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News in Brief

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Indian Health Bill to Include Community College Grant

The Indian Health Improvement Act (S. 1200), currently being deliberated on the Senate floor, includes a provision that will create a grant program for community colleges. Grants of up to \$250,000 will be authorized by the bill. The grants are meant to establish health professions education programs within the community college system that will lead to degrees. In the past community colleges received some assistance from the Indian Health Improvement Act, but passage of the bill will likely secure funds on a regular basis.

Congress Urged to Take Student Loan Action

Congress has been approached by lobbyists for lenders and colleges calling for action to stifle the downward trend of the student loan industry. Lenders and colleges claim the credit crunch may very well heavily impact the availability of loans. Students seeking loans in the fall may find no funds available. Lobbyists cited the recent failure of auctions, a key source of student loan funding, as a major roadblock to the ability to offer new loans in the fall.

Controversial Upward Bound Evaluation System Eliminated

A controversial evaluation program implemented by the Department of Education has been eliminated. The evaluation program required officials who run Upward Bound chapters to recruit twice as many students, utilizing half of the essentially "non-admitted" as a control group to evaluate those actually admitted. Critics attacked the Department of Education, claiming the evaluation system turned those not admitted into "guinea pigs" and provided no assistance to students in need. Congressional opposition to the evaluation program pressured the Department of Education to abandon the system.