

# Education is the greatest need

*Helping tomorrow's leaders achieve their dreams*



## >>> Meet ILTF's Board of Directors



**Robert Grijalva** is a certified General Real Estate Appraiser from Arizona who has vast experience appraising and reviewing appraisals of land in Indian Country. Grijalva has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from California State University at Fullerton, and has held key positions with the Office of Appraisal Services, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and others. "I serve as a member of the ILTF Board to help the American Indian people better understand land issues, especially the land's value," he said, "using my knowledge and experience in the valuations of the various rights and uses that comprise land ownership."

Grijalva says that many American Indians look at land ownership differently than their fellow Americans. "Indians treat the land with reverence and respect. Non-Indians treat land as a commodity to be acquired, used and sold," he said. "Since so many other things are based on the ownership of the land, it is important for American Indians to understand how others view their land, especially its value."

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## Spirit of Sovereignty scholarships makes education a reality

In Indian Country, far too many intelligent, ambitious young people can only dream of going to college, and there are countless obstacles that often stand in the way. For many, the most significant barrier is money. The Spirit of Sovereignty (SOS) – a National Indian Gaming Association-advised fund at the Indian Land Tenure Foundation – provides college scholarships for well-qualified Native students at 37 tribal colleges. The scholarship funds can be used for any education-related expense, including tuition, books, housing, travel, childcare and more.

“That’s the most important thing that sets our scholarships apart is the ability to use the money to cover real-life expenses, important things like rent, gas or groceries,” said David Garelick of ILTF, who coordinates the Spirit of Sovereignty program. “We have students who drive 100 miles to attend class, and others who work two or three jobs to make ends meet. These are the kinds of challenges that prevent Native students from pursuing higher education.”

The Spirit of Sovereignty also supports the Native Children’s Holiday Program, which seeks to ensure that every American Indian child has at least one gift and one article of clothing under the tree on Christmas morning. It is an important program that offers donors a unique opportunity to make the holidays special for Indian children who live in some of the most challenged communities.

Learn more about the Spirit of Sovereignty, and contribute at **[www.spiritofsov.org](http://www.spiritofsov.org)**.

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## ILTF supports Koahnic Broadcasting's educational programming

Across Indian Country, sacred lands are facing mounting threats from commercial development and government intervention. One way to combat these challenges is through the type of educational programming created by the Koahnic Broadcast Corporation (KBC), a non-profit, Alaska Native-operated media center in Anchorage. Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from ILTF, Koahnic was able to produce *Our Sacred Spaces*, a four-part series on sacred lands and resources that examines the issues vital to the cultural and legal aspects of Native land and land ownership.

“Koahnic” is an Athabascan word in the Ahtna dialect meaning “live air.” KBC’s goal is to help preserve Native cultures and languages, combat misconceptions and prejudices against Alaska Natives, and create cross-cultural bridges. Koahnic operates the country’s first urban Native radio station in Anchorage. It also produces the award-winning shows *National Native News* and *Native America Calling*, which is hosted by Tara Gatewood of Isleta Pueblo (photo). Programs air on more than 300 public and tribal radio stations in 32 states.



Visit [www.nativeamericacalling.com](http://www.nativeamericacalling.com) to learn more about Koahnic Broadcasting.