

Summary: BIA Employee Violated Gift Rules

Report Date: July 28, 2021

Report Number: 19-0771

The OIG investigated allegations that a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) employee improperly influenced the daily operations of a nonprofit organization that receives BIA funding by attending board meetings and participating in hiring. We also investigated allegations that the BIA employee awarded U.S. Department of the Interior funds to a university where the employee served on a leadership council, potentially creating a conflict of interest, and received items in violation of the rules governing gifts to Federal employees.

We found that the BIA employee accepted items valued at over \$780 that violated ethics regulations prohibiting gifts given because of one's official position or given by those who do business or seek to do business with one's agency. We did not substantiate the allegations that the BIA employee was improperly involved in the nonprofit organization's operations or that the employee awarded funds to the university.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the BIA Director.

