

The Role of College Facilitators:

How Students Can Succeed
While Helping Others

Dr. Henrietta Augustus Harris
Dean of Student Success
for Student Performance
Dillard University, New Orleans, LA
2008 IHEP Symposium for MSI
February 26-28, 2008

Dillard University

Dillard University is a private, historically African-American, undergraduate, comprehensive liberal arts institution located in the beautiful Gentilly community of New Orleans, Louisiana. Throughout its 138-year history, Dillard has served the African-American population in the United States, especially the areas of New Orleans and the Gulf South, by offering academic achievement to students who were often the first members of their families to attend college. Today, the University enrolls over 1,000 students from all over the United States and several countries abroad, including Antigua, the Bahamas, Columbia, France and Trinidad & Tobago. Under the Dillard University Katrina Recovery Plan, our strategic intent is to return Dillard's operations to pre-Katrina enrollment levels and beyond in four years.

The mission of Dillard University is to produce graduates who excel, become world leaders and are broadly educated, culturally aware, and concerned with improving the human condition. Through a highly personalized and learning-centered approach, Dillard's students are able to meet the competitive demands of a diverse, global and technologically advanced society. In 2007, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Dillard 17th in its report on "Top Tier, Southern Comprehensive Colleges."

*Overall objective of the Office of Financial Aid &
Scholarship Facilitator Program*

The FA & S Facilitator Program serves as a communication link between staff of the FA & S and Students involved and or seeking FA & S.

The four (4) roles of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship Facilitator:

- Deliver professional sessions to other college students
- Provide general information related to Financial Aid and Scholarships
- Provide specific information based on upcoming programs, scholarship due dates, services and policies
- Act as a link between the office and students

Dillard University
Division of Student Success
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships/Facilitator

Male Senior

Criminal Justice Major

- Retrieve online forms such as the verification work sheet from Nelnet's website.
- Retrieve and respond to student messages from (EFAO) electronic award.
- Provide financial aid counseling to students.
- Assist with bulk mail out.
- Work in tandem with The Administrative Assistant to supervise work study students

Dillard University
Division of Student Success
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships/Facilitator

Male Senior

Criminal Justice Major

- Assist scholarship coordinator with the scholarship announcements. Publish and edit a weekly list of external scholarships from agencies such as the United Negro College Fund, The Sallie Mae Fund, and other organizations.
- General office duties such as typing correspondence, answering telephones, filing and making copies.
- Process incoming mail.
- Perform additional duties as assigned.

Graduate School Goal: A degree in Student Personnel Administration

Who is this Facilitator?

- a teaching assistant for FA & S
- a successful student who can provide his peers with his experience
- a student who can spend the time- an average of 10 hours per week with FA & S
- a student who expresses satisfaction and comfort level with the services he provides

Objectives of the FA & S College Facilitator Program

- readily accessible to students
- use the professional practices of the office
- delivers services based on FA & S standards of practice
- understand learning needs of the office to help individual students to continue their competence
- improve communication between student and the office of FA & S

Secrets of Successful Facilitators *

- Effective Facilitators are **FLEXIBLE**
- Effective Facilitators are **ADAPTIVE**
- Effective Facilitators are **PROACTIVE**
- Effective Facilitators are **RESPONSIVE**
- Effective Facilitators are **RESILIENT**

* www.thiagi.com*

**What must we do to continue the competencies of our
College *FACILITATORS*:**

5 Directions

1. Staff/Student Development
2. Technical Assistance
3. Understanding the Effective Educational Practices and Instruction Strategies for the area
4. Consult, Communicate, and give Small Group Skills
5. Collaborative Team Building with permanent staff

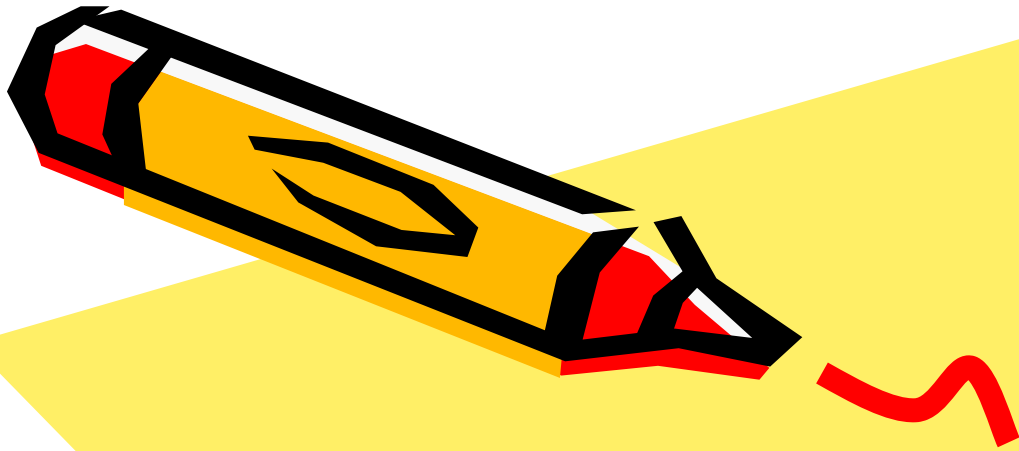
Evaluation Data for further growth of Student *Facilitators:*

- Facilitator Characteristics
- Facilitator Training
- Curriculum Implementation for the area of training
- Use of the program's model designed to promote critical thinking and dialogue

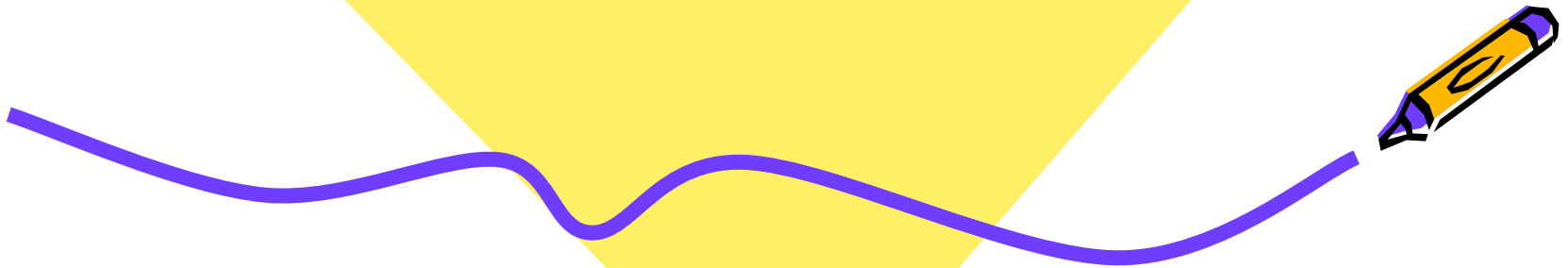
*The Evaluation of the DU FA & S Facilitator Program is on going and based on the objectives of achieving the anticipated outcomes.

**What is needed for the *GROWTH*
and
DEVELOPMENT of the program:**

- Training to establish authority and support
- Understanding of an informal educational environment
- A set of established Teaching Techniques

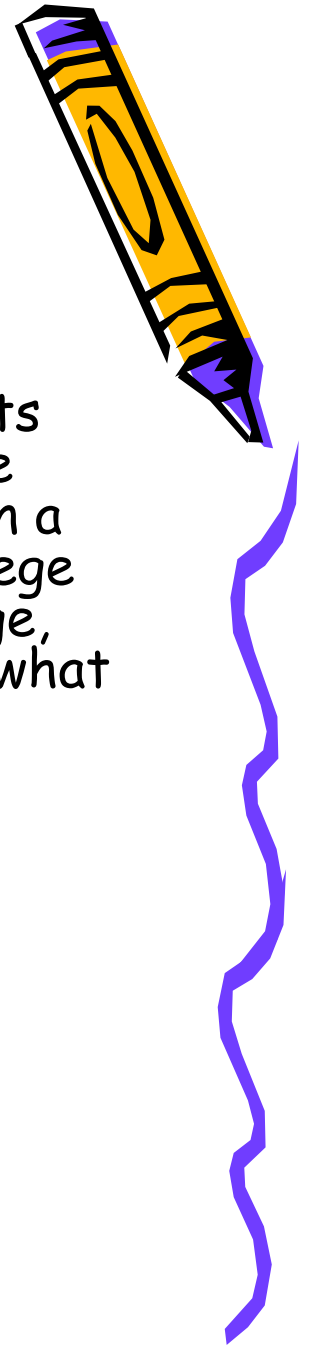


College Facilitators



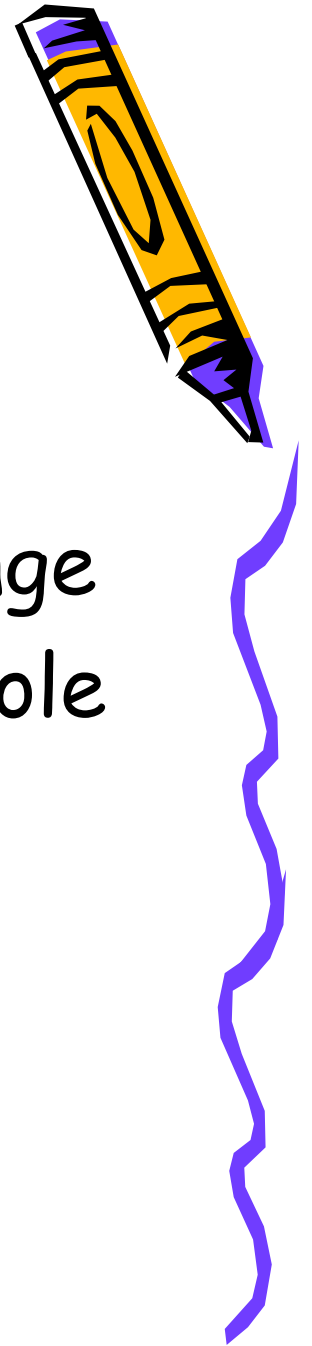
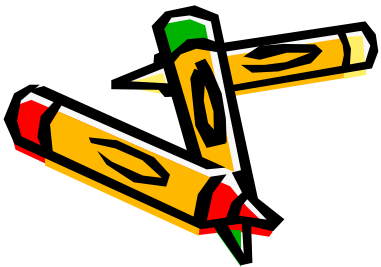
What is a college facilitator?

- A **college facilitator** guides discussion with the students rather than lecturing. A **college facilitator** engages the youth and cares about their future. They are more than a speaker, they are a listener. It is important that a college facilitator does not simply talk for an hour about college, but rather they gather input from the students about what they know and what they think about college.
- **INCLUDE ROLES SUCH AS:**
 - Instructors
 - Mentors
 - Liaisons



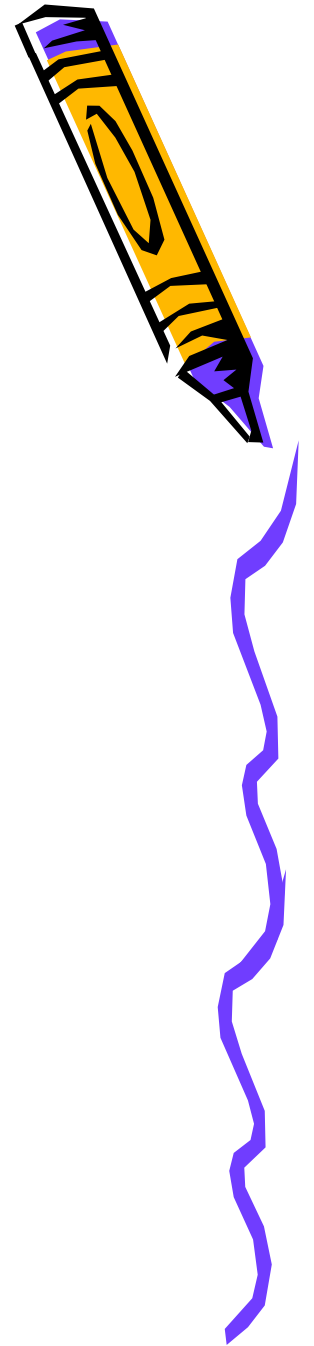
Who wants to be a college facilitator?

- Student Leaders/Future Leaders
- Students who want to make a change
- Student who want to be tangible role models
- Students who are looking for purpose while motivating others



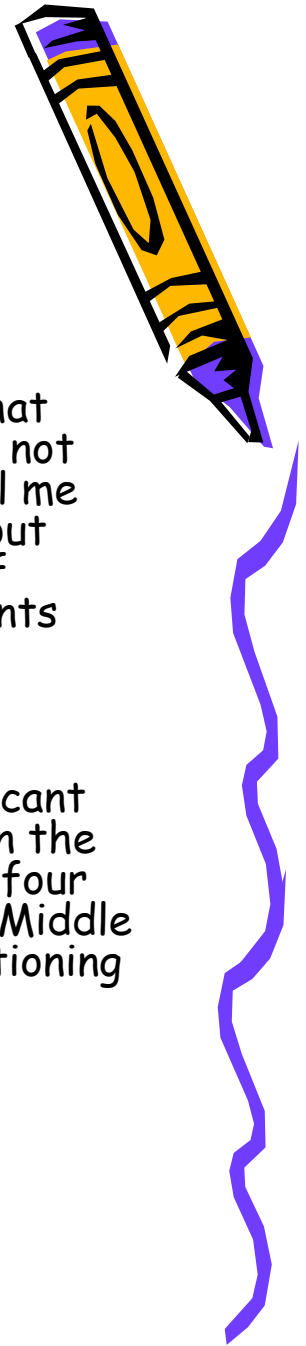
Recruiting college facilitators...

- Campus Organizations
- Student Government
- Dormitories
- Scholarship applicants



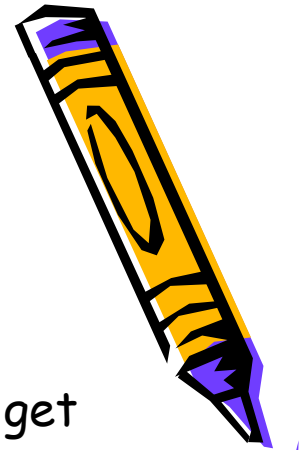
Why become a college facilitator ??

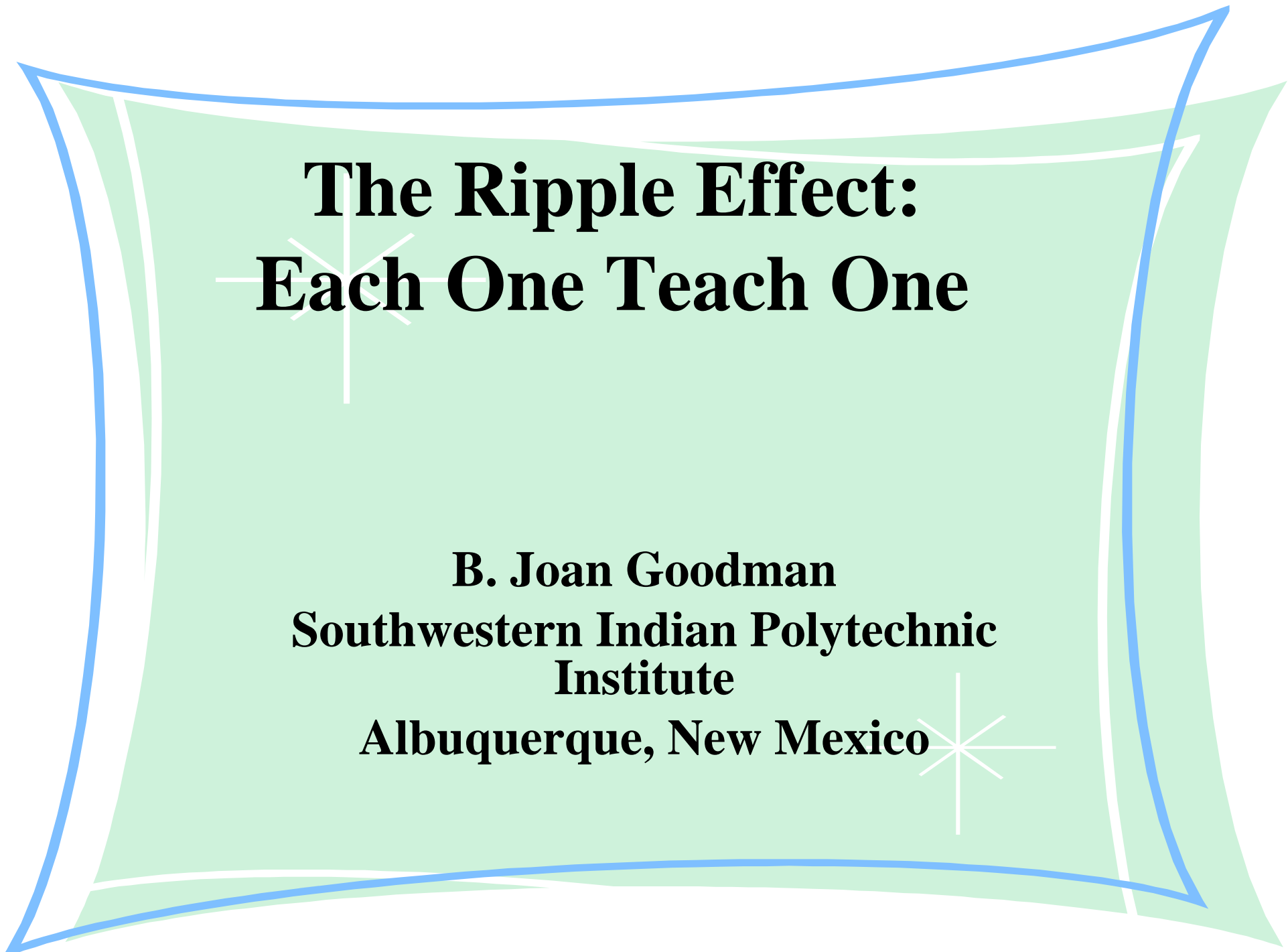
- I chose to be a facilitator for kids to college to unravel the myths that students have about college. As a student in elementary school I was not exposed to college until high school because I had no one at all to tell me about it. My teachers were not really explaining what college was about either. I wanted elementary students to have a greater knowledge of college than I did. I also wanted to give something back to the students
~Senior, Marketing Major, Howard University
- I chose to be a facilitator because I believe in "Paying It Forward." Someone told me the information necessary to be a competitive applicant for colleges. I wanted to give these students the opportunity to learn the same. I also have been working with middle school aged students for four years and wanted to continue my service to the youth of this nation. Middle school is an important time in every child's life because it is a transitioning period between childhood and adolescents.
~ Junior, Communications Major, Howard University



THE GREAT IMPACT

- "I know what college is like and I know how important it is to get there and be someone important"
~ 6th grader, Kelly Miller Elementary School
- "I loved the experience. Through the program I was encouraged to create a similar curriculum for students I was working at the Howard Middle School. I enjoyed each session of the program and he helped me get to know myself a little better. I had the opportunity to really show dedication to helping the generation under me and I was truly able to see my future through those excellent students. I loved the experience and would encourage all college students to do programs similar."
~Senior, Management Major, Howard University

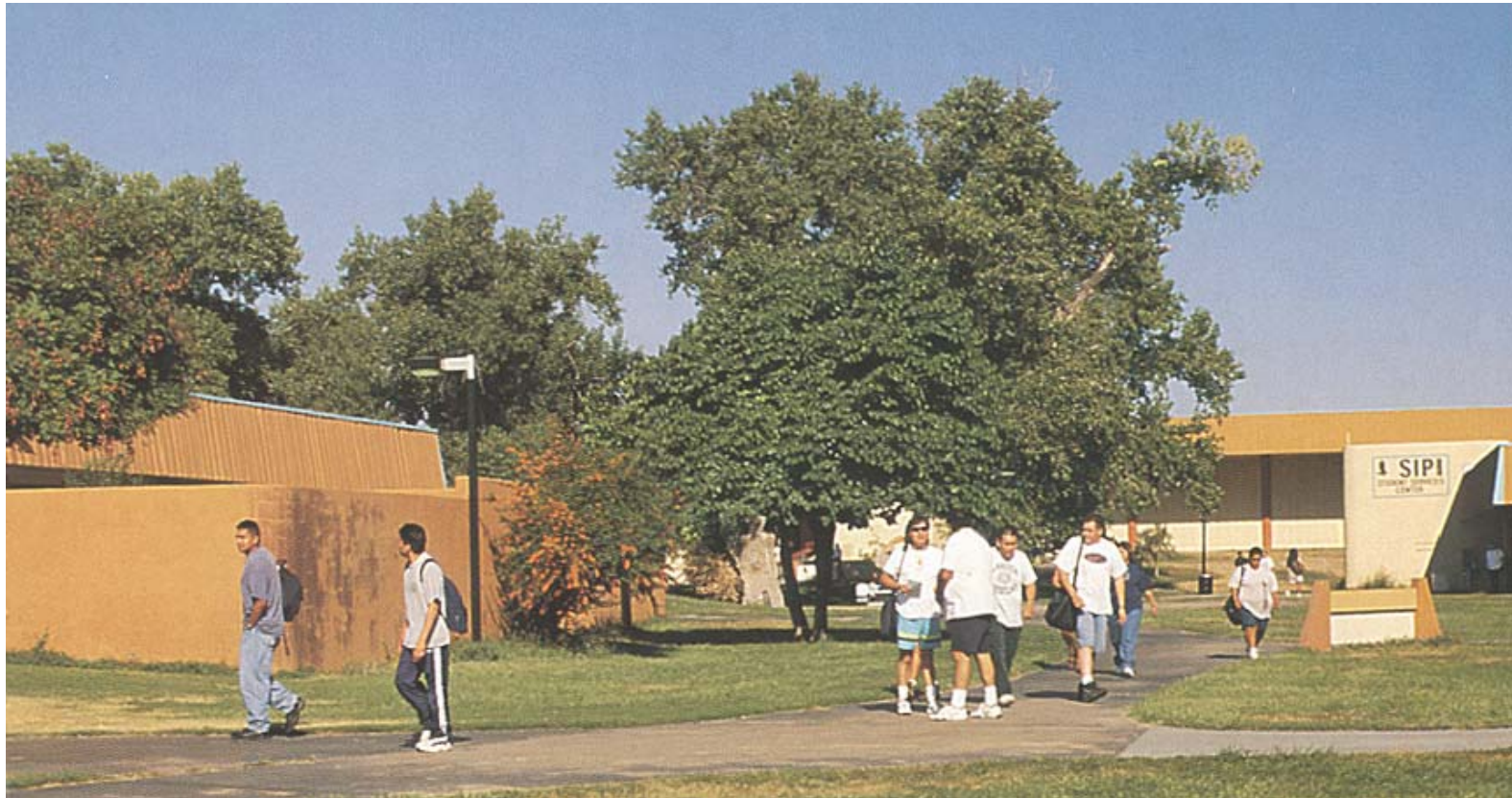




**The Ripple Effect:
Each One Teach One**

**B. Joan Goodman
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic
Institute
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE



OVERVIEW OF SIPI



- **Opened September 16, 1971**
- **Accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Schools since 1975**
- **American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Member**
- **1994 Land Grant Institution**

STUDENTS

- Over 100 American Indian tribes are represented in SIPI student population.
- 490 residential, commuter and distance learning students during Spring 2008 trimester.



FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

- Participants work in groups
- Develop budgets
- Assess personal financial situations
- Plan for future financial security



COMMUNITY BASED







MATERIALS USED

- Culturally relevant
- Building Native Communities Series
- FDIC “Money Smart”
- Current media
- Collaborate with banking institutions in the area

Our SIPI Students make a Difference!

- Learn
- Each One Teach One
- Serve as role models

Our Goal: To provide people with financial practices that respect and incorporate Native knowledge, values and lifestyles.