

## RED ALERT: DQ UNIVERSITY IS IN A CRISIS SITUATION; TRIBES MUST ACT NOW

DQU is California's only tribal college. In fact, it is the only one for Oregon and Nevada as well! It also constitutes one of the largest bodies of land controlled by Native Americans in California, 640 acres. Very few reservations are that large in the state, and many in Oregon and Nevada are also smaller.

DQU has educated thousands of Native American students who otherwise would not have received a post-high school education. It has often worked successfully with students who had personal problems, learning issues, and, in essence, who had no other school to turn to. Often these students have been from terminated California rancherias or from small reservations lacking any gaming facility or any scholarship funds. DQU has often been forced to bear the total cost of educating such students, receiving no tuition from them.

DQU has always suffered from a lack of money. That has often caused some professional Indians to refuse to work with the school. This has meant that the dedicated Board

members, serving without pay, have sometimes been forced to hire administrators who were not always of the highest caliber. Thus there is no denying but what DQU's staff have sometimes made mistakes including some very serious ones. In this, however, DQU resembles many tribal governments, and we dare not throw away the tribes simply because we haven't always had adequate leadership and performance.

The present administration and board at DQU is attempting to make up for previous errors. They are working very hard to save the school and to provide a good education for the currently enrolled students. Unfortunately, they have had to face a lot of obstacles, many financial, left behind by staff no longer at DQU.

**HERE IS WHAT I WANT TO SAY: WE MUST SAVE THE SCHOOL AND THE LAND FOR INDIAN PEOPLE!**

**WE WOULD BE TOTAL FOOLS TO LET THAT 640 ACRES AND THE SCHOOL FALL INTO THE HANDS OF NON-INDIANS OR PEOPLE SEEKING ONLY TO CASH OUT THE ASSETS!**

**HERE IS MY SET OF PROPOSALS:**

**DQU NEEDS TO FIND A FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBE, PREFERABLY ONE WITH A**

**HISTORICAL CONNECTION TO THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY, WHICH WILL BE WILLING TO ANNEX THE 640 ACRES TO THEIR RESERVATION OR RANCHERIA AS TRUST LAND. PERSONALLY, I WOULD FAVOR THE RUMSEY WINTUN TRIBE, BUT ANY OTHER LOCAL TRIBES WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE IF RUMSEY IS UNINTERESTED.**

**WHILE THE LAND IS BEING ANNEXED TO THE RESERVATION, THE TRIBE (OR TRIBES, IF THAT IS LEGALLY POSSIBLE) WOULD ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE BOARD OF DQU TO ALLOW THE LATTER TO OPERATE THE COLLEGE UNDER A 99-YEAR RENEWABLE LEASE.**

**IN RETURN THE TRIBE WOULD BE ABLE TO USE A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE SITE BOTH FOR AGRICULTURAL AND GAMING PURPOSES. THERE IS SUFFICIENT LAND FRONTING ON ROAD 31, A MAJOR ROUTE, TO ALLOW FOR A MAJOR CASINO-HOTEL COMPLEX. DQU WOULD BE GUARANTEED A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THE CASINO'S PROFIT FOR EDUCATIONAL USES.**

**IF THE TRIBE IN QUESTION ALREADY**

**OPERATES A CASINO, THEN DQU WOULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE A SUBSTANTIAL GRANT OF MONEY ON A SUSTAINED BASIS IN LIEU OF RECEIVING A PERCENTAGE OF CASINO INCOME.**

In my opinion, this is the only way that DQU can survive. We can expect the Bush administration to continue to cut the support received by higher education and by Indian colleges specifically. Thus, Indian colleges must look to the tribes for increased support.

**IT MAY BE ALSO THAT DQU MAY NEED TO SHIFT ITS EMPHASIS TO THE POST-BACHELOR'S DEGREE LEVEL OF EDUCATION, AN IDEA LONG PROPOSED AS "THE DQU CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES" WITH MASTER'S AND PH.D. DEGREES. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IDEA HAS NEVER BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT PERHAPS IT IS THAT LEVEL OF EDUCATION WHICH DQU CAN BEST OFFER.**

**DQU MUST ALSO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE FACT THAT IT IS SERVING A VERY LARGE MEXICAN INDIGENOUS POPULATION WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR TRIBAL COLLEGE FUNDING. THAT MIGHT MEAN THAT THE BOARD SHOULD RETURN TO THE**

**ORIGINAL PLAN OF HAVING A NORTH AMERICAN TRIBAL COLLEGE AND QUETZALCOATL COLLEGE, THE LATTER FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS FROM SOUTH OF THE USA BORDER.**

**But the key issue is this: we must see to it that DQU becomes federal trust land and that a California tribe or tribes takes some responsibility for our only tribal college.**

**WE MUST ALSO RECRUIT NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR DQU, ESPECIALLY FROM CALIFORNIA RESERVATIONS AND FROM PROFESSIONALLY-TRAINED SECTORS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION.**

**ONCE THE 640 ACRES BECOMES TRUST LAND WE WILL BE CERTAIN, AT LEAST, THAT NON-INDIANS ARE NOT ABLE TO MOVE IN TO SEIZE THE LAND. DON'T WE HAVE SOME CALIFORNIA TRIBES OUT THERE THAT HAVE VISION AND THE WILL TO DO SOMETHING????**

**JACK FORBES**

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