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Northwest Area Foundation's Presidential Grant Invests in the Power of Endowed, Native Philanthropy

ST. PAUL, Minn., (Sept. 29, 2015) – The Northwest Area Foundation has awarded a \$1 million Presidential Grant to Tiwahe Foundation, an emerging Native community foundation that serves the Twin Cities area, for its “Investing in Indian Philanthropy” project. The grant is twofold: \$300,000 is slated to provide operating support for Tiwahe, with the remaining \$700,000 allocated as a challenge grant to help Tiwahe leverage additional funding for its endowment campaign.

The grant embodies NWAFF's commitment to build Native giving and empower Natives to fund other Natives. According to Tiwahe President and CEO Kelly Drummer, “This grant will be a part of creating history as one of the first community-led endowment campaigns in the country for American Indians.”

Founded in 2009, Tiwahe Foundation strives to be a resource for philanthropy across Indian Country. It is the only foundation to use an asset-building approach in the Indian community through a micro-granting program.

Kevin Walker, NWAFF president and CEO, comments, “Tiwahe Foundation is a trusted community partner with an intricate understanding of issues that affect Native American people. Its Circle of Giving model aligns perfectly with our Foundation's focus on advancing asset-building as a way to achieve economic prosperity.”

To date, Tiwahe American Indian Family Empowerment has awarded 600+ grants for educational attainment, economic advancement, and cultural revitalization to the Twin Cities Native American community.

“We hope this grant will further propel Tiwahe's endowment campaign, ensure its long-term sustainability, and help continue the successful grant-making programs that have enriched urban Native families,” Explains Karla Miller, program director for NWAFF.

Drummer agrees, stating, “We have built our community foundation with the understanding that grassroots, self-determined endowment building will sustain reciprocity in our community. The Northwest Area Foundation and other partners have helped to leverage and support our \$6 million endowment campaign to build an American Indian community foundation that is led, directed, managed, and supported by the community.”

Laura Waterman-Wittstock, co-chair of Tiwahe's Seventh Generation Endowment Campaign, adds, "There are some remarkable events in any campaign that will always be remembered as thresholds that tell the story of the full potential of what is to come. One of these is the remarkable gift from the Northwest Area Foundation. That gift has set the measure of a future assured for all those people to come, young and old, who will benefit from Tiwahe's gifts."

The Northwest Area Foundation supports organizations that drive proven approaches and promising innovations to help people build assets through good jobs and financial capability. Its grantees are champions of change who reflect the diverse cultural strengths of its region, which includes the eight states of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, and more than 75 Native nations. The Foundation listens to, learns from, and leads others to grantees' transformative program and policy work, which helps hardworking people and families overcome crises today so they can establish good credit, launch small businesses, save, and begin to feel secure and hopeful about tomorrow. The Foundation was established in 1934 and is based in St. Paul, MN. For more information, please visit www.nwaf.org.

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