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## Report of Independent Auditors

The Board of Directors  
Native Forward Scholars Fund  
and American Indian Graduate Centers Scholars

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the combined financial statements of Native Forward Scholars Fund and American Indian Graduate Centers Scholars, collectively referred to as “the Organization”, which comprise the combined statement of financial position as of June 30, 2024, and the related combined statements of activities and changes in net assets, cash flows, and functional expenses for the year then ended, and the related notes to the combined financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying combined financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the combined financial position of Native Forward Scholars Fund and American Indian Graduate Centers Scholars as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in their net assets and their cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards (Government Auditing Standards)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Organization and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### ***Emphasis of Matter***

##### *Restatement*

As discussed in Note 13 to the combined financial statements, the Organization has restated their previously issued combined financial statements to correct for a misstatement. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the combined financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of combined financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the combined financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Native Forward Scholars Fund and American Indian Graduate Centers Scholars' ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the combined financial statements are available to be issued.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the combined financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the combined financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the combined financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the combined financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the combined financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the combined financial statements as a whole. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, and the combining statement of financial position and combining statement of activities and changes in net assets are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the combined financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the combined financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the combined financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the combined financial statements or to the combined financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, combining statement of financial position, and combining statement of activities and changes in net assets are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the combined financial statements as a whole.

### ***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 24, 2025 on our consideration of Native Forward Scholars Fund and American Indian Graduate Centers Scholars' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Native Forward Scholars Fund and American Indian Graduate Centers Scholar's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Native Forward Scholars Fund and American Indian Graduate Centers Scholars' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Moss Adams LLP".

Albuquerque, New Mexico  
January 24, 2025

## **Combined Financial Statements**

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**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Combined Statement of Financial Position  
June 30, 2024**

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**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,168,990
Investments	26,725,570
Receivables, net	505,175
Pledges receivable, net	1,757,564
Other current assets	<u>57,045</u>

Total current assets 31,214,344

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET 1,296,232

OPERATING RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS, NET 20,067

FINANCE RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS, NET 7,521

Total assets \$ 32,538,164

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable	\$ 185,332
Accrued liabilities	246,981
Deferred revenue	1,785,085
Current portion of operating lease liabilities	5,901
Current portion of finance lease liabilities	<u>2,296</u>

Total current liabilities 2,225,595

**LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

Operating lease liabilities, net of current portion	14,340
Finance lease liabilities, net of current portion	<u>5,441</u>

Total long-term liabilities 19,781

Total liabilities 2,245,376

**NET ASSETS**

Without donor restrictions	22,295,397
With donor restrictions	
Time or purpose restricted	4,251,170
Perpetual in nature	<u>3,746,221</u>

Total net assets 30,292,788

Total liabilities and net assets \$ 32,538,164

See accompanying notes.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Combined Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES, SUPPORT, AND GAINS			
Contributions and grants	\$ 5,706,282	\$ 1,302,875	\$ 7,009,157
Federal grant	9,785,690	-	9,785,690
Special events	95,195	-	95,195
Other program revenue	19,630	-	19,630
Interest and dividends, net of investment fees	618,656	135,873	754,529
Realized and unrealized gains on investments	1,584,755	727,065	2,311,820
Net assets released from restrictions	1,119,955	(1,119,955)	-
Total revenues, support, and gains	18,930,163	1,045,858	19,976,021
EXPENSES			
Program services	16,398,017	-	16,398,017
Management and general	1,003,240	-	1,003,240
Fundraising	308,758	-	308,758
Total expenses	17,710,015	-	17,710,015
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,220,148	1,045,858	2,266,006
NET ASSETS, beginning of year (as previously reported)	21,675,249	6,351,533	28,026,782
2023 RESTATEMENT (see Note 13)	(600,000)	600,000	-
NET ASSETS, beginning of year (as restated)	21,075,249	6,951,533	28,026,782
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$ 22,295,397</u>	<u>\$ 7,997,391</u>	<u>\$ 30,292,788</u>

See accompanying notes.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Combined Statement of Cash Flows  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Change in net assets	\$ 2,266,006
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities	
Depreciation	44,250
Amortization of finance lease right-of-use assets	4,628
Realized and unrealized gain on investments	(2,311,820)
Net changes in operating assets and liabilities	
Receivables	276,629
Pledge receivables	(1,757,564)
Other current assets	298,656
Accounts payable	100,202
Accrued liabilities	91,382
Deferred revenue	(911,334)
Operating lease	174
	<u>174</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>(1,898,791)</u>

**CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

Purchases of investments	11,929,182
Proceeds from sale of investments	(11,859,380)
Purchases of property and equipment	<u>(110,877)</u>
Net cash from investing activities	<u>(41,075)</u>

**CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Payments on finance lease	<u>(4,412)</u>
Net cash from financing activities	<u>(4,412)</u>

**NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS** (1,944,278)

**CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year** 4,113,268

**CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year** \$ 2,168,990

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See accompanying notes.



# Native Forward Scholars Fund and American Indian Graduate Center Scholars Combined Statement of Functional Expenses Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Program Services					Management and General			Total Expenses	
	Scholarships Student Support Services: AIGC		Scholarships Student Support Services: AIGC		Leadership	Total	Management	Management: AIGC Scholars	Fundraising	Total
	Scholarships Student Support Services	Scholarships Student Support Services: AIGC	Outreach	Read / Selection						
Scholarship	\$ 11,028,688	\$ 2,052,938	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 13,081,626	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 13,081,626
Personnel Expenses	1,169,916	-	589,382	150,386	73,811	1,983,495	513,512	82,781	184,866	2,764,454
Professional Fees	245,090	-	123,472	31,505	15,463	415,530	106,821	18,098	38,686	579,135
Supplies	55,480	-	27,950	7,132	3,501	94,063	24,132	4,146	8,757	131,098
Telephone	39,957	-	20,130	5,136	2,521	67,744	17,536	2,830	6,307	94,417
Postage & Shipping	13,221	-	6,661	1,700	834	22,416	5,760	979	2,087	31,242
Occupancy	112,835	-	56,844	14,504	7,118	191,301	49,568	7,943	17,810	266,622
Maintenance & Repairs	9,321	-	4,695	1,198	588	15,802	4,048	704	1,471	22,025
Equipment Rental	1,916	-	965	246	121	3,248	840	138	302	4,528
Conferences, Conventions, & Meetings	226,162	-	113,936	29,072	14,269	383,439	98,069	17,203	35,698	534,409
Printing & Publications	23,325	-	11,751	2,998	1,471	39,545	10,058	1,830	3,682	55,115
Depreciation and Amortization	19,991	-	10,071	2,570	1,261	33,893	11,830	-	3,155	48,878
Miscellaneous	38,879	-	19,586	4,997	2,453	65,915	22,144	2,270	6,137	96,466
Grand Total	\$ 12,984,781	\$ 2,052,938	\$ 985,443	\$ 251,444	\$ 123,411	\$ 16,398,017	\$ 864,318	\$ 138,922	\$ 308,758	\$ 17,710,015

See accompanying notes.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Note 1 – Nature of Business**

The combined financial statements include the accounts of Native Forward Scholars Fund (NFSF, formerly known as American Indian Graduate Center, Inc.) and American Indian Graduate Center Scholars (AIGC Scholars), which are related by common purposes and are collectively referred to as “the Organization”. The two organizations share office space and various personnel and administrative expenses.

NFSF is a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in 1971 to promote the interests of American Indian people throughout the United States by providing assistance to Indian students at the graduate level. AIGC Scholars is a not-for-profit corporation established January 30, 2001, to administer scholarship and other educational programs to broaden and expand the higher educational opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native students.

AIGC Scholars receives 100% of its funding under a grant agreement with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). The grant agreement with UNCF provides for the administration of a portion of the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholars Program, as it relates to American Indian and Alaska Native students pursuing undergraduate through doctoral degrees. The Gates Millennium Scholars Program is a scholarship program funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and is administered by UNCF. To assist in the implementation of this program, UNCF established a partnership with AIGC Scholars.

**Programs of the organization** – The Organization's principal programs are comprised of:

*Disbursements and program support* – Materials and activities designed to ensure that all applicant documents are processed properly, and student files are complete, meet the requirements of all scholarship programs and are compliant with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), Gates Millennium Scholars program, Wells Fargo, and all other contracts. Disbursement activities also include the calculation of award amounts based on financial need and the disbursement of scholarship funds to students.

Retention and academic advisement activities are reported in Disbursements and Program Support and consist of generalized activities to assist awarded Gates Millennium Scholars in achieving continued success in the program. AIGC Scholars staff maintains communication with students and addresses any difficulties they are experiencing in their academic pursuits; with the objective of helping them achieve the criteria for retention in the program.

*Outreach* – Activities that promote the scholarship programs and recruit applicants with the skills necessary to succeed in the program. Materials and presentations are designed to inform educators and American Indian and Alaska Native students about the program.

*Reading* – Activities for the selection of students who are awarded various scholarships. Qualified readers are selected to review all applications and rank them for the purpose of selecting the best-qualified applicants for the program.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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*Student support and resources* – Programs that engage students and provide resources to high school students, undergraduate and graduate students. This includes the Empowering Scholars Summit college readiness for high school students; The Rising Native Graduates graduate school mentoring program; and The Web Resource Center on the NFSF website that provides resources for all students.

*Leadership* – Preparing and hosting activities to bring awarded students and alumni together to participate in leadership activities and engage in networking and mentoring, in order to promote their leadership abilities and enhance their likelihood for success.

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Estimates** – The preparation of combined financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

**Financial statement presentation** – The assets, liabilities and results of activities of NFSF and AIGC Scholars are combined in the accompanying combined financial statements and have been collectively referred to as “the Organization.” All significant intercompany accounts and transactions are eliminated in the combination. These combined statements are not those of a separate legal entity.

**Basis of presentation** – The combined financial statements of the Organization have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP), which require the Organization to report information regarding its combined financial position and combined activities and changes in net assets according to the following net asset classifications:

*Net assets without donor restrictions* – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the Organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Organization’s management and the board of directors.

*Net assets with donor restrictions* – Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Organization or by the passage-of-time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the combined statement of activities and changes in net assets.

**Financial instruments** – The carrying amounts of cash, receivables, payables, accrued expenses, and other liabilities, approximate fair value due to short maturity periods of these instruments.

**Investments** – Investments consist of marketable securities and are stated at quoted fair market value (FMV). Investment income is presented net of investment fees. Investment fees were \$114,540 in 2024.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Fair value measurements** – Accounting Standards Codification Topic 820 establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to measurements involving significant unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

**Level 1** – Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical investments that the Organization has the ability to access at the measurement date.

**Level 2** – Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the investment, either directly or indirectly. These inputs may include quoted prices for the identical instrument in an inactive market, inputs other than observable quoted prices, or inputs derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

**Level 3** – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The assets or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

**Receivables** – Receivables are carried at their estimated collectible amounts. The Organization utilizes the allowance method of receivables valuation. Balances that remain outstanding after management has used reasonable collection efforts are written off through a charge to the valuation allowance. As of June 30, 2024, management estimates that all receivables are collectible and thus no credit loss for uncollectible receivables has been recorded. All receivables are considered current.

The beginning and ending balances of contract assets are as follows:

Receivables, net, beginning of year	\$	781,804
Receivables, net, end of year	\$	505,175

**Pledge receivable** – Unconditional promises to give are recorded, at their estimated net realizable value, as receivables and contribution revenues and require the Organization to distinguish between contributions received for each net asset category in accordance with donor-imposed restrictions. An allowance for uncollectible pledges receivable may be provided based upon management's judgment including such factors as prior collection history, type of contribution, and nature of fundraising activity. At June 30, 2024, no allowance has been provided.

**Property and equipment** – Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is recorded on the straight-line basis in amounts sufficient to relate the cost of depreciable assets to operations over their estimated useful lives, which range from two to five years. The Organization capitalizes acquisitions in excess of \$5,000. Contributed property and equipment is recorded at fair value at the date of donation. If donors stipulate how long the assets must be used, the contributions are recorded as restricted support. In the absence of such stipulations, contributions of property and equipment are recorded as unrestricted support. Depreciation expense was \$48,878 in 2024.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Leases** – The Organization determines whether an arrangement is a lease at the inception of the arrangement based on the terms and conditions of the contract. A contract contains a lease if there is an identified asset, and the Organization has the right to control the asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. The Organization has elected the package of three practical expedients, which permits the Organization not to reassess prior conclusions about lease identification, lease classification, and initial direct costs. In addition, the Organization has elected a short-term lease exemption policy that permits the Organization to not apply the recognition requirements of the new lease standard to leases with a term of 12 months or less. The Organization has also elected an accounting policy to not separate lease and nonlease components for certain classes of leases. At lease inception, the Organization determines whether an arrangement is or contains a lease. Operating leases are included in other assets, current maturities of lease liabilities, and noncurrent long-term lease liabilities in the balance sheets. Right-of-use (ROU) assets represent the Organization's right to use leased assets over the term of the lease. Lease liabilities represent the Organization's contractual obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease.

For operating leases, ROU assets and lease liabilities are recognized at the commencement date. The lease liability is measured as the present value of the lease payments over the lease term. The Organization uses the rate implicit in the lease if it is determinable. When the rate implicit in the lease is not determinable, the Organization has elected to use the risk-free rate expedient and uses the U.S. Treasury rate as its discount rate for all asset classes. Operating ROU assets are calculated as the present value of the lease payments plus initial direct costs, plus any repayments less any lease incentives received. Lease terms may include renewal or extension options to the extent they are reasonably certain to be exercised. The assessment of whether renewal or extension options are reasonably certain to be exercised is made at lease commencement. Factors considered in determining whether an option is reasonably certain of exercise include, but are not limited to, the value of leasehold improvements, the value of renewal rates compared to market rates, and the presence of factors that would cause a significant economic penalty to the Organization if the option were not exercised. Lease expenses are recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The Organization has elected not to recognize an ROU asset and obligation for leases with an initial term of 12 months or less. The expense associated with short-term leases is included in equipment rental in the combined statement of activities and changes in net assets.

For finance leases, upon lease commencement, the lease liability is measured on an amortized cost basis and increased to reflect interest on the liability and decreased to reflect the lease payment made during the period. Interest on the lease liability is determined each period during the lease term as the amount that results in a constant period discount rate on the remaining balance of the liability. The ROU asset is subsequently measured at cost, less any accumulated amortization and any accumulated impairment losses. Amortization on the ROU asset is recognized over the period from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term. The Organization uses the rate implicit in the lease if it is determinable. When the rate implicit in the lease is not determinable, the Organization has elected to use the risk-free rate expedient and uses the U.S. Treasury rate as its discount rate for all asset classes to determine the present value of the lease payments.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Impairment of long-lived assets** – The Organization reviews long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to future undiscounted net cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets. Assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of carrying amount or the fair value less costs to sell. As of June 30, 2024, there was no impairment of long-lived assets.

**Deferred revenue** – Deferred revenue represents scholarship receipts for which the Organization has not yet provided all services associated with the placement of a scholarship. Revenue is recognized by the Organization upon completion of all grantor requirements. Revenue recognized for the year ended June 30, 2024, was \$911,334 from deferred revenue that was recorded as of July 1, 2023.

The beginning and ending balances of contract liabilities are as follows:

Deferred revenue, beginning of year	\$ 2,696,419
Deferred revenue, end of year	\$ 1,785,085

**Revenue recognition** – Support from contributions, grants and special events is recognized when awarded, earned or when expenditures have been incurred in accordance with provisions of the contributions and special events. Program service fee revenue is recognized when the service is performed.

The Organization receives a federal grant from the Bureau of Indian Education which is considered a nonexchange transaction. Revenue from this award is recognized when the Organization has met any grant imposed restrictions, such as incurring expenditures in compliance with the contract or grant.

**United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Grant Agreement** – Revenue from the grant agreement with UNCF is segregated into administrative support and scholarship support.

*Administrative support* – Administrative support is considered to be an unconditional promises-to-give. However, since the donor specified the period for which the funds are to be used, it is recognized as temporarily restricted for time. The support is subsequently released to unrestricted during the period to which the support was intended.

*Scholarship support* – Receipts related to scholarship support are not considered to be promises-to-give, but rather exchange transactions for services rendered by the Organization. Therefore, any funding related to the activity, which may be received in advance, is deferred until the Organization has provided the services associated with the placement of a scholarship.

Actual scholarship awards granted to the Organization are made only after the actual recipient has been identified and pre-qualified by the Organization. Therefore, all such awards are recognized as unrestricted revenue when awarded since all requirements of the award have been met. An increase in disbursement and program support is also recognized at this time. Amounts are then carried as a scholarship payable until disbursement is made.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Donated assets and services** – Donated assets are recorded at their estimated fair values as of the date of contribution. Contributions of services are recognized in the combined financial statements if the services received enhance or create nonfinancial assets, require specialized skills and are provided by individuals possessing those skills and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation. Some services are provided by volunteers who perform a variety of tasks that benefit the Organization but are not recorded, as they do not meet the above criteria.

**Functional classification of expenses** – Expenses are presented on a functional basis allocated among its various programs, including management and general. Expenses and support services related to a specific program are allocated directly according to their natural expenditure classification. Other expenditures that are common to several programs are allocated based on various relationships, such as square footage or direct labor or periodic time and expense studies.

**Fundraising activity** – The Organization accounts for the allocation of joint costs between program activities and fundraising as provided for by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America surrounding the accounting for costs of activities of not-for-profit organizations that include fundraising. The Organization hosts fundraising events each year, including galas, charity auctions, and community events. Fundraising activities are recognized annually as costs are incurred.

**Tax exempt status** – The Organization is a nonprofit charitable corporation and has been recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Organization has adopted accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as they relate to uncertain tax positions, and has evaluated its tax positions taken for open tax years. Management believes that the activities of the Organization are within their tax-exempt purpose, and that there are no uncertain tax positions.

**Advertising** – The Organization expenses advertising costs as incurred. Expenses incurred for the year ended June 30, 2024, were \$629,926.

**New accounting standard**

*Allowance for credit losses* – As of July 1, 2023, the Organization adopted guidance from Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standard Update 2016-13, *Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Statements*. The guidance requires the measurement of all expected credit losses for financial assets held at the reporting date based on historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts. The Organization has evaluated that the impact of adopting this guidance on the Organization's combined financial statements is immaterial.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Subsequent events** – Subsequent events are events or transactions that occur after the combined statement of financial position date but before the combined financial statements are available to be issued. The Organization recognizes in the combined financial statements the effects of all subsequent events that provide additional evidence about conditions that existed at the date of the combined statement of financial position, including the estimates inherent in the process of preparing the combined financial statements. The Organization's combined financial statements do not recognize subsequent events that provide evidence about conditions that did not exist at the date of the combined statements of financial position but arose after the combined statement of financial position date and before the combined financial statements are available to be issued. The Organization has evaluated subsequent events through January 24, 2025, which is the date the combined financial statements were available to be issued.

**Note 3 – Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets**

The following reflects the Organization's financial assets as of June 30, 2024:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,168,990
Investments	26,725,570
Receivables, net	505,175
Pledge receivables, net	<u>1,757,564</u>
 Total financial assets	 31,157,299
 Less amounts not available to be used within one year	
Net assets with donor restrictions	<u>7,997,391</u>
 Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenses within one year from June 30, 2024	 <u><u>\$ 23,159,908</u></u>

The Organization manages its cash flow and liquidity on an on-going basis to ensure that sufficient funds are available to cover current operational needs. The Organization's goal is generally to maintain a level of financial assets sufficient to cover a minimum of 45 days of operating expenses. As part of its liquidity plan, the Organization is continuously evaluating the amount of cash on hand and expected to be collected within 30 days, against current financial obligations.



**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Note 4 – Investments**

The following table presents investments that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of June 30, 2024:

2024 - Description	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Money market funds	\$ 281,099	\$ 281,099	\$ -	\$ -
Equities	3,827,689	3,827,689	-	-
Exchange traded funds	8,598,522	8,598,522	-	-
Mutual funds	14,018,260	14,018,260	-	-
	<u>\$ 26,725,570</u>	<u>\$ 26,725,570</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The classifications of different types of investments in the preceding tables are determined by evaluating each fund or investment within general investment type parameters.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value.

*Money market funds* – Valued based on stated values.

*Equities, exchange traded funds, and mutual funds* – Valued at the closing price of the traded security at the combined statement of financial position date.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while management believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Note 5 – Pledges Receivable**

Pledges are recorded at fair value as of June 30, 2024. Pledges receivable are recorded as follows at June 30:

Amounts due	
In less than one year	\$ 1,757,564
	<hr/>
Total gross pledges receivable	1,757,564
Less: present value discount	-
	<hr/>
Total pledges receivable, net	1,757,564
Less: current portion of pledges receivable, net	(1,757,564)
	<hr/>
Pledges receivable, net of current portion	\$ -
	<hr/> <hr/>

At June 30, 2024, the Organization has not provided for an allowance for uncollectible pledges, as all amounts are considered fully collectible.

**Note 6 – Property and Equipment**

The following is a summary of property and equipment as June 30, 2024:

Buildings and leasehold improvements	\$ 1,362,186
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	438,694
	<hr/>
	1,800,880
Less accumulated depreciation	(504,648)
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 1,296,232
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Note 7 – Leases**

During the year ended June 30, 2024, the Organization entered into one equipment lease with Southwest Copy Systems Leasing. The lease is classified as an operating lease. The Organization also has one equipment lease with Pitney Bowes that was entered into in the year ended June 30, 2023. The lease is classified as a finance lease.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
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Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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The Organization recognized the following rent expense associated with its leases for the year ended June 30, 2024:

Operating lease expense	
Short-term lease expense	\$ 1,272
Finance lease expense	
Amortization of ROU assets	4,628
Interest expense	285
	<u>\$ 6,185</u>

During the year ended June 30, 2024, the Organization had the following cash activities associated with leases:

Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities	
Operating cash flows from operating leases	\$ 1,272
Operating cash flows from finance leases	285
Financing cash flows from finance leases	4,412

As of June 30, 2024, the future payments due under the leases for each of the years ended June 30 are as follows:

	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 6,759	\$ 2,509	\$ 9,268
2026	7,774	2,509	10,283
2027	7,268	2,509	9,777
2028	<u>-</u>	<u>627</u>	<u>627</u>
	21,801	8,154	29,955
Less present value discount	(1,560)	(417)	(1,977)
Less current portion	<u>(5,901)</u>	<u>(2,296)</u>	<u>(8,197)</u>
Total long-term lease liabilities	<u>\$ 14,340</u>	<u>\$ 5,441</u>	<u>\$ 19,781</u>

As of June 30, 2024, the weighted-average remaining lease term for operating and finance leases is 2.8 years and 3.3 years, respectively. The weighted-average discount rate for operating and finance leases is 4.87% and 3.18%, respectively.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Note 8 – Endowments**

The Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) provides industry guidance to nonprofit and charitable organizations similar to the Organization. The State of New Mexico adopted UPMIFA effective July 1, 2009. The Organization has determined that certain restricted net assets meet the definition of endowment funds under UPMIFA.

**Endowment investment and spending policies** – The Organization has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding for initiatives supported by its endowments while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowments.

In determining the prudent amount to distribute in a given year, the Organization considers the donor's intent, the purpose of the fund as stated in the fund agreement, and relevant economic factors. The Organization's current spending policy with regards to its endowments is determined annually by the board of directors.

The investment policies establish a return objective through diversification of asset classes. The current long-term return objective is the rate of inflation plus spending, net of any investment fees. To satisfy its long-term rate of return objectives, the Organization relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns may be achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Organization targets a diversified asset allocation that places a greater emphasis on equity-based investments to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk parameters.

The Organization's endowment funds consist entirely of donor-restricted funds. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Endowment net assets for the year ended June 30, 2024:

	Purpose Restricted	Perpetually Endowed	Total
Endowment net assets, June 30, 2023 (as previously reported)	\$ 2,141,327	\$ 3,236,032	\$ 5,377,359
2023 restatement - See Note 13	345,509	254,491	600,000
Endowment net assets, June 30, 2023 (as restated)	2,486,836	3,490,523	5,977,359
Investment return			
Interest income	166,273	1,427	167,700
Unrealized gain on investment	722,572	4,493	727,065
Investment fees	(31,605)	(222)	(31,827)
Total investment return	857,240	5,698	862,938
Contributions	510,500	250,000	760,500
Distributions	(353,491)	-	(353,491)
Endowment net assets, June 30, 2024	<u>\$ 3,501,085</u>	<u>\$ 3,746,221</u>	<u>\$ 7,247,306</u>

**Note 9 – Net Assets with Donor Restrictions**

Subject to expenditure for specified purpose	
Purpose restricted investment funds	\$ 3,501,085
Post-graduate educational assistance	483,055
Program specific restrictions	267,030
	4,251,170
Endowments	3,746,221
Total	<u>\$ 7,997,391</u>

**Note 10 – Commitments and Contingencies**

**Concentrations of risk** – The Organization maintains its cash depository accounts and investment accounts with various financial institutions and brokerage firms. Balances in the accounts may at times, exceed federal or other insurance limits. The Organization has not experienced and believes it is not exposed to significant credit risk from these deposits. The Organization attempts to minimize this risk through diversification and allocation strategies.

**Concentration of revenues** – The Organization received a substantial portion of its revenue from a grant agreement with UNCF. Management has been informed that this program will sunset and that the final cohort of Scholars were selected in 2017. At this time, all Scholars currently enrolled in degree programs will continue to receive full benefits of the program through the completion of their eligible programs, and no new Scholars will be awarded. UNCF grant revenues were \$2,032,233 in 2024.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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Additionally, the Organization receives a substantial portion of its revenue from a federal grant agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Federal grant revenues were 9,785,690 in 2024.

**Litigation** – From time to time, the Organization is party to various legal proceedings incidental to its business. In the opinion of management, none of these items, individually or in the aggregate, would have a significant effect on the financial position, change in net assets, cash flows, or liquidity of the Organization.

**Note 11 – Commercial Co-Venture**

Effective August 14, 2023, the Organization entered into a Commercial Co-Venture agreement with Allspring Funds Management, LLC (Allspring). Allspring is an investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) that provides investment advisory and fund-level administrative services to the Allspring Government Money Market Fund (the Fund), an open-end investment company registered with the SEC under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. Allspring has agreed to donate a certain portion of its management fee revenue, as further described herein, to make periodic contributions to one or more nonprofit organizations, including the Organization, to provide education and career development opportunities for Native American students and professionals. Allspring will make donations in an amount equal to 15% of its management fee revenue attributable to assets in the Tribal Inclusion Class, net of any contractual or voluntary waivers and subject to the exceptions and other disclosures regarding the donations set forth in the Filings (the Contribution Pool). Allspring may, in its sole discretion, change the amount of the Contribution Pool at any time. The initial term of this agreement will begin on August 14, 2023, and end on December 31 of the same year, and will auto-renew for successive one (1) year terms unless terminated by either party in accordance with the terms of this agreement. The Organization received \$8,504 in Allspring donations for the year ended June 30, 2024.

**Note 12 – Benefit Plan**

The Organization maintains a defined contribution 401(k) profit sharing plan (the Plan) for its eligible employees. To be eligible, employees must have completed one month of service and be at least 21 years of age. The Plan allows the Organization a maximum 6% match for employees completing 1,000 hours of service during the Plan year. Contributions were \$4,219 in 2024.

**Note 13 – Restatement**

During 2024, the Organization determined amounts presented in the 2023 combined financial statements were reported incorrectly. The errors included improper classification of several endowment funds within the without donor restricted net assets and with donor restricted net assets as of June 30, 2023. The improper classifications resulted in a \$600,000 reclassification from net assets without donor restrictions to net assets with donor restrictions. Within the net assets with donor restrictions, \$345,509 was reclassified to purpose restricted net assets, and \$254,491 was reclassified to perpetually endowed net assets. The restatement had no impact on total change in net assets.

## **Supplementary Information**

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**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Combining Statement of Financial Position  
June 30, 2024**

<b>ASSETS</b>			
	<b>NFSF</b>	<b>AIGC Scholars</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,997,354	\$ 171,636	\$ 2,168,990
Investments	26,725,570	-	26,725,570
Receivables, net	505,175	-	505,175
Pledge receivables, net	1,757,564	-	1,757,564
Intercompany due to/from	(752,828)	752,828	-
Other current assets	56,702	343	57,045
Total current assets	30,289,537	924,807	31,214,344
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET</b>	1,296,232	-	1,296,232
<b>OPERATING LEASE RIGHT-OF-USE LEASE ASSET, NET</b>	20,067	-	20,067
<b>FINANCE LEASE RIGHT-OF-USE LEASE ASSET, NET</b>	7,521	-	7,521
Total assets	<u>\$ 31,613,357</u>	<u>\$ 924,807</u>	<u>\$ 32,538,164</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 149,733	\$ 35,599	\$ 185,332
Accrued liabilities	244,134	2,847	246,981
Deferred revenue	1,691,218	93,867	1,785,085
Current portion of operating lease liabilities	5,901	-	5,901
Current portion of finance lease liabilities	2,296	-	2,296
Total current liabilities	2,093,282	132,313	2,225,595
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>			
Operating lease liabilities, net of current portion	14,340	-	14,340
Finance lease liabilities, net of current portion	5,441	-	5,441
Total long-term liabilities	19,781	-	19,781
Total liabilities	<u>2,113,063</u>	<u>132,313</u>	<u>2,245,376</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Without donor restrictions	21,502,903	792,494	22,295,397
With donor restrictions			
Time or purpose restricted	4,251,170	-	4,251,170
Perpetual in nature	3,746,221	-	3,746,221
Total net assets	<u>29,500,294</u>	<u>792,494</u>	<u>30,292,788</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 31,613,357</u>	<u>\$ 924,807</u>	<u>\$ 32,538,164</u>

See report of independent auditors.



**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Combining Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets  
Year Ended June 30, 2024**

	NFSF	AIGC Scholars	Total
REVENUES, SUPPORT, AND GAINS			
Contributions and grants	\$ 4,976,849	\$ 2,032,308	\$ 7,009,157
Federal grant	9,785,690	-	9,785,690
Special events	95,195	-	95,195
Other program revenue	19,630	-	19,630
Interest and dividends, net of investment fees	754,529	-	754,529
Realized and unrealized gain on investments	2,311,820	-	2,311,820
Total revenues, support, and gains	17,943,713	2,032,308	19,976,021
EXPENSES			
Program services	14,345,079	2,052,938	16,398,017
Management and general	864,318	138,922	1,003,240
Fundraising	308,758	-	308,758
Total expenses	15,518,155	2,191,860	17,710,015
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	2,425,558	(159,552)	2,266,006
Net assets, beginning of year, as restated	27,074,736	952,046	28,026,782
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 29,500,294</u>	<u>\$ 792,494</u>	<u>\$ 30,292,788</u>

See report of independent auditors.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards  
Year End June 30, 2024**

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<u>Federal Agency or Pass-through Agency / Assistance Listing Program Title</u>	<u>Federal Assistance Listing No.</u>	<u>Pass-through Identifying Number</u>	<u>Passed through to Subrecipients</u>	<u>Total Federal Expenditures</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION				
Indian Education Assistance to Schools				
Science Post-Graduate Scholarship	15.130	A23AP00079	\$ -	\$ 6,177,008
Loan for Service Program	15.130	A23AP00079	-	1,524,351
Special Higher Education Program	15.130	A23AP00079	-	2,084,331
Subtotal for ALN 15.130 Indian Education Assistance to Schools				<u>9,785,690</u>
Total U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Education			-	<u>9,785,690</u>
Total Federal Expenditures			\$ -	<u>\$ 9,785,690</u>

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See accompanying notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

**Native Forward Scholars Fund and  
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards  
June 30, 2024**

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**Note 1 – Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Native Forward Scholars Fund (Organization) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of American Indian Graduate Center, Inc., it is not intended to and does not present the combined financial position, activities and changes in net assets, cash flows or functional expenses of Native Forward Scholars Fund.

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance or other guidelines where applicable, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

**Note 3 – Indirect Cost Rate**

The Organization has elected not to use the 10% *de minimis* indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance

## **Report of Independent Auditors on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

The Board of Directors  
Native Forward Scholars Fund  
and American Indian Graduate Centers Scholars

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the combined financial statements of Native Forward Scholars Fund and American Indian Graduate Centers Scholars, collectively referred to as “the Organization”, which comprise the combined statement of financial position as of June 30, 2024, and the related combined statements of activities and changes in net assets, cash flows, and functional expenses for the year then ended, and the related notes to the combined financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 24, 2025.

### **Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the combined financial statements, we considered the Organization’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the combined financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization’s internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity’s combined financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Organization's combined financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the combined financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **The Organization's Response to Finding**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Organization's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The Organization's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the combined financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Moss Adams LLP".

Albuquerque, New Mexico  
January 24, 2025

## **Report of Independent Auditors on Compliance for the Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance**

The Board of Directors  
Native Forward Scholars Fund

### **Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program**

#### ***Opinion on the Major Federal Program***

We have audited Native Forward Scholars Fund's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on the Native Forward Scholars Fund's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024. The Native Forward Scholars Fund's major federal program is identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Native Forward Scholars Fund complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024.

#### ***Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program***

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Native Forward Scholars Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for the major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Native Forward Scholars Fund's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Native Forward Scholars Fund's federal program.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Native Forward Scholars Fund's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Native Forward Scholars Fund's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Native Forward Scholars Fund's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Native Forward Scholars Fund's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Native Forward Scholars Fund's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

### **Report on Internal Control Over Compliance**

*A deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Moss Adams LLP".

Albuquerque, New Mexico  
January 24, 2025