

**Thompson Announces—**

# **New IAIA Charter**

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson announced recently that the Institute of American Indian Arts has been granted a new charter which authorizes the institute to grant the two year, junior college associate degree. The all Indian Board of Regents at the school, and other Indian leaders have requested that a junior college program be established at the institute.

The new charter further authorizes the institute to seek full accreditation from the North Central Accrediting Association for both the high school and college programs.

Accrediting activities with North Central for the college program began last year, but were postponed until final degree granting authority had been authorized by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The institute will operate on the middle college concept, offering a New Mexico state accredited high school program for grades 11 and 12, and a junior college program offering transferrable college credits for college freshmen and sophomores.

The institute will remain a national school for art oriented Indian, Aleut and Eskimo students who receive limited tuition, room and board scholarships to attend this nationally recognized residential fine arts institution.

Art course offerings in both programs include ceramics, jewelry, communication techniques, painting, graphics, dance, design, photography, stone and wood sculpture and museology.

The museum program may also include a traditional techniques class. Supportive high school academic courses, and college liberal arts courses are also offered including a developing cultural studies program. Students may also make use of the Bureau's cultural and resource development center which is located on campus.

The institute is the only school in the world specifically dedicated to meeting the particular cultural needs of Native American students whose potential and advancement in the arts deserve development.

During the school's short 12 year history, students have produced an unusual quantity and quality of art works that have been recognized by distinguished critics of the art world. They have produced significant drama presentations which have been presented at the Carter-Brown Theater in Washington, D.C.

Student poetry works have been read on the Johnny Carson Show and on the voice of America, as well as having been published in anthology form by a major

publishing house.

Student fine art exhibitions have toured major museums in this country, in Europe and in South America.

Student fashions have been displayed to international audiences while traditional dance groups have appeared on national television, at the White House in Washington, and at the Olympics Games in Mexico City — and in all categories received critical acclaim.

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