**CHAIRMAN Marshall Pierite** VICE CHAIRMAN Marshall R. Sampson, Sr. SECRETARY-TREASURER Beverly C. Rachal **COUNCIL MEMBERS** James Craig, III Bobby Pierite, Sr. Harold Pierite, Sr. Rudolph Wambsgans, III



19 April 2021

Dear Tunica- Biloxi Parents:

I recently spoke with John Barbry of the Tunica-Biloxi Education Department (TBED) regarding the new education grant that the Tribe received from the U.S. Department of Education last October. He mentioned that they were coming to the end of a mandatory planning period and that educational services would be available to students on April 1st. This funding allows the TBED to provide educational services to Tunica-Biloxi students (grades K-12) no matter where they live. This resource is not just for students who may be struggling in school but also for students who want to excel and get ready for college, career selection, or military service.

As a Council Member from Chicago, one of my main priorities has been to increase the number of community benefits to all tribal members regardless of their zip code. Through the support of the Council and John and his team's hard work, we have been awarded a highly competitive grant to build the future of our children. I don't know of any better way to improve our people's lives through investments in education.

John asked me to help spread the word about this significant educational resource. I am impressed by the breadth and depth of services and service providers that TBED has assembled during its 6-month planning period. Although we are entering into the last few months of the school year, there is still time to help students finish strong and participate in productive summer activities that will give them an edge on the next school year. I will certainly make sure that my sons take advantage of this resource to help them prepare for life after high school.

It is with the love, hope, and pride that I have for my sons and our tribal nation that I ask you to register your children in the Tunica-Biloxi Education Department as soon as possible. For more information, please contact TBED at educationprogram@tunica.org or at (800) 272-9767.

Hita (take care),

James Craig, III Council Member