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A BACKGROUND REPORT:

THE DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE OKLAHOMA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY INSTITUTION AND BY TRIBE

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
State Capitol Complex, Oklahoma City

December, 1997

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A BACKGROUND REPORT:

THE DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE OKLAHOMA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY INSTITUTION AND BY TRIBE

Prepared by:
Student Services Division

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
State Capitol, Oklahoma City
December 1997

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- According to the 1990 U.S. Census, 12.9 percent of all the Native Americans in the United States live in Oklahoma, which ties California as the largest Native American-populated state proportionately in the country.

- Native Americans are 8.0 percent of the Oklahoma population, which ranks third nationally after Alaska and New Mexico.

- Native Americans are 38.9 percent of the Oklahoma minority population.

- Various sources disagree about the number of Native Americans who live in Oklahoma. The 1990 U.S. Census reports 209,655 fewer Native Americans than the 1994 Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission.

- The largest percentage of the Native American population live in the 47 most eastern counties of the state.

- The three largest tribes in Oklahoma--the Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation, and the Creek Nation--have 7.5 percent of their combined total tribal population enrolled in public institutions of higher education. These three tribes also account for almost 60 percent of the total number of Native Americans enrolled in public higher education institutions.

- Native Americans comprise 7.8 percent of the enrollment in public institutions of higher education, fall 1994.

- Native American students attend comprehensive universities at rates comparable to the student population as a whole. They are also more likely than the total student population to attend regional four-year institutions. Over one-half of the Native American student population attends four-year schools as compared to less than one-third of the total student population.

- Native American students are more likely to attend the Oklahoma public institutions of higher education that have larger numbers of other Native American students, administrators, faculty, and staff who are also Native American than public institutions of higher education that have smaller numbers.

- More Native American students are female than male. This is also true of the total student population in public institutions of higher education; however, the percentage of female is somewhat larger for Native Americans.

- Native Americans are more likely to be freshmen and sophomores than the general student population and less likely to be graduate students than the general student population.

- Native American students are more likely to declare education as their major program area than students in the general population and they are less likely to be "undeclared" than the total student population.

- Of the 3,400 institutions of higher education in the United States reporting to the U.S. Department of Education, Oklahoma ranks third in the total number of Native Americans in higher education.

- A subset of the U.S. Department of Education reporting institutions were selected and ranked that were comparable with Oklahoma institutions on the bases of the percentage of Native Americans in the state population and the number of students enrolled at an institution. Four of the bachelor's degree granting institutions are Oklahoma public institutions, with Northeastern State University in Tahlequah ranking second by number of Native American students enrolled. Nine of the 16 ranked two-year institutions are also Oklahoma public institutions.

- Though individual tribes vary, approximately one-third of all Native Americans who attend public institutions in Oklahoma choose either Northeastern State University (15.1 percent), Southeastern Oklahoma State University (10 percent), or Oklahoma State University (8 percent) when choosing an institution to attend.

- Since 1984, Native American enrollments have increased at all institutional tiers. The number of students enrolled at comprehensive universities more than doubled during the ten-year period. The largest enrollment increases for Native American students were at the four-year regional and two-year institutional tiers. This growth mirrors growth in the overall student population at these tiers. However, overall student population at comprehensive universities during this time decreased.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

It is the current and historical practice of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to promote equality of opportunity in education and, when within their authority, to mitigate the effects of discrimination. Not only do the Regents and their staff operate on the assumption that each individual person has the right to higher education, but they also operate on the proposition that equity within the educational system is essential in order to foster a climate for true learning. Toward these objectives, the Regents have adopted an operational policy on social justice within the State System of higher education. That policy is:

> To make possible the participation of all able persons at the highest attainable level of academic life regardless of their race, ethnic background, sex, age, religion, handicap, income level, or geographic location; and to provide for social justice in the form of equitable and fair treatment and for systematic adjustments in the form of positive action until equity is attained.

This report is an element of that policy and acts as a continuing implementation of the social justice initiative. The report is descriptive in that it contains information about the number and distribution of Native Americans in the Oklahoma State System.

The information contained within this report is based on recent data available to this office and is presented to the reader in order to discuss the distribution of Native Americans in the public sector of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. This report is intended as an informational report. It is designed to present a substantial amount of data to the reader.

Native Americans have not always been perceived as successful in American higher education. Educational institutions have, at times, insisted that Native Americans must give up their culture and become, or act like, members of the dominant culture. The

suggestion that Native Americans must act like "whites" to receive a good education is not unusual. Native Americans, their history, and their desire to carry on the traditions of their ancestors have often been ignored.

Since 1950, the Native American population has increased substantially—even beyond basic demographic expansion of the general population. This is not only attributed to increasing birth rates, but also to an increase in the number of individuals who have reclaimed their Native American status. Some of this move toward reclaiming "Indianness" may be a response to relaxing prejudices nationwide. Individuals who once hid their heritage are recognizing the importance of asserting their cultural uniqueness. However, others have begun claiming a heritage to which they only have distant rights. Many people, who now claim the right to be Native American, have very little tribal affiliation. Debate has been generated over whether being Native American is a racial, ethnic, cultural, legal, or genetic identity.

Because of the nature and sources of data, most of the data in this report are based on self-identification. If an individual declares that he or she is a Native American, then he or she is so counted. In one's own mind, he or she may have taken any or all of the above-mentioned criteria into consideration and made the decision to declare one's self "Native American." However, once a student or employee has stated that he or she is a Native American, one more question is asked, "to what tribe do you belong?"

The Oklahoma State System's Unitized Data System (UDS) collects "Native American" data in this way—self-identification—which is similar to the method used in the 1970, 1980, and 1990 United States Censuses. The 1970 census was the first attempt in recent history in which self-declaration was used to identify a person's racial or ethnic classification. Prior to 1970, a census interview classified the respondent in a racial or

ethnic category based on his or her perception. This change in data-gathering techniques may account for some of the increase in the number of Native Americans.

It is important to note, however, that to many in the Native American community, self-declaration is not the desired method of counting the number of Native Americans in the population. It allows too many "paper Indians" into the ranks of Native Americans. These "paper Indians" typically fall into one of two subcategories. The first type is the re-tribed Native American. These people tend to belong to the general American culture in dress, speech, lifestyle, etc. In many cases, however, they may be card-carrying tribal members that have recently decided to declare their "Indian-ness" and return to the traditions of their ancestors.

A second type of "paper Indian" is more of a non-biological Native American. This category includes and extends from a non-Indian spouse of an Indian to doctors, lawyers, or social workers that may have worked around Native Americans for a number of years and have been "adopted" into the tribe. This group is undoubtedly smaller than the first group but present nonetheless. We are aware that the population baseline drawn from these data is far from perfect. It is, however, a place to begin the discussion.

POPULATION PROFILE

POPULATION PROFILE

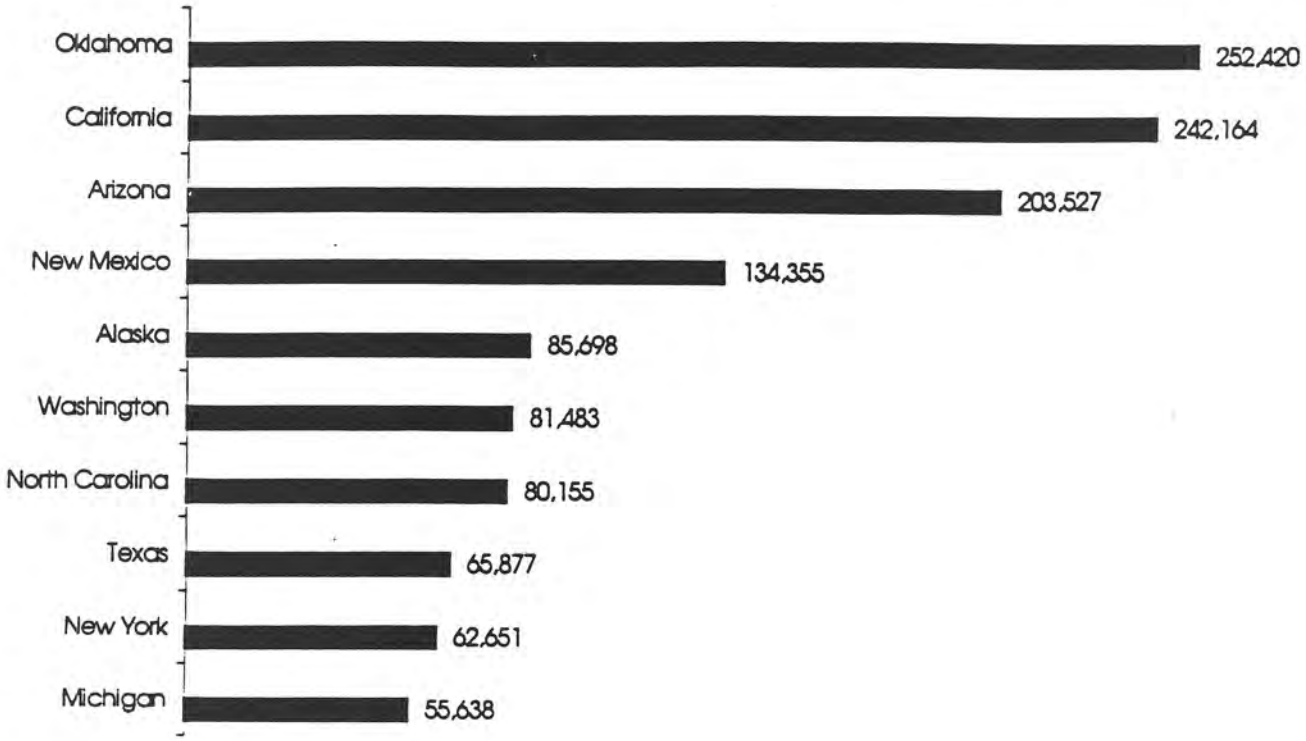
The Native American population reported in the United States Census increased from about 360,000 to over 1.9 million in 1990. This number includes Alaskan Natives, Native Americans in the United States, and the Aleut populations. This report will use the term Native American to refer to all of these groups. Furthermore, Native Americans within specific tribes further classify themselves into clans, groups, or family names that often cross tribal boundaries. Distributing Native Americans in the various subcategories is too cumbersome for the scope of this report. Therefore, only the tribes will be addressed in the data. To add a further caveat, many Native Americans hold dual or multiple memberships. In this database, only the first tribe reported is used.

In addition, as a point of understanding, Native Americans may also be legitimately considered to be included in one of the following racial groups: White, Black, Hispanic, or Asian. In this database, however, if a person is counted as a Native American, he or she is not also counted as White, Black, Hispanic, or Asian.

There are numerous differences between the general population and the subgroups of the population in the United States. One of the more interesting differences between Native Americans and the general population is where they make their homes. Native Americans reside throughout the United States, but most live west of the Mississippi in the western and southwestern states. Historically, of course, this was not necessarily a matter of choice for all tribes. Of the ten states with the highest Native American population, only North Carolina, New York, and Michigan are east of the Mississippi River.

In fact, according to the 1990 U.S. Census, four states together account for almost 43 percent of the total Native American population: Oklahoma with 12.9 percent, California with 12.9 percent, Arizona with 10.4 percent, and New Mexico with 6.9 percent (Figure 1). The 10 states shown in Figure 1 account for 54.5 percent of the total Native American

Figure 1
TOP TEN STATES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NATIVE AMERICANS



SOURCE: 1990 U.S. Census

population in the country. Two out of every three Native Americans living in the United States reside in one of these 10 states. About one-half of the Native American population live in five of these states: Oklahoma, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Alaska. Thus, the Native American population in the United States is concentrated in geographic enclaves.

Oklahoma has the highest number of Native Americans in the United States. Of the nearly 1.9 million Native Americans nationally, 12.9 percent of them live in the state of Oklahoma. The U.S. Census indicates that Oklahoma's percentage of Native Americans has increased over the past decade (Table 1). In 1960, Oklahoma had 12.4 percent of the country's Native American population while in 1980, the state's proportion had dropped to 11.5 percent, and in 1990, it increased to 12.9 percent. The number of Native Americans in the United States has increased by 274 percent since 1960; the number of Native Americans in the state of Oklahoma has increased by 290 percent.

Table 1

OKLAHOMA'S SHARE OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES CENSUS 1960-1990

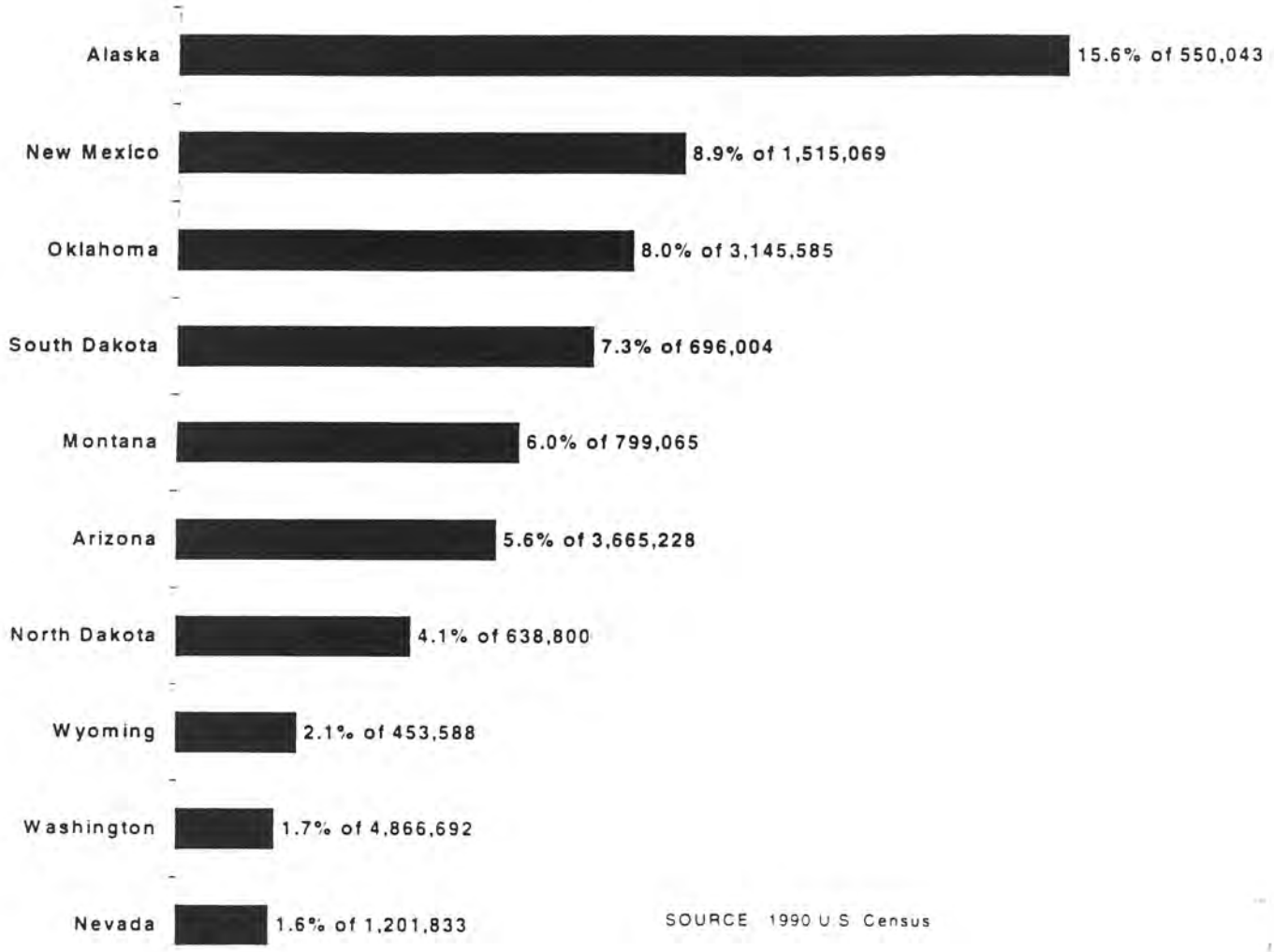
Census Year	U.S. Census Number	Oklahoma Census Number	Oklahoma as Percent of U.S.
1960	523,591	64,689	12.4%
1970	762,730	98,468	12.9%
1980	1,478,523	169,464	11.5%
1990	1,959,234	252,420	12.9%

SOURCE. 1990 U.S. Census

States were not only ranked to determine which states contained the largest number of Native Americans according the U.S. Census, but also to determine which states had the

largest proportion of Native Americans in their total population. Figure 2 lists the top 10 states. Though California has a large number of Native Americans in the United States, it

Figure 2
TOP TEN STATES WITH LARGEST PROPORTION OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN THEIR POPULATION



is not listed, as Native Americans are a low proportion of their total population. Alaska is at the top of the list, with 15.6 percent of its 550,000 residents who are Native American, followed by New Mexico with 8.9 percent of its 1.5 million who are Native American, and Oklahoma with 8.0 percent of its 3.1 million residents who are Native American.

From Figures 1 and 2, it can be seen that not only does Oklahoma rank first in the country by number of Native Americans in the population, but it also ranks third in the country by the proportion of Native Americans in the total state population. Oklahoma continues to be the state that has the highest concentration of Native Americans relative to its size. It would be reasonable to infer that if the Native American population were to equitably participate in higher education in America, Oklahoma would be crucial to that participation.

Using the 1990 census data and looking more specifically at the state of Oklahoma, the 252,420 Native Americans comprise 8.0 percent of the state's total population, or one of every 12 people. Furthermore, Native Americans are 38.9 percent of the recognized Oklahoma minority population. Table 2 displays the percentage of Native Americans as reported in Oklahoma in the state census from 1890 to 1990. The percentage of Native Americans in the total state population was high in 1890, then, decreased substantially through 1920. In 1930, the percentage increased slightly but was back down again in 1940. Since 1940, the percentage has slowly increased to 8.0 percent in 1990. This fluctuation may be due to many things other than actual in-migration and out-migration of Native Americans. Again, the previously discussed problem concerning the definition of Native American must be considered as a possible cause.

Table 3 presents the Native American population in Oklahoma by tribe according to two different sources—the 1990 U.S. census and the 1994 State of Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission. The difference between the figures reported is also listed. The data are

presented in this manner to highlight the differences that exist in determining the actual number of Native Americans in Oklahoma. There are methodological differences in

Table 2

NATIVE AMERICANS AS REPORTED IN THE U.S. CENSUS OF OKLAHOMA, 1890 TO 1990

Census Year	Oklahoma Total Population	Oklahoma Native American Population	Native Americans as a Percentage of Total
1890	258,657	64,456	24.9%
1900	790,391	64,445	8.2%
1910	1.657,155	74,825	4.5%
1920	2,028,283	57,337	2.8%
1930	2,396,040	92,725	3.9%
1940	2,336,434	63,125	2.7%
1950	2,233,351	53,769	2.4%
1960	2,328,284	64,689	2.8%
1970	2,559,229	98,468	3.8%
1980	3,025,266	169,464	5.6%
1990	3,145,585	252,420	8.0%

SOURCE: 1990 U.S. Census

gathering of the data that must be considered. The U.S. Census is completed once every ten years and is a "canvas" survey of residents. The State of Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission updates its figures by making telephone contact with each tribal headquarter each year and taking the actual number from the roll. Therefore, the differences can be tremendous.

Consistent with the national Native American population, Table 3 indicates that a very large proportion of the state's population of Native Americans belong to the Cherokee Nation and the Choctaw Nation. The Creek Nation ranks third in tribal representation in the state according to both sources. The category "*** and Other Tribe Not Specified" represents those Native Americans that reported membership in tribes that had fewer than 400 members according to U.S. Census data. Interestingly, in the 1990 U.S. Census, 6.6

percent of the Native Americans were placed in the "Tribe not specified/reported" category. This category includes Native American not reporting a specific tribal affiliation, or reporting one that is not typically found in Oklahoma. It also includes Alaskan Natives and Aleuts.

Perusal of Table 3 reveals many differences between the 1990 U.S. Census and the 1994 State of Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission listing. The Apache tribe is the only tribe in the state of Oklahoma reporting a smaller membership in the State of Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission listing than was reported in the 1990 U.S. Census. All other Oklahoma tribes report an increase in membership. The increases vary from a substantial percentage increase of 4,760.4 for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee (159 to 7,728) and a 575 percent increase for the Wyandotte tribe (536 to 3,618) to a minimum percent increase of 20 for the Sac and Fox Nation (1,833 to 2,200).

The three largest tribes in Oklahoma—Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation, and Creek Nation—show increases of an average of 77.7 percent. The Cherokee Nation increased from 84,301 in the 1990 U.S. Census to 159,438 in the 1994 State of Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission listing (69.1 percent increase); the Choctaw Nation, from 43,062 to 87,376 (102.9 percent increase); and the Creek Nation, from 23,955 to 38,583 (61.1 percent increase). Overall, the number of Native Americans in Oklahoma increased by 221,829, or 88 percent, between 1990 and 1994. This change could be an indication of the increasing claim to "Indian-ness," the growing interest of thousands of Oklahomans to return to their heritage, or the in-migration of Native Americans to Oklahoma tribes from other states. One conclusion that can be drawn, however, is that tremendous variations do exist in the reported Native American population in Oklahoma for many reasons. Once again, consider the differences in measurement, recording, and purposes for gathering the information.

Table 3
A COMPARISON OF THE NUMER OF OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICANS BY TRIBE PER U.S. CENSUS AND STATE OF OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Tribe Name	1990 U.S. Census		1994 State of Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Absentee Shawnee	1,085	0.4%	2,683	0.6%	1,598	147.3%
Alabama Quassare	***	***	400	0.1%	***	***
Apache	1,760	0.7%	1,400	0.3%	-360	-20.5%
Caddo	1,524	0.6%	3,400	0.7%	1,876	123.1%
Cherokee Nation	94,301	37.4%	159,438	34.5%	65,137	69.1%
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes	5,756	2.3%	10,346	2.2%	4,590	79.7%
Chickasaw Nation	12,772	5.1%	26,000	5.6%	13,228	103.6%
Choctaw Nation	43,062	17.1%	87,376	18.9%	44,314	102.9%
Citizen Band Potawatomi	4,468	1.8%	19,246	4.2%	14,778	330.8%
Comanche	5,284	2.1%	8,690	1.9%	3,406	64.5%
Delaware	2,913	1.2%	11,083	2.4%	8,170	280.5%
Eastern Shawnee	***	***	1,650	0.4%	***	***
Ft. Sill Apache	***	***	***	***	***	***
Iowa	***	***	455	0.1%	***	***
Kaw	624	0.2%	1,795	0.4%	1,171	187.7%
Kickapoo	1,119	0.4%	2,500	0.5%	1,381	123.4%
Kiowa	6,357	2.5%	10,000	2.2%	3,643	57.3%
Shawnee	1,241	0.5%	8,000	1.7%	6,759	544.6%
Miami	409	0.2%	1,459	0.3%	1,050	256.7%
Modoc	***	***	***	***	***	***
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	23,995	9.5%	38,583	8.4%	14,628	61.1%
Osage Nation	4,500	1.8%	15,000	3.2%	10,500	233.3%
Otoe-Missouria	1,235	0.5%	1,493	0.3%	258	20.9%
Ottawa	***	***	1,900	0.4%	***	***
Pawnee	1,533	0.6%	2,455	0.5%	922	60.1%
Peoria	433	0.2%	2,500	0.5%	2,067	477.4%
Ponca	1,913	0.8%	2,402	0.5%	489	25.6%
Quapaw	635	0.3%	2,551	0.6%	1,916	301.7%
Sac & Fox Nation	1,833	0.7%	2,200	0.5%	367	20.0%
Seminole Nation	6,372	2.5%	20,000	4.3%	13,628	213.9%
Seneca/Seneca/Cayuga	1,004	0.4%	2,700	0.6%	1,696	168.9%
Tonkawa	***	***	***	***	***	***
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee	159	0.1%	7,728	1.7%	7,569	4,760.4%
Wichita	929	0.4%	1,800	0.4%	871	93.8%
Wyandotte	536	0.2%	3,618	0.8%	3082	575.0%
*** and Other	7,788	3.1%	893	0.2%	-6,895	-88.5%
Tribe not specified/reported	16,589	6.6%	***	***	***	***
TOTAL	252,089	100.0%	461,744	100.0%	221,839	88.0%

SOURCES: 1990 U.S. Census & State of Okla. Indian Affairs Commission Listing (Updated August, 1994)
*** Any tribe with less than 400 in the Census are reported with Other.

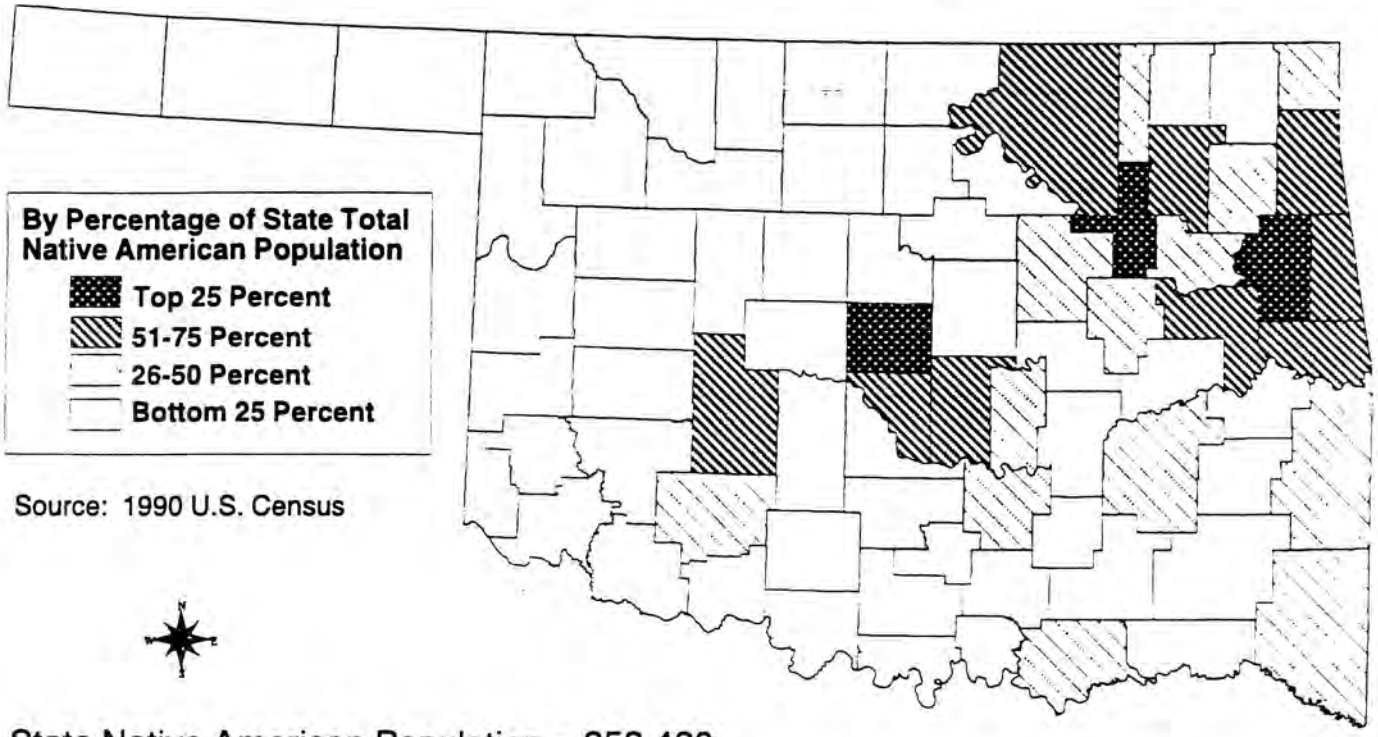
Figure 3 displays the distribution of total Oklahoma Native Americans within each county. The five counties with the largest numbers of Native Americans are Tulsa (25,401), Oklahoma (24,313), Cherokee (11,380), Muskogee (9,049), and Cleveland (8,959). The five counties with the fewest number of Native Americans are Harper (30), Cimarron (32), Harmon (38), Beaver (62), and Ellis (66). Generally speaking, counties with the largest number of Native Americans are in the eastern half of the state and the counties with the fewest number of Native Americans are in the western half of the state.

Figure 4 provides the percentage of the state population who are Native American within each county. The Native American population is more rural and less urbanized than the rest of the state's population. According to the 1990 U.S. Census, only 33 percent of the Native American population of Oklahoma live in urban areas. While the Native American population is less urbanized than the rest of the state's population, approximately 20 percent of the Native Americans in Oklahoma live within the two major metropolitan areas of Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

This pattern is repeated at the county level also. With the exception of Caddo County, the counties with the highest proportion of the total population who are Native American are located in the eastern half of the state; and the counties with the lowest proportion of the population who are Native American are located in the western half of the state. Adair, Cherokee, Delaware, Caddo, and Sequoyah counties are the top five counties with 43.8 percent, 33.4 percent, 25.3 percent, 22.6 percent, and 20.7 percent, respectively. Further examination of Figures 3 and 4 shows that the largest percentage of the Oklahoma Native American population can be accounted for in the eastern 47 counties of Oklahoma.

Figure 3

DISTRIBUTION OF OKLAHOMA'S NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION



Source: 1990 U.S. Census

State Native American Population = 252,420

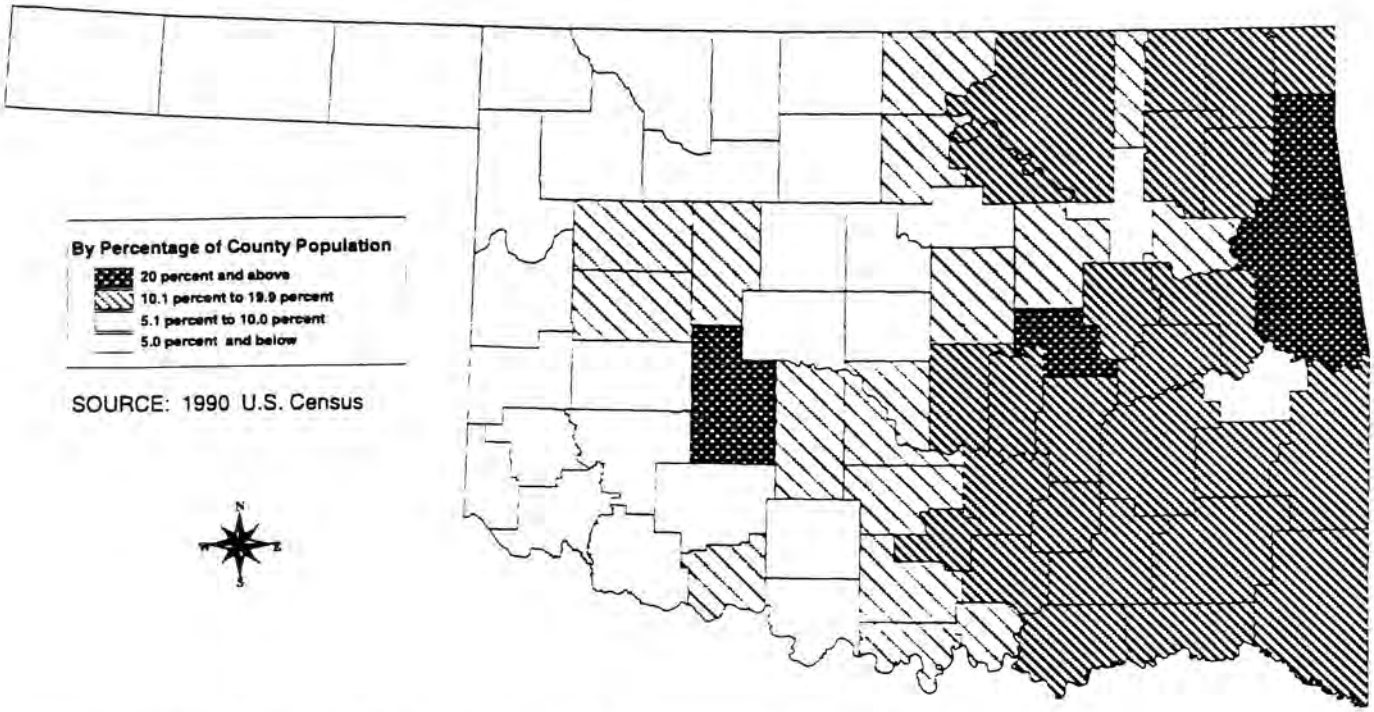
Tulsa	10.063%
Oklahoma	9.632%
Cherokee	4.508%
Muskogee	3.585%
Cleveland	3.549%
Adair	3.196%
Rogers	2.820%
Delaware	2.811%
Sequoyah	2.773%
Pottawatomie	2.713%
Caddo	2.641%
Osage	2.441%
Mayes	2.385%
Ottawa	2.206%
Comanche	2.041%
Creek	2.032%
LeFlore	2.025%
Pittsburg	1.983%
McCurtain	1.931%
Pontotoc	1.878%
Bryan	1.805%
Okmulgee	1.765%
Wagoner	1.739%
Seminole	1.705%
Washington	1.499%
Kay	1.446%

Carter	1.439%
Canadian	1.249%
McIntosh	1.217%
Craig	1.068%
Payne	1.051%
Okfuskee	0.924%
Choctaw	0.919%
Hughes	0.884%
Grady	0.853%
Garvin	0.746%
Lincoln	0.733%
Stephens	0.681%
Pushmataha	0.661%
Custer	0.658%
Nowata	0.647%
Pawnee	0.646%
Haskell	0.631%
Atoka	0.629%
Johnston	0.627%
Latimer	0.624%
McClain	0.599%
Murray	0.527%
Garfield	0.489%
Marshall	0.431%
Kingfisher	0.412%
Blaine	0.394%

Coal	0.378%
Noble	0.370%
Logan	0.370%
Kiowa	0.300%
Love	0.221%
Cotton	0.207%
Jackson	0.202%
Woodward	0.184%
Beckham	0.139%
Tillman	0.138%
Jefferson	0.135%
Dewey	0.125%
Washita	0.103%
Texas	0.074%
Roger Mills	0.066%
Alfalfa	0.065%
Greer	0.057%
Major	0.054%
Woods	0.053%
Grant	0.029%
Ellis	0.026%
Beaver	0.025%
Harmon	0.015%
Cimarron	0.013%
Harper	0.012%

Figure 4

DISTRIBUTION OF OKLAHOMA'S NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF COUNTY POPULATION



Proportion of Native Americans in Oklahoma Population = 8.0%

Adair	43.8%	Okmulgee	12.2%	Canadian	4.2%
Cherokee	33.4%	LeFlore	11.8%	Oklahoma	4.1%
Delaware	25.3%	Pottawatomie	11.7%	Stephens	4.1%
Caddo	22.6%	Murray	11.1%	Haskell	4.0%
Sequoyah	20.7%	Pawnee	10.5%	Roger Mills	4.0%
Okfuskee	20.2%	Marshall	10.0%	Tillman	3.4%
Craig	19.1%	Wagoner	9.2%	Logan	3.2%
McIntosh	18.3%	Blaine	8.7%	Kiowa	2.7%
Ottawa	18.2%	Carter	8.5%	Alfalfa	2.6%
Mayes	18.0%	Noble	8.5%	Woodward	2.5%
Seminole	16.9%	Creek	8.4%	Washita	2.3%
Coal	16.5%	Cotton	7.9%	Garfield	2.2%
Nowata	16.4%	Washington	7.9%	Greer	2.2%
Johnston	15.8%	Kay	7.6%	Beckham	1.9%
Choctaw	15.2%	Garvin	7.1%	Jackson	1.8%
Latimer	15.2%	Love	6.9%	Major	1.7%
Pushmataha	15.2%	McClain	6.6%	Woods	1.5%
Osage	14.8%	Lincoln	6.3%	Ellis	1.5%
Hughes	14.6%	Custer	6.2%	Grant	1.3%
McCurtain	14.6%	Dewey	5.7%	Texas	1.1%
Bryan	14.2%	Grady	5.2%	Harmon	1.0%
Pontotoc	13.9%	Cleveland	5.1%	Cimarron	1.0%
Muskogee	13.3%	Tulsa	5.0%	Beaver	1.0%
Rogers	12.9%	Jefferson	4.9%	Harper	0.7%
Atoka	12.4%	Comanche	4.6%	Kingfisher	0.0%
Pittsburg	12.3%	Payne	4.3%		

NATIVE AMERICANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA

NATIVE AMERICANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA

Of the 159,998 students enrolled in public institutions in Oklahoma higher education, fall 1994, 7.8 percent were Native American (Table 4 and Figure 5) compared with 8.0 percent of the general population. Whites accounted for 77.3 percent of the enrollment of public institutions of higher education and 82.1 percent of the general population. Blacks accounted for 7.2 percent of the enrollment and 7.4 percent of the population. Hispanics constituted 2.1 percent of the enrollment and 2.7 percent of the population. Asians accounted for 2.1 percent of the enrollment and 1.1 percent of the population. Appendix A provides a detailed presentation of Native American student enrollment in public institutions of higher education by tribe, class level, and gender for fall 1994. Figure 6 shows the distribution of the total student enrollment by type of institution as well as the distribution of Native American student enrollment by type of institution. Native American students attended comprehensive institutions at rates comparable to the total student enrollment. However, quite a difference is evident when two-year and regional four-year institution enrollment distributions are compared. Native American students were much more likely to attend four-year institutions than other students. In fact, over one-half of the Native Americans who attended public institutions of higher education went to four-year institutions compared with less than one-third of the general student population who attended two-year colleges. Over the last decade, Native American enrollment at comprehensive universities and two-year colleges has increased, whereas regional four-year institutional enrollment has decreased. During the same period, the general student population enrollment in regional four-year institutions increased substantially, and comprehensive and two-year institutional enrollments decreased.

Table 4

DISTRIBUTION OF OKLAHOMA GENERAL POPULATION AND STUDENT POPULATION BY RACE

Race	1990 Population Percent*	Public Higher Education Percent**	Difference
White	82.1%	77.3%	-4.8%
Black	7.4%	7.2%	-0.2%
Native American	8.0%	7.8%	-0.2%
Hispanic	2.7%	2.1%	-0.6%
Asian	1.1%	2.1%	1.0%

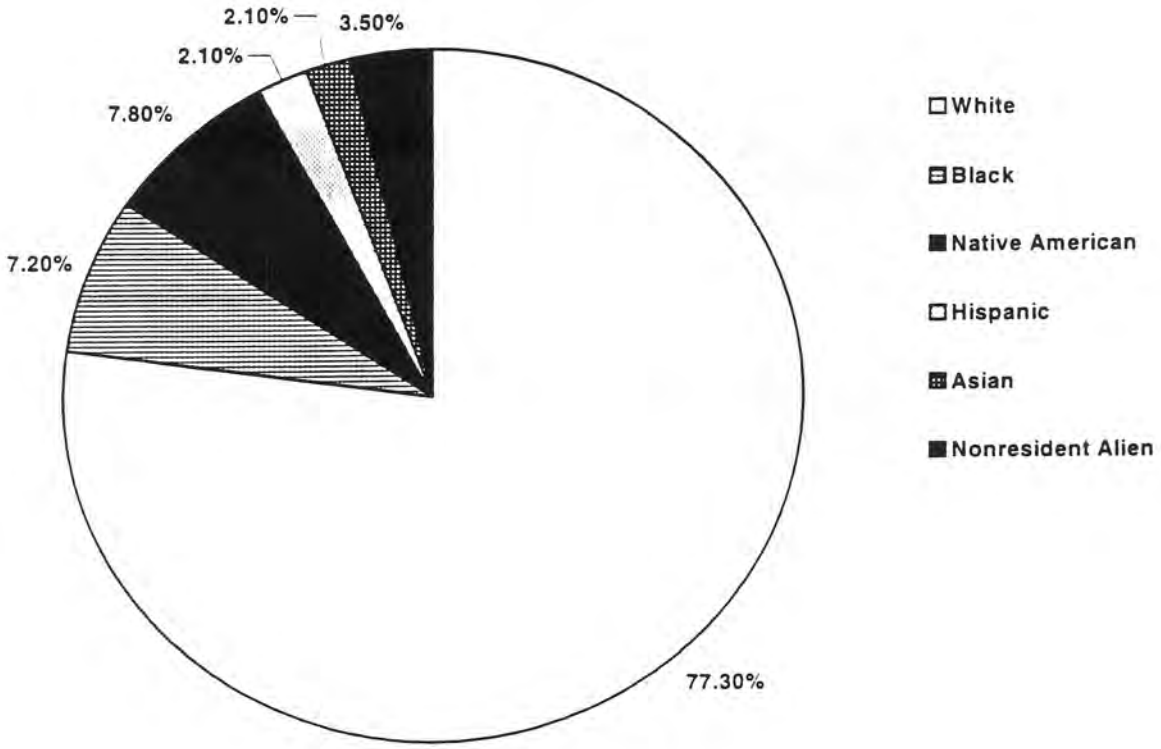
*SOURCE: 1990 U.S. Census
**SOURCE: OCR 2300-2.3, Fall 1994

NOTE: The Hispanic population may also be included in one or more of the racial groups. Therefore, the sum of all groups may exceed 100 percent.

Differences can also be seen between general student participation and Native American participation in higher education when the distribution of students is compared by class level. Figure 7 shows the distribution of students for fall 1994 in public institutions of higher education for all races combined and for Native American students by class level. The most substantial differences are seen in the distribution of freshmen and unclassified students. Almost 40 percent of the Native American students were represented in the freshman class level while only 31 percent of the general student population was represented in the freshman class. Seven percent of the Native American students were unclassified while 10 percent of the total student population were unclassified.

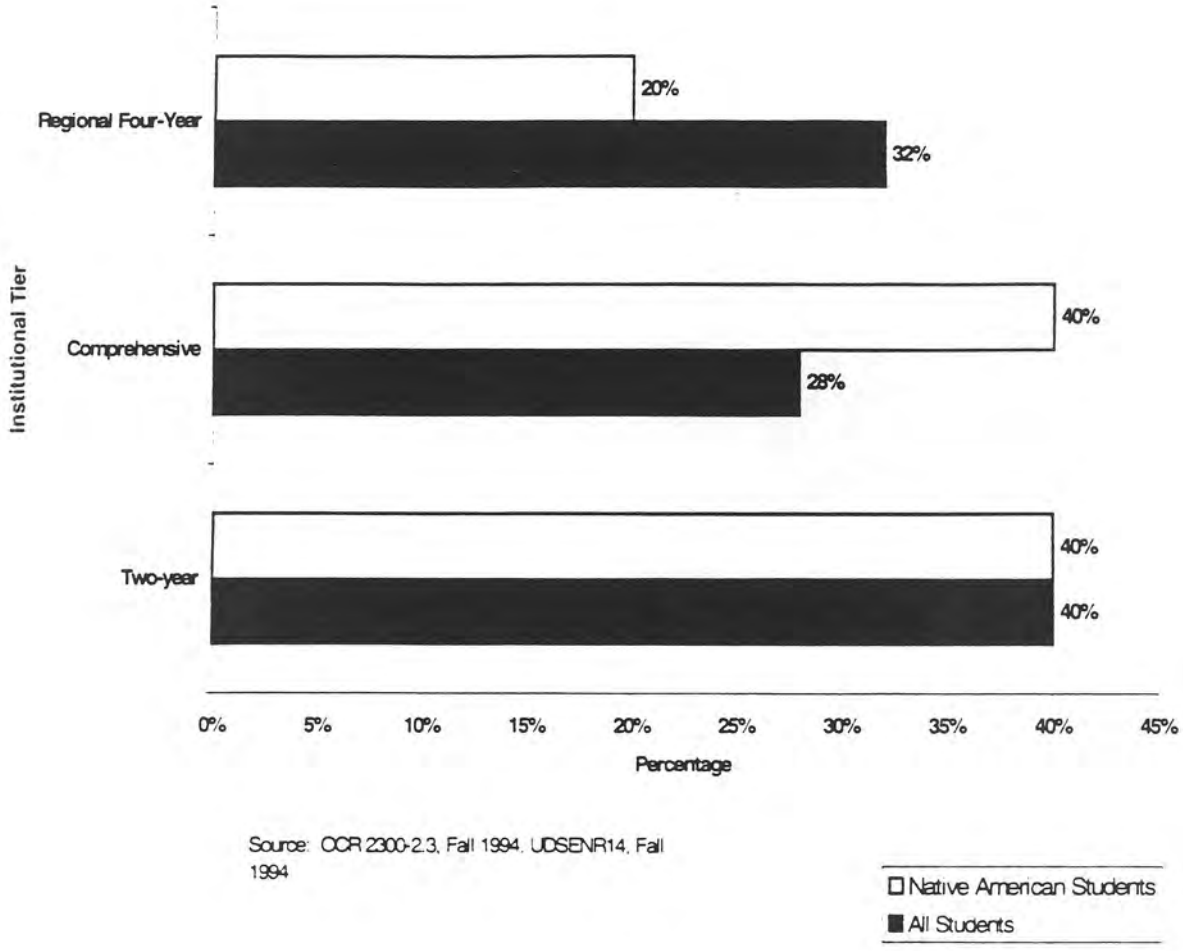
At the higher class levels, the two groups appear to be quite comparable with the exception of the graduate level. Only six percent of the Native American students were classified as graduate students. In comparison, 10 percent of the total student population were graduate students (Appendix A).

Figure 5
DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS IN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY RACE, FALL 1994



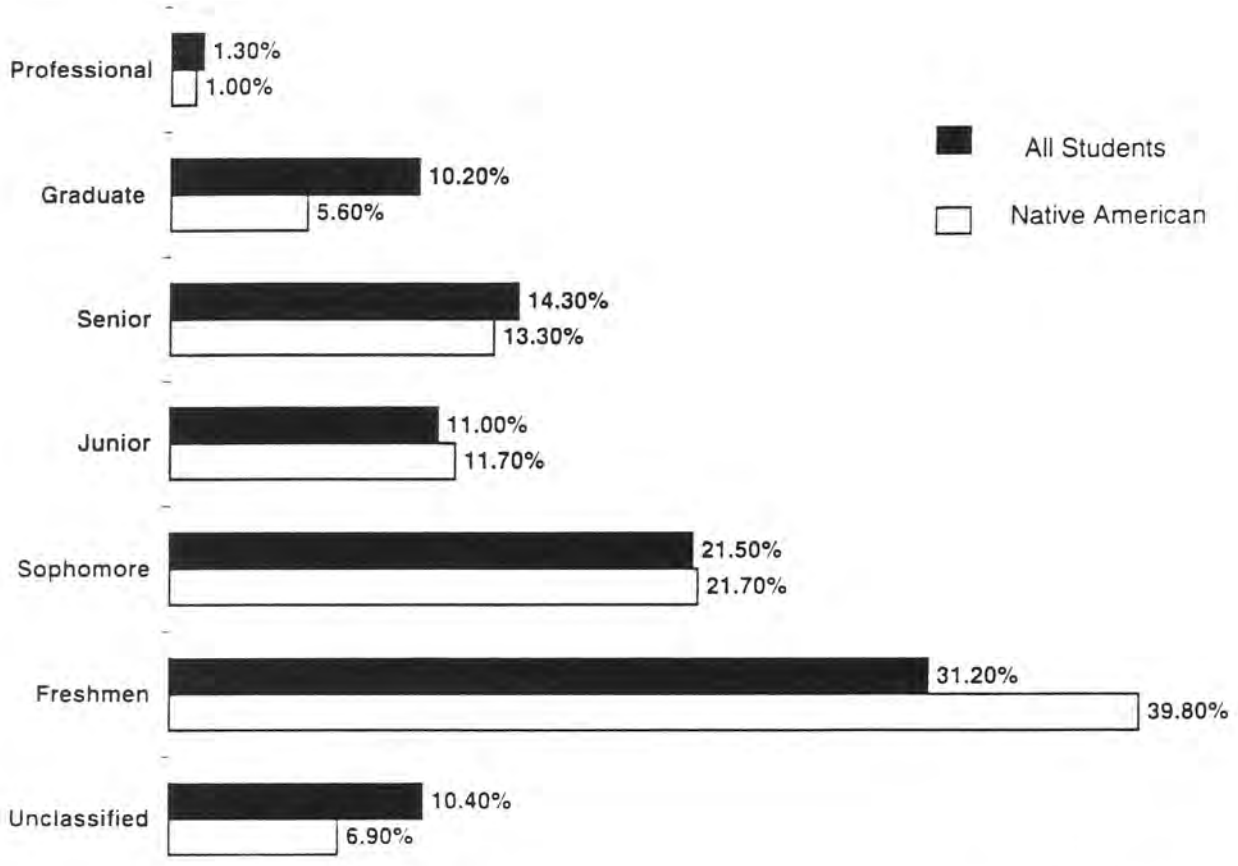
Source: OCR 2300-2.3, Fall 1994

Figure 6
DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS
IN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION,
FALL 1994



Source: OCR 2300-2.3, Fall 1994. UDSENR14, Fall 1994

Figure 7
COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS AND ALL STUDENTS IN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY CLASS LEVEL, FALL 1994



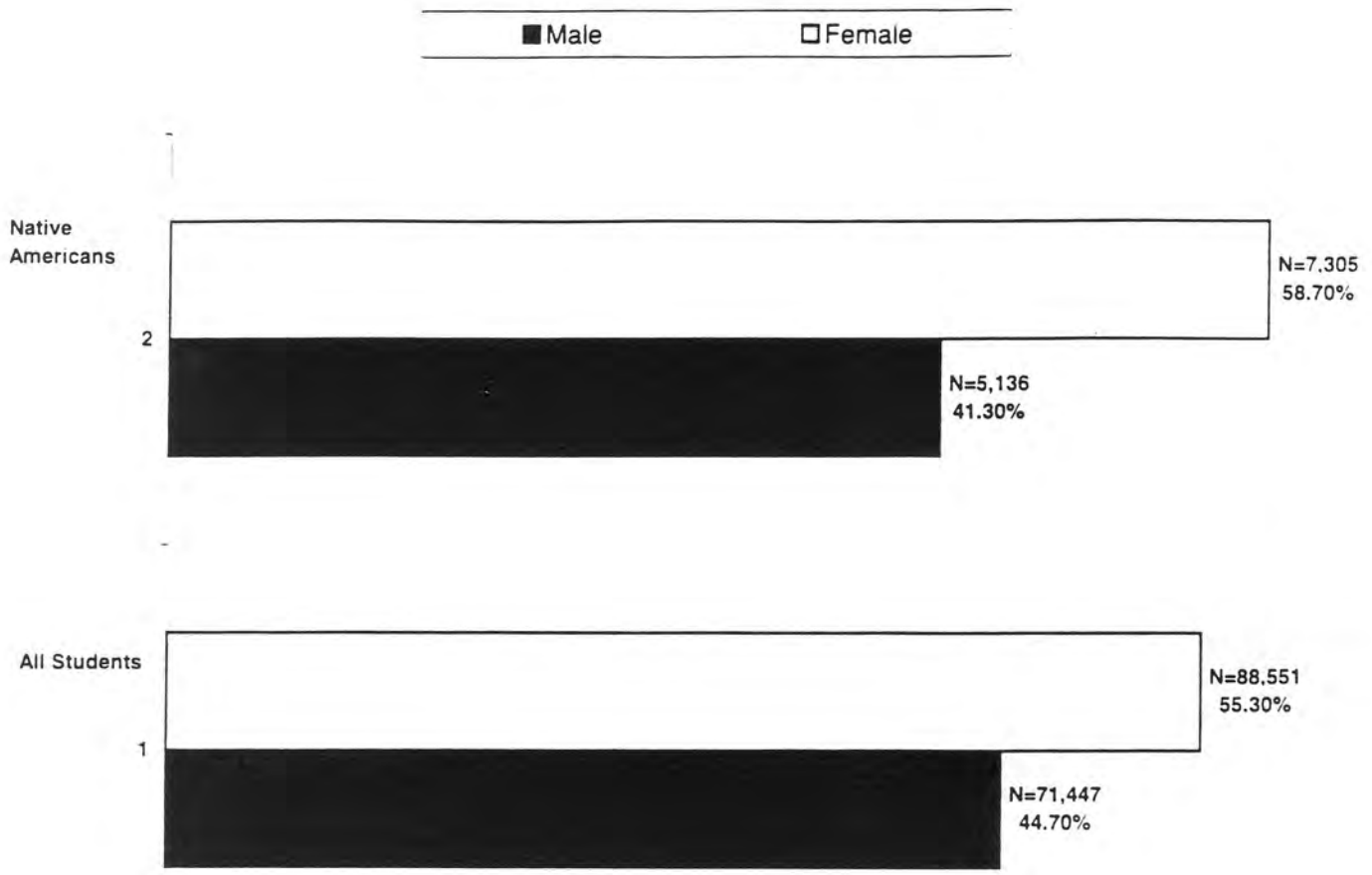
SOURCE: OCRHAGEP, Fall 1994 and UDSENR14, Fall 1994

Figure 8 provides a comparison of Native American students and the total student population by sex. Higher proportions of females than males attend institutions of higher education for both Native Americans and the total student population. However, the trend seems to be slightly more prominent for Native Americans when compared with the total student population. Of the 159,998 total enrollment in public institutions of higher education, 88,551 (55.3 percent) were female and 71,447 (44.7) percent were male. Of the 12,441 Native American student enrollment in public institutions, 7,305 (58.7 percent) were female and 5,136 (41.3 percent) were male (Appendix A).

The two groups, Native American students and the total student population, are also compared by area of declared major for fall 1994. Figure 9 displays important differences in two program areas, education and "other/undecided" categories. Native Americans were less likely to be enrolled in the "other/undecided" area than the total student population. They were more likely to declare a major in the area of education than the total population. In general, Native American students may be entering school with more specific goals than the total student population. Appendix B provides a complete list of areas of declared majors and fields of study.

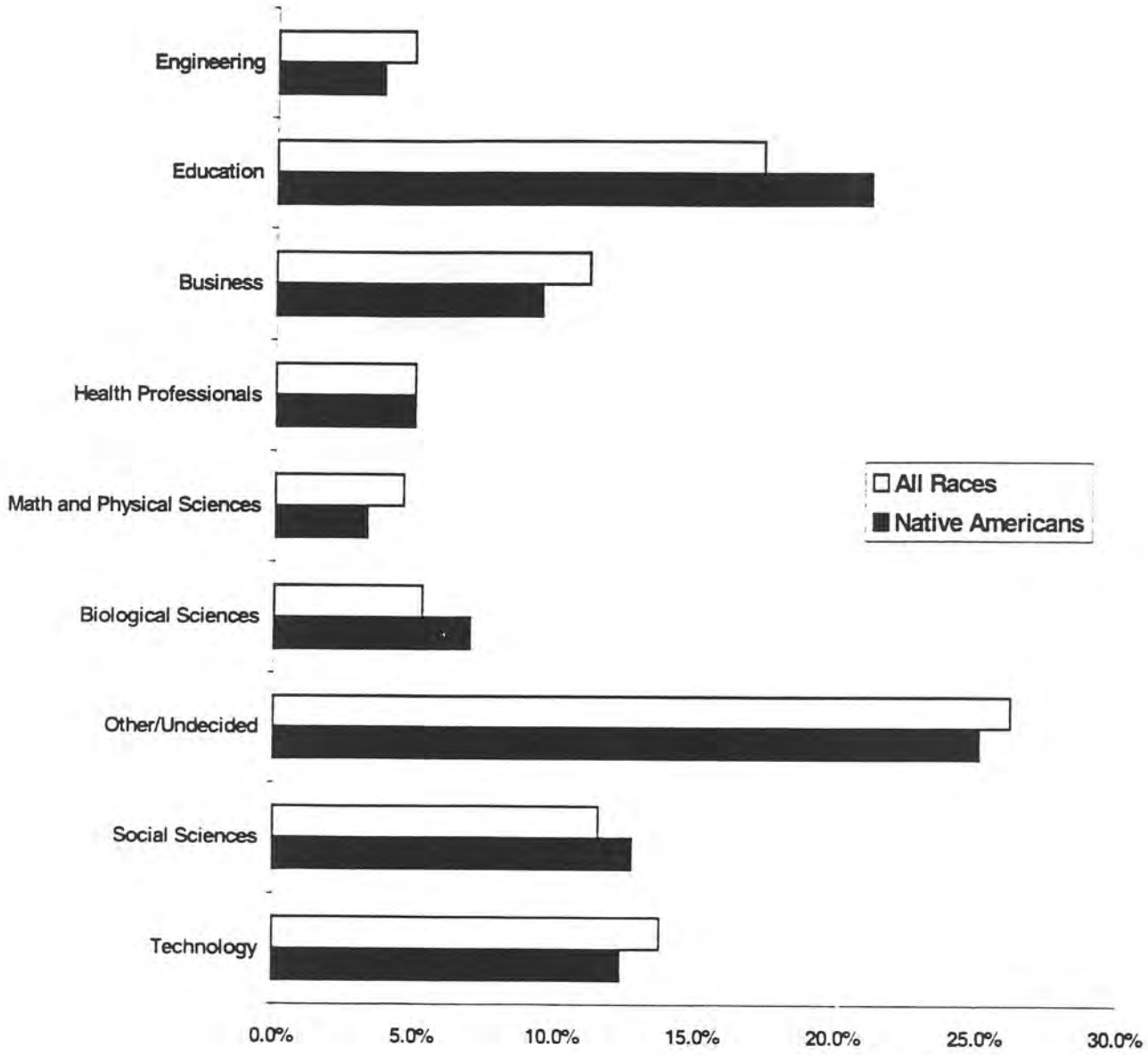
Table 5 presents the proportion of the Oklahoma Native American population in higher education by tribal affiliation. According to 1990 U.S. Census figures, none of the 33 tribes in Oklahoma have more than 3.4 percent of their tribe enrolled in public institutions of higher education. The tribes with the highest percentage represented in public institutions of higher education in Oklahoma are the Apache (3.4 percent of 1,400), the Cherokee Nation (2.7 percent of 159,438), and the Iowa tribe (2.6 percent of 455). The United Keetowah Band of Cherokee have the smallest proportion of their tribe enrolled in public institutions of higher education (0.1 percent of 7,728). The three largest tribes in

Figure 8
DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS IN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY SEX, FALL 1994



SOURCES: OCR 2300-2.3 and UDSENR14 (12/8/95), Fall 1994

Figure 9
DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS IN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY AREA OF DECLARED MAJOR, FALL 1994



SOURCE: UDSENR18, Fall 1994

Table 5

PROPORTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION IN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION BY TRIBE

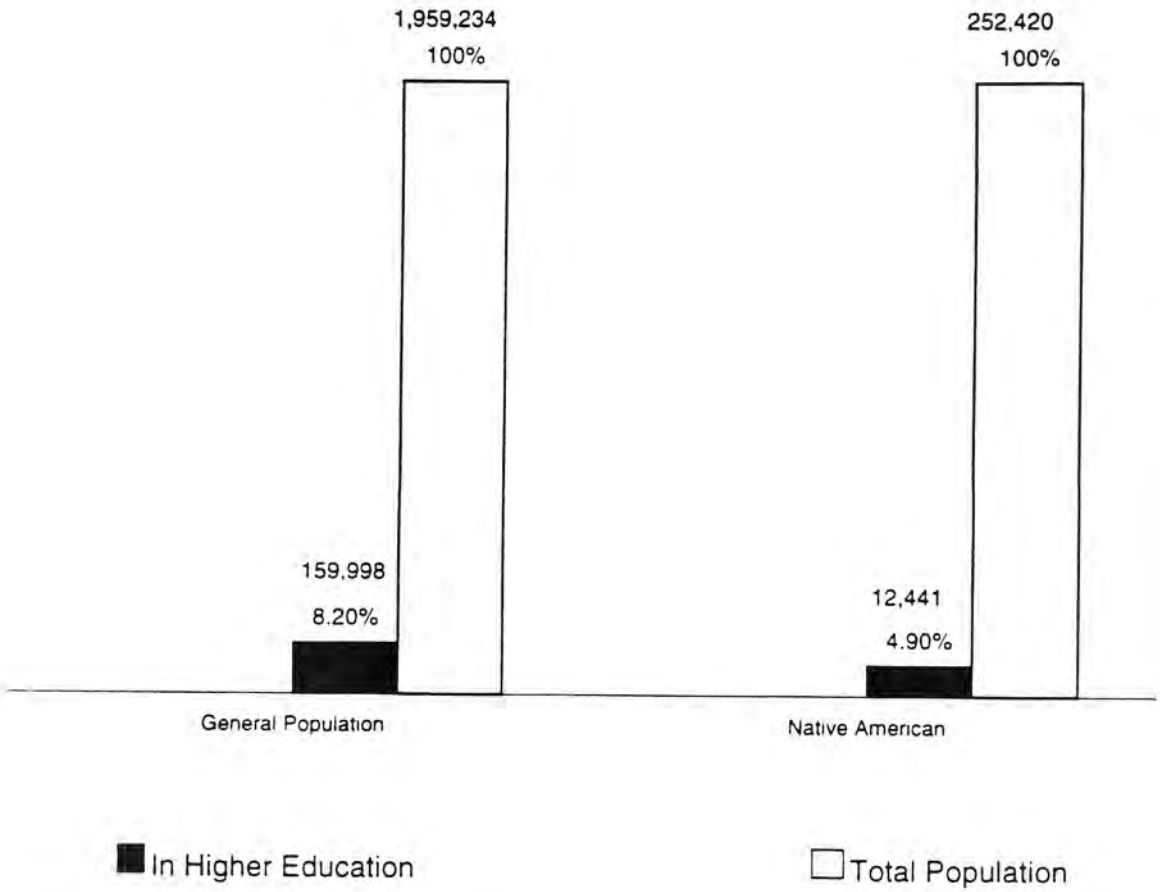
Tribe Name	Number of Native Americans		
	In Tribe*	In Higher Education**	Percent in Higher Education
Absentee Shawnee	2,683	58	2.2%
Apache	1,400	47	3.4%
Caddo	3,400	83	2.4%
Cherokee Nation	159,438	4,260	2.7%
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes	10,346	132	1.3%
Chickasaw Nation	26,000	681	2.6%
Choctaw Nation	87,376	2,149	2.5%
Citizen Band Pottawatomi	19,246	173	0.9%
Comanche	8,690	185	2.1%
Delaware	11,083	102	0.9%
Eastern Shawnee	1,650	22	1.3%
Ft. Sill Apache	368	2	0.5%
Iowa	455	12	2.6%
Kaw	1,795	24	1.3%
Kickapoo	2,500	36	1.4%
Kiowa	10,000	198	2.0%
Miami	1,459	34	2.3%
Modoc	200	1	0.5%
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	38,583	889	2.3%
Osage Nation	15,000	169	1.1%
Otoe-Missouria	1,493	38	2.5%
Ottawa	1,900	16	0.8%
Pawnee	2,455	52	2.1%
Peoria	2,500	18	0.7%
Ponca	2,402	36	1.5%
Quapaw	2,551	26	1.0%
Sac & Fox Nation	2,200	48	2.2%
Seminole Nation	20,000	248	1.2%
Seneca-Cayuga	2,700	34	1.3%
Tonkawa	325	8	2.5%
United Keetowah Band of Cherokee	7,728	7	0.1%
Wichita	1,800	35	1.9%
Wyandotte	3,618	32	0.9%
Other Tribes***	8,400	2,586	30.8%
TOTAL	461,744	12,441	2.7%

*SOURCE: State of Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission (August 1994)
**SOURCE: UDSENR14, Fall 1994 (12/8/95)

**** "Other Tribes" includes Alabama Quassare and Loyal Shawnee, as well as out-of-state Native American students and unknown tribal affiliations.*

Figure 10

PERCENT PARTICIPATION OF GENERAL POPULATION AND NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION IN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, FALL 1994



SOURCES: 1990 U.S. Census and UDSENR14 (12/8/95), Fall 1994

Oklahoma—the Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation, and the Creek Nation-have 7.5 percent of their combined population enrolled in public institutions of higher education. It is important to remember that none of the figures in this report include enrollment in private institutions or out-of-state institutions of higher education. Therefore, the actual proportion of individual tribes involved in higher education could vary accordingly.

The three largest tribes encompass 58.7 percent of the Oklahoma Native Americans enrolled in public higher education during fall 1994: the Cherokee Nation (4,260 of 159,438), the Choctaw Nation (2,149 of 87,376), and the Creek Nation (889 of 35,583). Figure 10 compares the rate of attendance for the general population with that of the Native American population for fall 1994. Of the 1,959,234 total residents of the state, 8.2 percent (159,998) attended public institutions; of the 252,420 Native Americans in the state, only 4.9 percent (12,441) attended public institutions. The rate of attendance for Native Americans is just over one-half the rate of attendance for the general population.

In the April 28, 1995 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, enrollments in over 3,400 schools reporting to the U.S. Department of Education in fall 1993 were examined by race.

The 3,400 schools were more closely examined in order to compare only public institutions. In addition, in order to compare public institutions in other states that were similar to public institutions in Oklahoma, only other state institutions that met Oklahoma criteria of size and proportion of Native Americans in their general state population were selected. Most public institutions in Oklahoma have at least 500 students and 5.6 percent of Oklahoma residents are Native American. Consequently, all public institutions reporting to the U.S. Department of Education, fall 1993, with enrollments of 500 or more students having a proportion of Native American students of at least 8.0 percent of their

total student body were selected to identify the locations of highest concentration of Native Americans attending institutions of higher education. Table 6 lists the public bachelor's degree-granting institutions meeting these criteria. Table 7 lists the public two-year institutions also meeting these criteria. Both tables rank institutions by the total number of Native American students enrolled in the institution.

Table 6 lists Northeastern State University in Tahlequah as the public bachelor's degree-granting institution in the United States with the second-largest number of Native American students enrolled—1,787 (19.9 percent of 8,982 total students). Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, ranks third in the country with 1,253 Native American students enrolled (30.8 percent of 4,069 total students). Two additional Oklahoma institutions are represented in Table 6: East Central University in Ada ranked eighth with 522 Native Americans students enrolled (11.9 percent of 4,387 total students) and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma ranked twelfth with 158 Native American students enrolled (9.7 percent of 1,626 students).

According to Table 7, Oklahoma accounts for nine of the 16 public two year-institutions in the United States with 500 or more students and with at least 5.6 percent Native American students. Rogers State College in Claremore is the highest-ranking Oklahoma institution ranked third overall with 506 Native American students enrolled. It was followed by Oklahoma State University's Okmulgee Branch in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, ranked fifth with 446 Native American students. Also represented are: Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma (ranked sixth with 429 Native American students); Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton (ranked seventh with 406 Native American student); Carl Albert State College in Poteau, (ranked eighth with 332 Native American students); Connors State College in Warner (ranked tenth having 272 Native American students), Seminole State College in Seminole (ranked eleventh with 270 Native

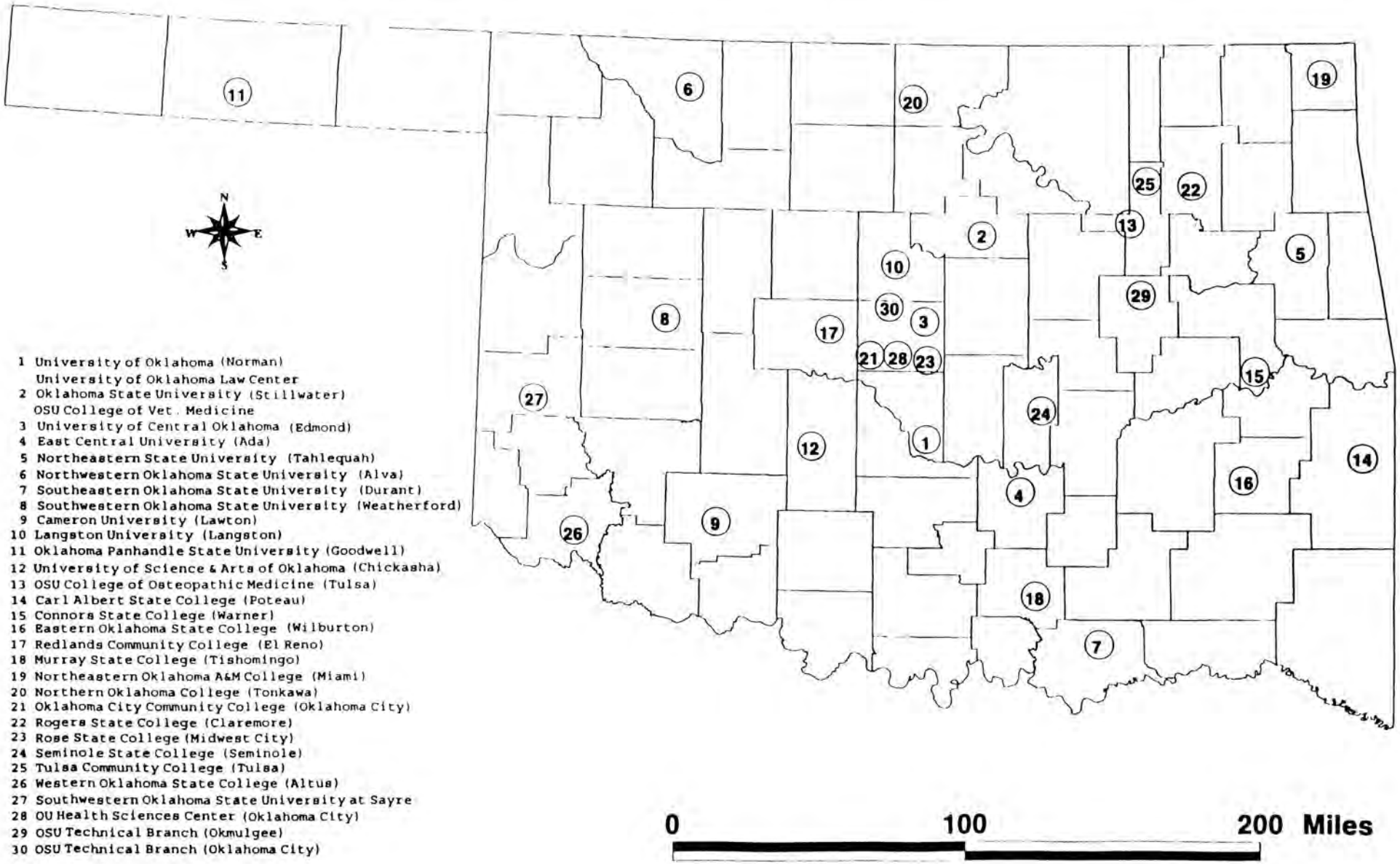
American students); Redlands Community College in El Reno (ranked thirteenth with 147 Native American students); Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa (ranked fourteenth with 142 Native American students); and Murray State College in Tishomingo (ranked twenty-fifth with 98 Native American students). Figure 11 geographically displays the location of all public institutions in the state of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma institutions listed in Tables 6 and 7 are highlighted.

The five largest schools within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education—University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Tulsa Community College, University of Central Oklahoma, and Oklahoma City Community College—had an average of just under five percent of their unduplicated headcount enrollments reported as Native American during the fall 1994 semester (Table 8). Interestingly, less than 42 percent of the public institutions in the state of Oklahoma had more than 10 percent representation of Native Americans in the general student population. Every institution with 10 percent or more Native American students is located outside a major metropolitan statistical area and outside a traditionally heavily populated area. Furthermore, most of these institutions with more than 10 percent Native American enrollment are located in what would be considered "rural" areas of Oklahoma.

Table 9 provides a listing of the number of Native American students per public institution in Oklahoma, the percentage of total institution enrollment which is Native American per institution, and the percentage of total Native American enrollment in Oklahoma that is Native American per institution for fall 1994. Institutions are listed in rank order by number of Native American students enrolled. Northeastern State University (NSU), the seventh largest school in the state, had the highest proportion of total Native American student enrollments in the state (15.1 percent of 12,451) and the

FIGURE 11

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA



1 University of Oklahoma (Norman)
University of Oklahoma Law Center
2 Oklahoma State University (Stillwater)
OSU College of Vet. Medicine
3 University of Central Oklahoma (Edmond)
4 East Central University (Ada)
5 Northeastern State University (Tahlequah)
6 Northwestern Oklahoma State University (Alva)
7 Southeastern Oklahoma State University (Durant)
8 Southwestern Oklahoma State University (Weatherford)
9 Cameron University (Lawton)
10 Langston University (Langston)
11 Oklahoma Panhandle State University (Goodwell)
12 University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma (Chickasha)
13 OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa)
14 Carl Albert State College (Poteau)
15 Connors State College (Warner)
16 Eastern Oklahoma State College (Wilburton)
17 Redlands Community College (El Reno)
18 Murray State College (Tishomingo)
19 Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (Miami)
20 Northern Oklahoma College (Tonkawa)
21 Oklahoma City Community College (Oklahoma City)
22 Rogers State College (Claremore)
23 Rose State College (Midwest City)
24 Seminole State College (Seminole)
25 Tulsa Community College (Tulsa)
26 Western Oklahoma State College (Altus)
27 Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Sayre
28 OU Health Sciences Center (Oklahoma City)
29 OSU Technical Branch (Okmulgee)
30 OSU Technical Branch (Oklahoma City)

Table 6
Native American Enrollments At
Bachelor's Degree-Granting Institutions in the U.S.
As a Percentage of Total Enrollments
Ranked by Number of Native American Students
Fall, 1994

Rank	Institution	Number of Native American Students	Percentage of Total Enrollment	Total Enrollment
1	University of New Mexico Gallup, New Mexico	1,891	73.4	2,576
2	**Northeastern State University** **Tahlequah, Oklahoma**	**1,787**	**19.9**	**8,982**
3	**Southeastern Oklahoma State** **University, Durant Oklahoma**	**1,253**	**30.8**	**4,069**
4	University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska	1,118	14.1	7,926
5	Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, Arizona	1,073	5.7	18,817
6	University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska	985	5.7	17,275
7	University of North Carolina Pembroke, North Carolina	716	23.5	3,045
8	**East Central University** **Ada, Oklahoma**	**522**	**11.9**	**4,387**
9	Lewis College Durango, Colorado	467	11.1	4,211
10	University of Alaska Southeast Juneau, Alaska	363	12.5	2,907
11	Montana State University Billings, Montana	209	5.6	3,732
12	**University of Science and Arts** **of Oklahoma** **Chickasha, Oklahoma**	**158**	**9.7**	**1,626**
13	Eastern New Mexico University Ruidoso, New Mexico	47	9.1	516

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education (April 28, 1995)

Table 7
Native American Enrollments At
Two-Year Institutions in the U.S.
As a Percentage of Total Enrollments
Ranked by Number of Native American Students
Fall, 1994

Rank	Institution	Number of Native American Students	Percentage of Total Enrollment	Total Enrollment
1	Northland Pioneer College Holbrook, Arizona	1,319	27.6	4,779
2	Albuquerque TVI College Albuquerque, New Mexico	920	6.2	14,841
3	**Rogers State College Claremore, Oklahoma**	**506**	**15.5**	**3,262**
4	Robeson Community College Lumberton, North Carolina	493	35.3	1,396
5	**Oklahoma State University, Okmulgee Branch Okmulgee, Oklahoma**	**446**	**18.5**	**2,413**
6	**Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College Miami, Oklahoma**	**429**	**17.3**	**2,479**
7	**Eastern Oklahoma State College Wilburton, Oklahoma**	**406**	**19.5**	**2,081**
8	**Carl Albert State College Poteau, Oklahoma**	**332**	**19.6**	**1,695**
9	Colege of Eastern Utah Price, Utah	305	10.7	2,849
10	**Connors State College Warner, Oklahoma**	**272**	**12.7**	**2,143**
11	**Seminole Seminole College Seminole, Oklahoma**	**270**	**16.0**	**1,685**
12	Southwestern Community College Sylva, North Carolina	155	10.0	1,545
13	**Redlands Community College El Reno, Oklahoma**	**147**	**6.9**	**2,125**
14	**Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa, Oklahoma**	**142**	**6.4**	**2,216**
15	New Mexico State University Grants, Mew Mexico	137	30.4	452
16	Southeastern Community College Whiteville, North Carolina	95	5.9	1,606

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education (April 28, 1995)

Table 8
A COMPARISON OF UNDUPLICATED HEADCOUNT IN OKLAHOMA HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OF ALL STUDENTSAND NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS FALL 1994

	Total Enrollment 159,998		Native American 12,451		
Institution	Students	Percent of State	Students	Percent of State Native American	Percent of Institution
OU	21,998	13.7%	1,207	9.7%	5.5%
OSU	18,759	11.7%	1,070	8.6%	5.7%
UCO	15,992	10.0%	510	4.1%	3.2%
ECU	4,466	2.8%	573	4.6%	12.8%
NSU	8,946	5.6%	1,875	15.1%	21.0%
NWOSU	1,842	1.2%	37	0.3%	2.0%
SEOSU	3,967	2.5%	1,247	10.0%	31.4%
SWOSU	5,233	3.3%	199	1.6%	3.8%
Cameron	6,083	3.8%	278	2.2%	4.6%
LU	3,406	2.1%	74	0.6%	2.2%
USAO	1,680	1.1%	154	1.2%	9.2%
OPSU	1,238	0.8%	25	0.2%	2.0%
Connors	2,324	1.5%	412	3.3%	17.7%
EOSC	1,915	1.2%	339	2.7%	17.7%
Murray	1,475	0.9%	200	1.6%	13.6%
NEOAMC	2,244	1.4%	422	3.4%	18.8%
NOC	2,115	1.3%	126	1.0%	6.0%
Rogers(Claremore)	3,164	2.0%	498	4.0%	15.7%
TCC	18,551	11.6%	800	6.4%	4.3%
OSUTB-OKC	4,140	2.6%	172	1.4%	4.2%
OSUTB-OKM	2,143	1.3%	317	2.5%	14.8%
OUHSC	2,971	1.9%	200	1.6%	6.7%
OSU-COM	317	0.2%	26	0.2%	8.2%
WOSC	1,625	1.0%	29	0.2%	1.8%
Redlands	1,776	1.1%	145	1.2%	8.2%
CASC	1,640	1.0%	342	2.7%	20.9%
Seminole	1,583	1.0%	244	2.0%	15.4%
Rose	8,999	5.6%	474	3.8%	5.3%
OCCC	9,406	5.9%	456	3.7%	4.8%
STATE TOTAL	159,998	100.0%	12,451	100.0%	7.8%

SOURCE: OCR 2300-2.3, Fall 1994

Table 9
OKLAHOMA PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION NATIVE AMERICAN ENROLLMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL INSTITUTION ENROLLMENT RANKED BY NUMBER OF NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS, FALL, 1994

Institution	Rank	Number of Native Americans	Percent of Total Students	Percent of Native Americans in System
NSU	1	1,875	21.0%	15.1%
SEOSU	2	1,247	31.4%	10.0%
OU	3	1,207	5.5%	9.7%
OSU	4	1,070	5.7%	8.6%
TCC	5	800	4.3%	6.4%
ECU	6	573	12.8%	4.6%
UCO	7	510	3.2%	4.1%
Rogers	8	498	15.7%	4.0%
Rose	9	474	5.3%	3.8%
OCCC	10	456	4.8%	3.7%
NEOAMC	11	422	18.8%	3.4%
Connors	12	412	17.7%	3.3%
CASC	13	342	20.9%	2.7%
EOSC	14	339	17.7%	2.7%
OSUTB-OKM	15	317	14.8%	2.5%
Cameron	16	278	4.6%	2.2%
Seminole	17	244	15.4%	2.0%
Murray	18	200	13.6%	1.6%
OUHSC	19	200	6.7%	1.6%
SWOSU	20	199	3.8%	1.6%
OSUTB-OKC	21	172	4.2%	1.4%
USAO	22	154	9.2%	1.2%
Redlands	23	145	8.2%	1.2%
NOC	24	126	6.0%	1.0%
LU	25	74	2.2%	0.6%
NWOSU	26	37	2.0%	0.3%
WOSC	27	29	1.8%	0.2%
OSU-COM	28	26	8.2%	0.2%
OPSU	29	25	2.0%	0.2%
STATE TOTAL		12,451	7.8%	100.0%

SOURCE: OCR 2300-2.3, Fall, 1994

second highest proportion of Native American headcount enrollment (21.0 percent of 8,946). Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SEOSU) had the highest proportion of Native American student headcount enrollment (31.4 percent of 3,967 students).

Table 10 shows first-time enrollment for Native American students for each public institution. Of the 2,573 first-time Native American students who enrolled in fall 1994, 11.3 percent of them enrolled at NSU and 7.3 percent enrolled at SEOSU. Overall, 55.3 percent of the first-time Native American students enrolled at two-year schools while 44.7 percent enrolled at bachelor's degree-granting schools. Once again, of the 44.7 percent enrolling at bachelor's degree-granting schools, nearly one-half enrolled at NSU or SEOSU.

Table 11 continues the examination of Native American attendance at institutions of higher education by tribe. The tribes are listed in rank order by the percentage of Native Americans per tribe in public institutions for fall 1994. More than one-half (63 percent) of the Native Americans in public institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education were from the Cherokee Nation (35.2 percent), the Choctaw Nation (19.3 percent), or the Creek Nation (8.5 percent).

Also, the largest tribe in Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation, has the highest percentage of its students attending Northeastern State University (30 percent), followed by Oklahoma State University (nine percent), and Southeastern Oklahoma State University (9 percent). Each individual tribe can be examined in the same manner. Overall, Northeastern State University is chosen by 15 percent of the Native American students, Southeastern Oklahoma State University is chosen by 10 percent of the Native American students, and the University of Oklahoma is chosen by 10 percent of the Native American students in Oklahoma.

Table 10

OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN
FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN ENROLLMENT
FALL 1994

Institution	Male	Female	Total	Percent of State
OU	109	114	223	8.7%
OSU	73	87	160	6.2%
UCO	22	35	57	2.2%
ECU	38	51	89	3.5%
NSU	130	161	291	11.3%
NWOSU	7	0	7	0.3%
SEOSU	77	111	188	7.3%
SWOSU	22	24	46	1.8%
Cameron	27	29	56	2.2%
LU	1	4	5	0.2%
USAO	9	13	22	0.9%
OPSU	4	2	6	0.2%
Connors	63	95	158	6.1%
EOSC	44	44	88	3.4%
Murray	35	46	81	3.1%
NEOAMC	74	90	164	6.4%
NOC	13	27	40	1.6%
Rogers	53	72	125	4.9%
TCC	89	100	189	7.3%
OSUTB-OKC	14	21	35	1.4%
OSUTB-OKM	76	46	122	4.7%
WOSC	1	4	5	0.2%
Redlands	21	32	53	2.1%
CASC	64	64	128	5.0%
Seminole	34	32	66	2.6%
Rose	42	64	106	4.1%
OCCC	29	34	63	2.4%
STATE TOTAL	**1,171**	**1,402**	**2,573**	**100.0%**

SOURCE OCR 20000B1, Fall 1994

Table 11
DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN ENROLLMENT BY TRIBE AND WITHIN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, FALL 1994

Tribe Name	Rank	Percent of Total	Percent of Tribal Enrollment Per Institution*					
Cherokee Nation	1	35.2%	NSU	30%	OSU	9%	SEOSU	9%
Choctaw Nation	2	19.3%	SEOSU	24%	EOSC	10%	ECU	8%
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	3	8.5%	NSU	16%	OSU-OKM	10%	OU	10%
Chickasaw Nation	4	5.7%	ECU	21%	SEOSU	16%	OU	12%
Seminole Nation	5	4.4%	Seminole	30%	ECU	17%	OU	10%
Citizen Band Pottawatomi	6	4.2%	OU	15%	UCO	11%	OSU	10%
Osage Nation	7	3.3%	OSU	21%	NSU	14%	OU	12%
Delaware	8	2.4%	OU	14%	OSU	13%	NEOAMC	13%
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes	9	2.3%	Redlands	23%	UCO	12%	SWOSU	11%
Kiowa	10	2.2%	USAO	21%	OU	17%	OCCC	9%
Comanche	11	1.9%	SEOSU	18%	UCO	14%	OU	13%
Uni. Keetowah Band	12	1.7%	OU	86%	NSU	14%	n/a	n/a
Wyandotte	13	0.8%	NEOAMC	34%	NSU	19%	OU	13%
Caddo	14	0.7%	Rose	16%	OU	10%	OSU	10%
Seneca-Cayuga	15	0.6%	NEOAMC	44%	OU	12%	OSU	12%
Absentee Shawnee	15	0.6%	Rose	22%	Seminole	16%	OU	12%
Quapaw	15	0.6%	NEOAMC	46%	NSU	15%	UCO	12%
Kickapoo	15	0.6%	Rose	31%	Rogers	8%	Seminole	8%
Peoria	15	0.6%	OSU	33%	NEOAMC	17%	NSU	11%
Pawnee	20	0.5%	OSU	23%	OU	15%	NOC	15%
Ponca	20	0.5%	NOC	33%	OSU	31%	OU	8%
Sac & Fox Nation	20	0.5%	OU	17%	Seminole	23%	NSU	13%
Ottawa	23	0.4%	NEOAMC	38%	OU	15%	Rose	13%
Wichita	23	0.4%	OU	26%	USAO	18%	Redlands	9%
Kaw	23	0.4%	OSU	25%	NOC	24%	OU	17%
Eastern Shawnee	23	0.4%	NEOAMC	27%	OU	12%	NSU	14%
Otoe-Missouria	27	0.3%	OSU	24%	NOC	13%	NSU	11%
Miami	27	0.3%	NEOAMC	29%	OSU	17%	SWOSU	12%
Apache	27	0.3%	USAO	15%	OCCC	50%	NSU	9%
Iowa	30	0.1%	OU	17%	NOC	13%	OCCC	17%
Ft. Sill Apache	30	0.1%	Redlands	50%	Rose	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tonkawa	30	0.1%	NOC	63%	Connors	13%	TCC	13%
Modoc	33	0.0%	NEOAMC	100%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Tribes**	n/a	0.1%	OU	22%	OUHSC	11%	SEOSU	9%
Unknown Tribes**	n/a	0.5%	TCC	27%	OU	12%	OSU	10%
TOTALS	n/a	100.0%	NSU	15%	SEOSU	10%	OU	10%

*SOURCE: UDSENR14, Fall 1994 (12/8/95)

**"Other and Unknown Tribes" include Alabama Quassare and Loyal Shawnee, as well as out of-state Native American students and unknown tribal affiliations.

Almost 40 percent of the students in the Choctaw Nation attend either Southeastern Oklahoma State University or Eastern Oklahoma State College, located in Bryan and Latimer counties, respectively. These counties are within the geographic area that contains the highest concentration of tribal residence, and Durant (in Bryan county) contains the Choctaw Nation's tribal headquarters. Tribal enrollments in public institutions of higher education seem to be distributed similarly for most other tribes; that is, enrollments are higher at institutions that are geographically near the areas of highest concentration of tribal residence and tribal headquarters.

Appendix A contains a detailed listing of tribal representation among Oklahoma public institutions of higher education. Appendix C contains maps that display tribal headquarters and prevalent areas of tribal residency. Perusal of these appendices will show that the tendency, overall, is for students to attend schools closer to home; however, upper-division students must travel farther to complete their education.

Another important tendency is that a higher proportion of Native American students in Oklahoma are more likely to attend institutions where there are large numbers of Native Americans than institutions with low Native American enrollments. Table 12 lists the number of total Native American and institutional administration, faculty and staff, and students, as well as the proportion of Native Americans within each category for each public institution. A large number and proportion of students seem to be highly correlated with a large number and proportion of faculty/staff and administrators. Only 4.6 percent of the 1,993 administrators in the public institutions are Native Americans. Only 3.5 percent of the 12,718 faculty and staff members (part-time and full-time) in the public institutions are Native American.

Finally, Table 13 and Figure 12 examine change in fall semester enrollments over time. It provides the number of Native American students enrolled in each Oklahoma public institution of higher education from fall 1984 to fall 1994. About one-half of the four-year institutions show consistent increases over the ten-year period, whereas the majority of the two-year institutions show an increase over the last five years. Northeastern State University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University show considerable increases in the number of students over time. The increase in SEOSU's enrollment between 1985 and 1986 was the result of a realignment of the institution's data reporting practices with those of the U.S. Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Regents' Unitized Data System (UDS). Prior to 1986, SEOSU only reported Native Americans who were eligible for strict Bureau of Indian Affairs assistance.

Over the ten-year period, 1984 through 1994, the number of Native Americans who attended public institutions increased 131 percent. Two-year institutions have seen a total of 132 percent increase while four-year schools have seen a 129 percent increase. While this may show that four-year schools have done relatively well in increasing Native American attendance, it should be remembered that Northeastern State University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University, combined, had a 107 percent increase from 1978 to 1988. This increase is in part due to the change in reporting practices at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

A number of other institutions experienced increases and decreases from the base year 1994. Once again, when reviewing changes in enrollments, consideration should be made for changes in recording practices, in-migration and/or out-migration, the existence of agreements between tribes and public institutions of higher education that encourage enrollment at particular institutions, and other types of educational assistance that might encourage Native American enrollments at particular institutions.

Table 12
DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY AND STAFF, AND STUDENTS, IN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

	Administration			Faculty & Staff			Students		
Institution	Native American	Total	Percent	Native American	Total	Percent	Native American	Total	%
OU	35	771	4.5%	84	2,408	3.4%	1,207	21,998	5.5%
OSU	27	378	7.1%	53	1,869	2.8%	1,070	18,759	5.7%
UCO	1	42	2.4%	24	818	2.9%	510	15,992	3.2%
ECU	0	23	0.0%	3	301	1.0%	573	4,466	12.8%
NSU	2	61	3.3%	38	573	6.6%	1,875	8,946	21.0%
NWOSU	0	8	0.0%	1	112	0.9%	37	1,842	2.0%
SEOSU	4	30	13.3%	42	213	19.7%	1,247	3,967	31.4%
SWOSU	0	32	0.0%	3	255	1.2%	199	5,233	3.8%
Cameron	1	31	3.2%	11	381	2.9%	278	6,083	4.6%
LU	0	19	0.0%	1	280	0.4%	74	3,406	2.2%
USAO	0	14	0.0%	2	124	1.6%	154	1,680	9.2%
OPSU	0	23	0.0%	0	86	0.0%	25	1,238	2.0%
Connors	1	9	11.1%	15	136	11.0%	412	2,324	17.7%
EOSC	2	17	11.8%	7	105	6.7%	339	1,915	17.7%
Murray	0	6	0.0%	3	132	2.3%	200	1,475	13.6%
NEOAMC	2	20	10.0%	18	172	10.4%	422	2,244	18.8%
NOC	0	8	0.0%	1	90	1.1%	126	2,115	6.0%
Rogers	2	7	28.6%	24	249	9.6%	498	3,164	15.7%
TCC	3	64	0.0%	32	1,357	2.4%	800	18,551	4.3%
OSUTB-OKC	0	6	0.0%	4	289	1.4%	172	4,140	4.2%
OSUTB-OKM	0	6	2.5%	12	173	6.9%	317	2,143	14.8%
OUHSC	7	280	6.3%	23	1,019	2.3%	200	2,971	6.7%
OSU-COM	1	16	0.0%	4	112	3.6%	26	317	8.2%
WOSC	0	20	0.0%	1	75	1.3%	29	1,625	1.8%
Redlands	0	21	0.0%	3	152	2.0%	145	1,776	8.2%
CASC	0	22	0.0%	5	130	3.8%	342	1,640	20.9%
Seminole	0	7	0.0%	9	113	8.0%	244	1,583	15.4%
Rose	0	15	0.0%	13	285	4.6%	474	8,999	5.3%
OCCC	3	37	8.1%	11	648	1.7%	456	9,406	4.8%
STATE TOTAL	91	1,993	4.6%	447	12,718	3.5%	12,451	159,998	7.8%

SOURCE OCR 20000A1a. 1994-95 and UDSENR14. Fall 1994 (12/8/95)

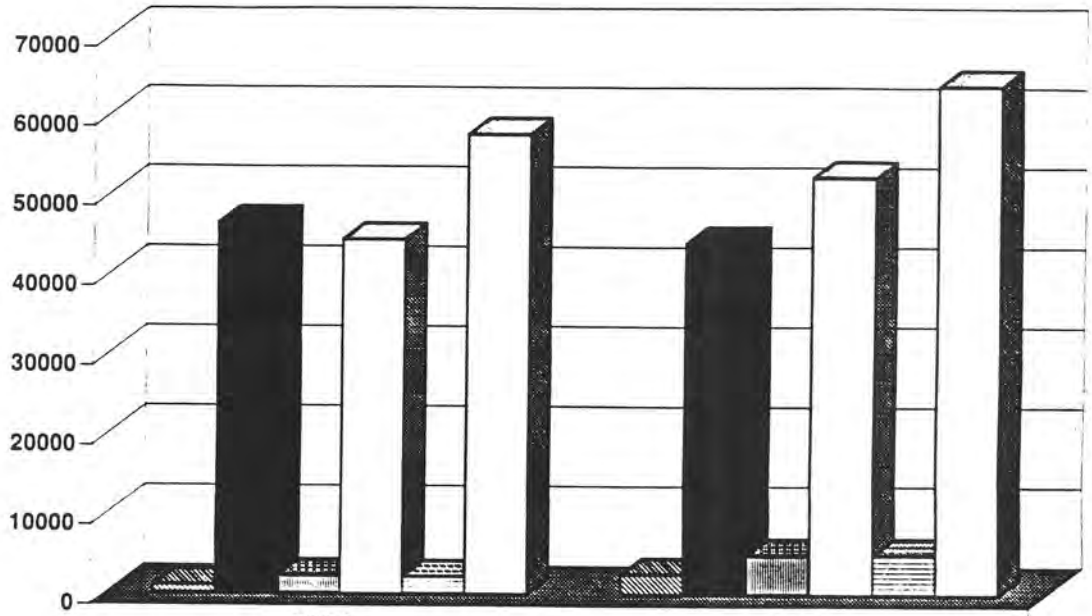
NOTE. All figures include full time and part time.

Table 13
UNDUPLICATED FALL SEMESTER HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENTS
BY OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSITUTION
FOR NATIVE AMVERICAN STUDENTS
1984-1994

Institution	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1089	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
OU	490	470	550	542	535	515	629	770	965	1,030	1,207
OSU	417	438	481	509	583	636	695	827	942	1,027	1,070
UCO	211	237	239	234	261	321	319	370	415	443	510
ECU	252	253	235	271	323	346	404	427	493	518	573
NSU	1,090	1,133	1,218	1,299	1,403	1,440	1,518	1,675	1,707	1,781	1,875
NWOSU	18	18	25	28	32	24	34	40	51	47	37
SEOSU	235	238	719	821	906	1,025	1,116	1,164	1,167	1,237	1,247
SWOSU	98	98	115	113	148	142	149	175	177	183	186
Cameron	192	206	192	213	205	210	219	239	244	260	278
LU	27	25	30	18	33	39	55	59	49	79	74
USAO	111	100	122	106	96	118	116	124	141	157	154
OPSU	12	8	8	9	4	6	11	10	17	13	25
Connors	50	82	92	110	120	160	221	268	298	272	412
EOSC	99	147	134	130	184	235	288	321	405	391	339
Murray	68	61	58	104	98	96	126	152	190	188	200
NEOAMC	163	137	412	338	347	308	356	434	466	424	422
NOC	56	59	68	85	119	146	158	166	142	138	126
Rogers(Claremore)	213	250	277	252	300	319	362	453	497	496	498
TCC	351	323	320	362	368	425	500	580	675	664	800
OSUTB-OKC	64	47	71	73	78	97	136	143	148	147	172
OSUTB-OKM	371	347	328	273	252	175	207	230	279	436	317
OUHSC	82	89	99	108	105	121	147	175	180	197	200
OSU-COM	18	17	17	16	12	16	15	14	18	10	26
WOSC	25	35	28	39	35	40	37	12	46	30	29
Redlands	27	38	62	48	32	33	49	102	129	141	145
CASC	128	130	163	163	189	190	206	341	343	338	342
SWOSU-Sayre	6	5	8	*	*	11	8	7	9	11	13
Seminole	122	134	123	161	152	143	155	166	261	266	244
Rose	251	240	275	269	275	310	381	435	434	442	474
OCCC	153	149	197	212	214	239	273	422	446	473	456
STATE TOTAL	5,400	5,514	6,666	6,906	7,409	7,886	8,890	10,331	11,334	11,839	12,451

SOURCE OCR 2300-2 3

Figure 12
COMPARISON OF CHANGE IN ENROLLMENT
FOR ALL STUDENTS AND NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS
IN OKLAHOMA PULIC INSTUTIONS
1984 TO 1994



	1984	1994
Comprehensive Nat. Amer	1007	2503
Comprehensive All	46482	44045
Regional Nat. Amer.	2246	4959
Regional All	44375	52251
Two Year Nat. Amer.	2147	4989
Two Year All	57612	63702

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Because Oklahoma has both a large number of Native Americans and a large proportion of the total number of Native Americans in the United States, it is important that the state evaluate its performance and that each institution evaluate how well they are doing also.

Native Americans students have gained in representation to the point that it is almost proportional to the population in the state. They are enrolled at two-year institutions at the same rate as the whole student population, but are more likely to enroll in four-year regional universities than in comprehensive universities. Native Americans are much more likely to enroll in institutions closer to home. To complete their education, they tend to travel to institutions with higher proportions of Native American students, administrators, faculty and staff.

Further, Native American students tend to be overrepresented in the lower division or freshman and sophomore classes and underrepresented in the upper division or junior and senior classes. However, they are less likely to be undecided about their declared major. Program enrollments for Native American students and the general student body tend to be similar; however, more Native American students enroll in education.

Native Americans tend to be overrepresented by females. Even though this trend seems apparent for the general student population as well, it is much more distinct for Native American students.

The data in this report have been informational. Analyses as to the recruiting practices of institutions, the relative retention of Native Americans in institutions, the graduation rates of Native Americans, and the participation of Native Americans in the graduate and professional schools have not been addressed.

This document serves The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education by clearly demonstrating that Native Americans are a significant part of higher education participation in Oklahoma. The needs of Native American students must be addressed by Oklahoma given the state's large proportion of Native American participation relative to the United States as a whole. Given the history of Native Americans in higher education both in Oklahoma and the United States, strides made in Native American education in Oklahoma could be the key to successful educational initiatives for the entire country.