



NEWS RELEASE: For more information, call (630) 617-3390

**PRESIDENT OBAMA TO NAME ELMHURST COLLEGE PRESIDENT TO KEY POST
S. Alan Ray to be appointed to serve on National Advisory Council on Indian Education**

ELMHURST, Ill., June 29, 2010 – The White House has announced that President Barack Obama intends to appoint Elmhurst College President S. Alan Ray to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

Ray was one of four individuals named Monday to serve on the Council, which advises and makes recommendations to the U.S. Department of Education on federal issues, services and programs relating to the education of Native American children and adults.

President Obama said Monday: "I am proud to nominate such accomplished and dedicated individuals to fill these important roles. They will be valuable additions to my administration as we work to confront our challenges at home and abroad, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead." <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts-62810>

"I am deeply honored to be chosen by President Obama to serve on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education," Ray said. "I wish to thank Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith for submitting my name to the White House for consideration. My colleagues on the Council and I will endeavor to make federal policy recommendations that will strengthen educational opportunities for all Native American people."

Ray has served since 2008 as the president of Elmhurst College. He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and serves on the Tribe's Cherokee language immersion school advisory board. An attorney, teacher, and scholar, Ray previously held the position of senior vice provost for the University of New Hampshire. Prior to that, Ray was associate dean for academic affairs at Harvard Law School, in charge of administering faculty hiring and curriculum planning, and also served in a variety of leadership roles in the Harvard University Native American Program.

Working at the intersection of Native American studies, religious studies, and federal Indian law, Ray has taught at Boston College, Harvard Divinity School, and Harvard Law School, as well as UNH and Elmhurst College.

Elmhurst College is a premier comprehensive college located 15 miles west of Chicago. The College's mission is to inspire its students to form themselves intellectually and personally, and to prepare for meaningful and ethical work in a multicultural, global society. Approximately 3,300 full- and part-time students are enrolled in its 22 undergraduate academic departments and nine graduate degree programs.