



# NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 18, 2010

Contact: Debby Pafel  
(202) 208-4289

## **OST's Office of Trust Records Accepts 2010 Archivist Achievement Award**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians' (OST) Office of Trust Records (OTR) received from David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, an Archivist Achievement Award for establishing and funding records management courses at Haskell Indian Nations University. OTR Director Ethel Abeita accepted the award on behalf of OST and her office.

“The work OST’s Office of Trust Records has done is impressive. The Director and staff are justifiably proud of the service they provide to the federal government and to Indian trust beneficiaries by maintaining and preserving inactive Indian trust records,” said OST’s Principal Deputy Special Trustee Donna Erwin. “OTR employees know the importance of their work and are doing a great job instilling an understanding of the importance of records in Haskell students.”

The award was one of four Archivist Achievement Awards presented this year at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Records Administration Conference (RACO 2010), held May 12, 2010, in Washington, D.C. Archivist Ferriero noted in his remarks that this collaborative training initiative serves as a model for other agencies to establish college level records management programs.

To date, more than 550 students have successfully completed the records management program at Haskell, which was established in 1884 to serve the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Fourteen students who have taken records management courses have become full time employees with OTR at the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR). AIRR is an underground records storage facility situated in a limestone formation in Lenexa, Kansas. The facility, a cooperative effort of OST and NARA, was built to NARA archival quality standards, which means temperature, humidity and lighting are controlled to provide the least negative effect upon paper documents. The facility currently has more than 160,000 cubic feet of Indian records in storage, with records dating back to before 1900. As of March 31, 2010, there were **196,198 boxes** in storage at AIRR. There are approximately 2500 pages in an average box.

###

*The mission of OST is to perform our fiduciary trust responsibilities to American Indian tribes, individual Indians and Alaska Natives by incorporating a beneficiary focus and beneficiary participation while providing effective, competent stewardship and management of trust assets.*