlines that are time-specific for application.

RECEIVING AWARDED FUNDS

During the application process, you will be prompted to select one of three avenues for receiving your scholarship check. The first, most common avenue is making your check directly payable to your school. The second is making your check payable to both your school and you, opting for this method sends the check directly to you, while also allowing it to be cashed by your institution for payment purposes. The final way you can receive funding is by requesting the check in your name. To do this, you will need to provide a zero-balance document during your application, which shows that you have no outstanding balance with your institution.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If the program you're applying for is not accredited, you may not be accepted. Check if your program is accredited using this link: ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home

If you need more than one check for your program, you will need to apply again and submit your grades or a progress report showing acceptable completion relative to your time spent in the program.

THE MICHAEL JOHN KENNEDY (MJK) SCHOLARSHIP

The Michael John Kennedy Scholarship celebrates the legacy of Citizen Potawatomi Nation member and veteran Michael John Kennedy. Every year, the Department of Education awards one tribal citizen \$1,000 through this scholarship. Unlike the general college and university scholarship, this scholarship is competitive.

REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the MJK scholarship, in addition to being eligible for the general scholarship, you must:

- Have a 3.0 or above GPA.
- Be a junior or senior in college with more than 60 completed credit hours and be a veteran, the child of a veteran, the grandchild of a veteran, or currently serving in the military.
- Write a 250-to-500-word essay to the following prompt:
What has been the impact of Potawatomi warriors on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and how have you personally felt that impact in your life today?"

DEADLINES

This scholarship is available to apply for during the fall scholarship application term, which is July 15, 8 A.M. Central Time to September 15, 5 P.M. Central Time.

COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has had a wonderful and unique opportunity to partner with Oklahoma Baptist University to provide a master's in business administration program. The program is open to enrolled CPN members just like our scholarships, but to qualify you must meet OBU's academic standards as well. Students that are accepted will receive scholarship funding that covers tuition expenses over a two-year degree plan (two classes each semester). Books, technology, and fees are not included. The OBU MBA is flexible so that it can further your education on your terms, it is offered to online, on campus, and blended students.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education reviews each application and evaluates them based on their submitted materials and the responses to the questions in the application. For example, one question reads: "How is this degree necessary to advance your career?" The application must be filled out in full to be considered, so be sure not to miss any part of the application process!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this opportunity is not open to residents of California.

ADVISING

STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISORS

Student Success Advisors offer free support to anyone who needs it. Each advisor has a wide variety of training and experience. They can help you compare college options, complete applications, find outside scholarships, review essays, and more. Student Success Advisors are available to all students, not just students enrolled with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Meetings with your advisor can be set up through our portal, over email, or by phone call. There are several different available modalities for meetings including over-the-phone meetings, zoom meetings, and in person meetings.

ACT/SAT HELP

Student Success Advisors can also help find resources for students who will be taking standardized tests like the ACT/SAT. We work one on one with students and help them find the resources that they need so that they can best succeed. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation also hosts free ACT workshops annually.

INTERNSHIPS

The CPN Department of Education offers spring, summer, and fall internships to help drive your career goals. We use your resume and cover letter to match you with the department that will be the best fit.

Interns are paid \$13 an hour. The length of the summer internships is 240 hours over the course of 6 weeks, while the fall and spring internships are spread out over the course of the semester. Fall and spring interns are allowed up to 160 hours. College enrollment is not needed to apply. These internships are also open to non-CPN and non-Native students. Additionally, if your school allows internships for credit, you can coordinate between your supervisors and your school to get college credit.

Native American applicants can complete an application through the Workforce and Social Services Department to receive additional compensation.

Applications for internships are handled through the education department's portal. Priority deadlines for the internship applications are as follows:

Fall deadline: July 10

Spring deadline: December 10

Summer deadline: May 10

PROGRAMMING

COMING INTO THE CIRCLE

Are you an enrolled member of CPN who wants to forge a stronger connection to your tribe? Then you're in luck, because the Department of Education hosts Coming Into the Circle each year for our high school Tribal members. This one-day event serves as an entry point to the Citizen Potawatomi tribal culture. Students learn more about Potawatomi language, culture, and history. Each student is given the opportunity to connect with other Potawatomi students and learn what it means to be a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in the 21st century. Students and their family members are given a tour of the Tribal headquarters in Shawnee, Oklahoma, so they can become more familiar with the area for when they return for the annual Family Reunion Festival. Registration, meals, and transportation are all provided free of charge (signed waiver needed).

Programming is subject to change but can include:

- A tour of the CPN Eagle Aviary
- A tour of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center
- Cultural lessons on drumming and regalia
- Language introductions
- Presentations on the services provided by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Are you a Tribal member who graduated from high school, college, or a career and technical school this year? The Department of Education hosts an annual Graduation Celebration on the last Saturday of April. Recent graduates are invited to attend and to bring a guest. You will be prompted to RSVP for this event when you register your graduation with us on the Education portal.

The Department of Education wants to celebrate your accomplishments! Can't attend in person? All graduates who register will receive a gift and a recognition in the Hownikan even if they aren't able to attend. Register online at portal.potawatomi.org/graduationcelebration.

STOLES AND HONOR CORDS

If you're a recent graduate looking for a beautifully designed stole that represents the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, then look no further than our stole! It was designed by CPN member Trey DeLonais, and it showcases a woodland-style floral design. The tribal seal can be found on the left side of the stole, closest to the heart. The floral designs are used by all tribal members to illustrate the importance of connecting with and respecting Segmekwe (Mother Earth). These wonderful stoles can be purchased from potawatomigifts.com or the cultural heritage center gift shop.

For students who are graduating with a 3.9 GPA or higher on a 4-point scale, we also offer honor cords to honor your scholastic achievement. If you meet the GPA requirement, you can find the application on the portal under the "Graduation" tab. Make sure to get your application in before the priority deadline to ensure you receive your cords before graduation.

THE POTAWATOMI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Potawatomi Leadership Program serves to empower 8 to 10 young Tribal members with the tools needed to be engaged leaders of their tribe. During this six-week program, participants will learn about Tribal government, Potawatomi culture, and the economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The Nation views this program as an investment in our future, so all expenses are paid, including travel, housing, and food. Participants also receive a \$2,000 dollar scholarship at the end of the program.

Students are eligible for the PLP if they are:

- 18-20 years of age
- Enrolled in a college or career and technical school.
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA

Applications are open from November 15 until February 15. The application includes a series of short essay prompts. Students will also need a letter of recommendation, transcript, and proof of enrollment. For more information, including upcoming program dates, please visit plp.potawatomi.org

MDAMEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mdamen is the Potawatomi word for corn, also translated as “that miraculous seed.” We designed this nine week, fully online program to help CPN citizens connect with other Tribal members and learn more about their Tribe’s culture, government, and economic development. Because the program is completely virtual, so we encourage Tribal members from all over the world to join. Participants meet once a week to learn more about distinct aspects of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Tribal members are eligible for Mdamen if they are 18 years of age or older. You also must have reliable computer access. If you have taken part in the Potawatomi Leadership program, you will not be able to apply. Applications are open on potawatomi.org/Mdamen from October 1 through December 1.

The schedule for Mdamen changes every year to adapt to participant feedback, but below you can find a sample timeline detailing some of the topics that you might get to experience from this wonderful program!

Week 1: Orientation

Week 2: History of the Nation

Week 3: Self-Governance

Week 4: Leadership

Week 5: Tribal Services

Week 6: Tribal Enterprises

Week 7: Cultural Traditions

Week 8: Eagle Aviary

Week 9: Final Reflections

POTAWATOMI LESSON PLANS

The CPN Department of Education has developed lesson plans that are intended to be used by K-12 educators. The lesson plans teach Potawatomi history and other subjects through the lens of Potawatomi culture. These lesson plans were developed with Oklahoma state standards in mind, and are meant to teach Potawatomi lessons on good, government, and the creation story using the Citizen Potawatomi approach to education. They can be found at potawatomiheritage.com/classroom.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH CPN

These opportunities are not offered through the Department of Education but are nonetheless great opportunities for anyone looking to make the most of all that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has to offer.

CLASSROOM TRAINING GRANT

CPN Workforce and Social Services offers a classroom training grant open to citizens of federally recognized tribes in the Nation's 5 1/2 county service area. This grant helps with tuition, books, and unmet needs. To apply, the FAFSA must be completed if the course qualifies. Once the application is approved, all payments are made directly to the school.

CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

Located at 1899 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma, the CPN Cultural Heritage Center is home to the CPN Gift Shop and features exhibits on early Potawatomi life and the harsh changes of the removal period, presented using life-size dioramas and interactive displays. The Cultural Heritage Center's Long Room houses our Veteran's Wall of Honor, which displays objects associated with the military service of our Potawatomi tribal members. Learn more and find lesson plans, virtual tours, and a CPN encyclopedia and other resources at potawatomiheritage.com. The Cultural Heritage Center is free to the public and open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday and from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Saturday.

EAGLE AVIARY

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary offers a permanent home to eagles who are injured and cannot rehabilitate and be released. While few Native American aviaries exist in the U.S. this facility is the first to incorporate culturally significant elements into the building's architecture. The facility offers a unique experience that connects to Potawatomi culture and environmental conservation. Tours are by appointment only.

FIRELODGE CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Firelodge advocates for and protects children at risk of being abused or neglected. They provide court advocacy, investigations, prevention services, parenting education, counseling, foster home approval, and adoption. The Firelodge ensures that Potawatomi foster children have all the resources they need.

GED SERVICES

CPN Workforce and Social Services Department offers GED assistance to citizens of federally recognized tribes in the 5 1/2 county service area. They help both with the cost of the GED pre-test and post-test. The application must be completed and approved before the services begin.

JOHNSON O'MALLEY PROGRAM

Johnson O'Malley is a federal grant program that provides financial support to Native students from kindergarten through 12th grade. JOM provides school supplies, grade incentives, and a yearly amount of funds to be given for extra expenses. The following schools make up the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's JOM program:

- Asher Public Schools
- Bethel Public Schools
- Choctaw-Nicoma Park Public Schools
- Dale Public Schools
- Earlsboro Public Schools
- Harrah Public Schools
- Lexington Public Schools
- Little Axe Public Schools
- Macomb Public Schools
- Maud Public Schools
- Noble Public Schools
- South Rock Creek Public Schools
- Tecumseh Public Schools
- Wanette Public Schools
- Any homeschool program including Epic Charter Schools if the student lives in CPN jurisdiction.

MOKIWEK

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has partnered with East Central University, Kansas State University, OKC Community College, Rose State College, and the University of Central Oklahoma to offer Potawatomi language I and II for college credit. Talk with your advisor today to if you're interested in learning!

POTAWATOMI LANGUAGE

The CPN Language Department offers several resources for learning the Potawatomi language, or Bodéwadmimwen. There are online, self-paced courses as well as a children's course and a Potawatomi dictionary. Each lesson includes cultural components to inform students on the cultural significance of Bodéwadmimwen in addition to learning the language. Sign up for these free classes at potawatomiheritage.com/language.

SHKODEDEAJEK TRIBAL AISES CHAPTER

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation was one of the first tribes to establish an AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society). This society is open to all CPN citizens and supporters regardless of location. Shkodedeajek (those who carry fire in their hearts) members can join biweekly online calls to discuss how to best support Native Americans in STEM.



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