



# HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Accredited by Higher Learning Commission

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Haskell Scales Back Intercollegiate Athletic Programs

Haskell officials announced changes in the sports programs offered as university officials' prioritize funding to support existing and new academic programs and essential student services at the school.

Conference changes, the cost of maintaining ten athletic programs, the lack of coaching staff to recruit and develop players and programs, and the dependency of Intercollegiate Athletics on university funding contributed to the decision to reduce the sports offered at the university. Haskell President Venida Chenault previously noted that the rising cost of intercollegiate athletic programs and other factors made it difficult for small colleges like Haskell to compete. Haskell is also working to fill a vacant Athletic Director position.

The decision of colleges to cut sport programs is increasingly common. The escalating costs of equipment, facilities and travel, as well as additional research about the long term impact of concussions on players in sports factored into the Haskell decision. Haskell has no long-term commitments from donors to support athletics, nor does it have an independent Athletic Endowment to raise the revenue to properly support all IA programs. Haskell has received occasional one-time donations.

The Haskell football program will be suspended for the upcoming season to determine the viability of the program for the long term. Student athletes will not lose eligibility but will have a strong developmental year for academic and physical conditioning over the coming year. Releases are being provided to student athletes who made a commitment prior to the decision.

Review of remaining sports programs is also underway with an anticipated reduction to six sports.

Long-term external funding and donations can be made through the Haskell Foundation at [give@HaskellFoundation.com](mailto:give@HaskellFoundation.com). Remaining programs will operate in an independent conference for the 2015/16 academic year.

The National Haskell Board of Regents recognized the need for change in the Intercollegiate Athletic Programs and supported the decisions at the Spring 2015 meeting.