

Update from the  
**Office of  
The President**  
Dr. Dene Kay Thomas



The diversity of our student body is one of the defining characteristics of Fort Lewis College. A large part of FLC's diversity can be found in our over 1,000 Native American students enrolled today. Many of these students would not be here without the help of the FLC Native American Tuition Waiver Program, which offers a tuition-free education to any Native American student from a federally recognized tribe.

Fort Lewis College's commitment to providing an education to the Native American peoples of this nation stretches back more than a century. Today our thousands of Native American alumni represent over 280 tribes from 46 states. Who could have imagined 100 years ago the national impact the tuition waiver program would have and the remarkable growth the program would see?

In order to help ensure the future security of this valuable program, I have made many trips to Washington, D.C. to help educate our lawmakers on U.S. Senate Bill 765 and U.S. House Bill 1658. These two bills would call on the federal government to assist the tuition waiver programs for Native Americans at both FLC and the University of Minnesota-Morris. I am pleased to report that both bills continue to gain bipartisan support with seven co-sponsors in the Senate, not including bill sponsor Sen. Michael Bennet, and forty-seven co-sponsors in the House, in addition to bill sponsor Rep. Scott Tipton.

As the Fort Lewis College Native American Tuition Waiver Program is so vital for both the College and the country, I will continue to do whatever I can to make sure that a high-quality education is always within reach for our current and future Native American students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dene Thomas".

Dr. Dene Kay Thomas  
President