



ANNIVERSARY
AMERICAN INDIAN
HIGHER EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

TCU Title II Program Meeting

March 30, 2023



AMERICAN INDIAN
HIGHER EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

Tribal Colleges & Universities *Educating, Engaging, Innovating, Sustaining, Honoring*



TRIBAL Higher Education: *It Begins in Ceremony & Prayer*

The core of the Tribal
College Movement is
education rising from
our culture and language
– and the air, land, water
around us



Ceremony, Prayer, and Community:

First Six TCUs (1968-1972) and AIHEC (1973)

AIHEC 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2023

1968:
Navajo
Community
College

1969-70:
United Tribes
Technical College

1971:
Oglala Lakota
Community
College
Sinte Gleska
College

1972:
Turtle Mountain
Community College
Standing Rock
Community College

1973:
American Indian
Higher Education
Consortium
(AIHEC)



TRIBAL Colleges and Universities: *Educating, Engaging, Innovating, Sustaining, Honoring*



AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

NORTH DAKOTA

Cankdeska Cikana Community College
Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College
Sitting Bull College
Turtle Mountain Community College
United Tribes Technical College

MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Leech Lake Tribal College
Red Lake Nation College
White Earth Tribal and Community College

WISCONSIN

College of Menominee Nation
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College

MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community College
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

NEBRASKA

Little Priest Tribal College
Nebraska Indian Community College

KANSAS

Haskell Indian Nations University

OKLAHOMA

College of the Muscogee Nation
Nebraska Indian Community College

MONTANA

Aaniih Nakoda College
Blackfeet Community College
Chief Dull Knife College
Fort Peck Community College
Little Big Horn College
Salish Kootenai College
Stone Child College

SOUTH DAKOTA

Oglala Lakota College
Sinte Gleska University
Sisseton Wahpeton College
Sitting Bull College

WASHINGTON

Northwest Indian College

IDAHO

Northwest Indian College

CALIFORNIA

California Tribal College

UTAH

Diné College

ARIZONA

Diné College
Navajo Technical University
San Carlos Apache College
Tohono O'odham Community College

ALASKA

Iliisagvik College

NEW MEXICO

Diné College
Institute of American Indian Arts
Navajo Technical University
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

States whose American Indian and Alaska Native students attend TCUs

(Developing Institutions)

2nd Circle of TCU Movement:

35 Accredited TCUs >90
sites in U.S. – 15 states

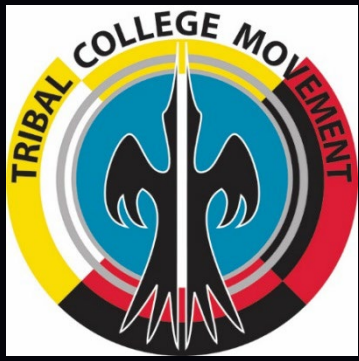
TCU students come from
30+ states

More than 230 federally
recognized Indian Tribes
are represented at TCUs

New TCUs are emerging (2
developing institution
members)



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Vision for the Movement:

second circle of the tribal college movement

Strong sovereign Tribal
Nations through excellence in
TRIBAL higher education



One Student at a Time...

AA/AS: 35
BA/BS: 19
Masters: 8
PhD: 1

New Presidents:
30 in past 3 years

Average annual
Tuition: **\$3,059** *(down
due to covid funds)*

Student Financial
Aid: 79%
Average Need: appx.
\$15,750

51% are 1st
Generation
8:1 Student: Faculty

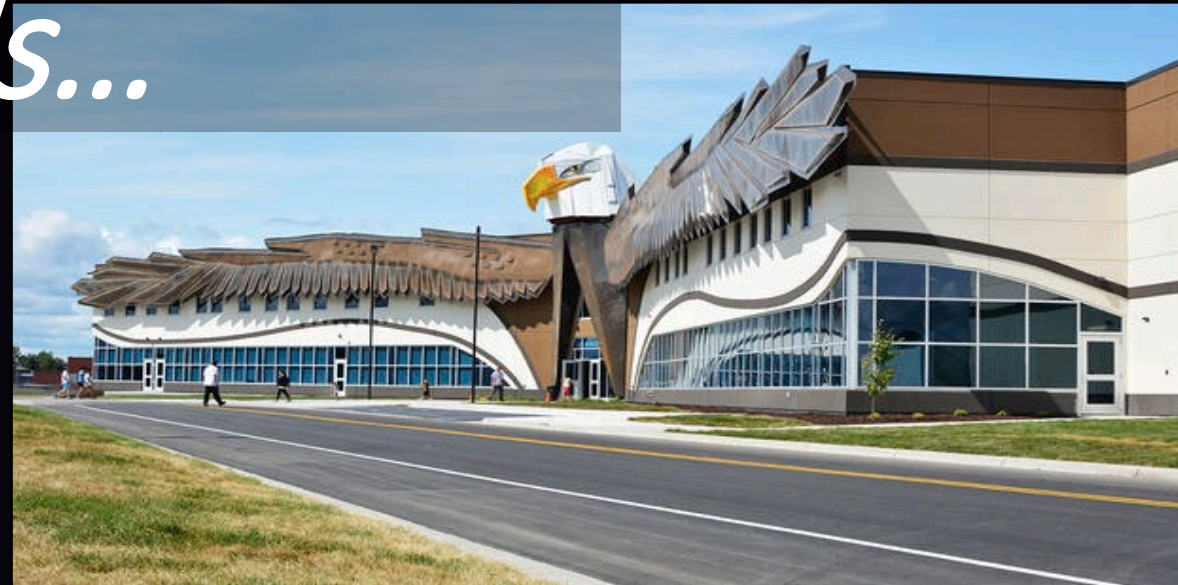
AI/ANs off-rez: **78%**
AI/ANs in/near
urban center: **67%**



In past 8 years, Completion up 32%, Degrees up 17%



*Exciting Things
Happening at
TCUs...*



TCUs: Land-Grant & Climate Work

Advancing Tribal Priorities



NATIVE
FEWS
ALLIANCE



GROWING FOOD GROWS OUR COMMUNITY

MHA Nation - Age-Old Wisdom
LEGACY OF SUSTAINABILITY, HEALTH, NUTRITION, & WELLNESS

The Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara people lived off the land; they were hunters, gatherers, and gardeners. They understood crop rotation, seed storage, and sustainable practices long before agricultural experts wrote about it in textbooks.

Traditionally raised were huge crops of corn, squash, beans, and sunflower (Four Sisters) on the rich bottomlands of the Missouri River. The Four Sisters provide balanced nutrition and balance in the soil. The agricultural legacy of the MHA Nation is not only embedded in the soil but also in lives, minds, and hearts of the people.

The MHA Nation carries age-old traditions and wisdom that today we would call sustainable agriculture practices. These sustainable practices make the difference in sustaining life. We can find simple solutions to our complex problems by returning to this wisdom.

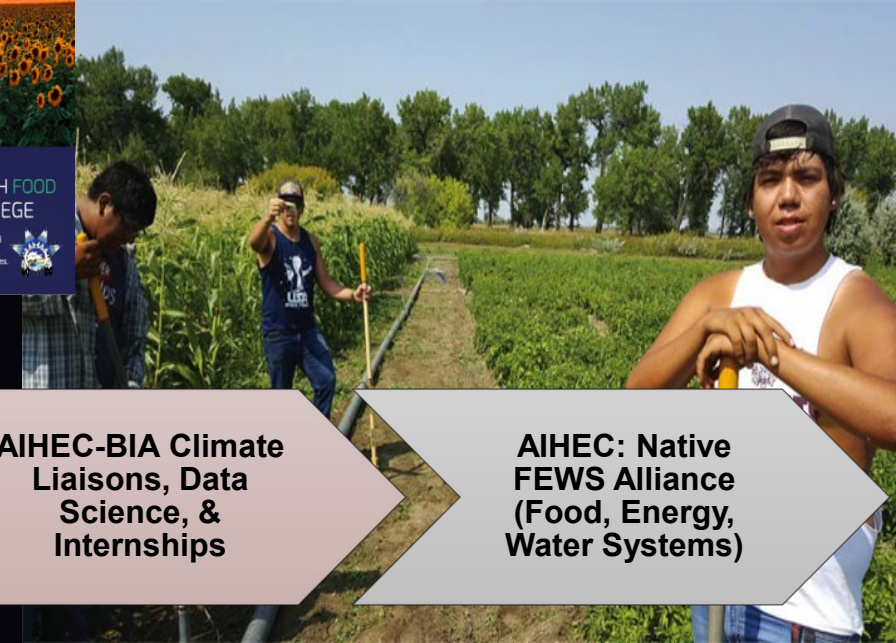
"My mothers were industrious women, and our family had always good crops."
-Buffalo Bird Woman

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NHSC Agriculture
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RE-CONNECTING COMMUNITY WITH FOOD
NUETA HIDATSA SAHNISH COLLEGE

Working in partnership with our community to re-establish MHA Nation Food Sovereignty and community health by growing, demonstrating, learning, and inspiring through our NHSC gardens and commitment to sustainable practices.



UTTC: Intertribal Research & Resource Center on Food Sovereignty

AIHEC: Sensing the Earth Summit (Climate Resilience)

ANC: Nic'-Mni' (Water) Water quality/Management Center

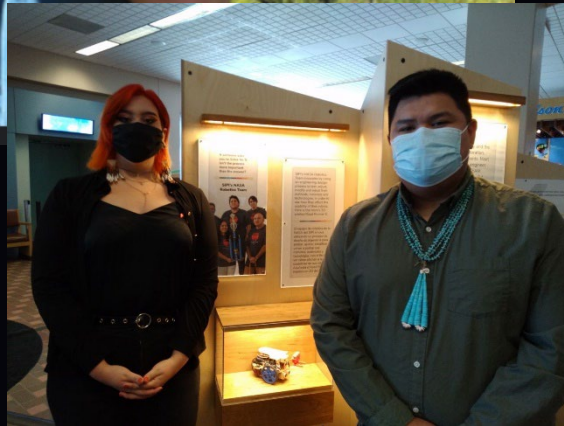
AIHEC-BIA Climate Liaisons, Data Science, & Internships

AIHEC: Native FEWS Alliance (Food, Energy, Water Systems)



TRIBAL Colleges and Universities: *Educating, Engaging, Innovating, Sustaining, Honoring*

Student Engagement Through Experiential Education & Service Learning: Over 900 Degree Programs





**Navajo Technical
University:**

**First TCU to achieve
ABET accreditation in
Engineering &
Manufacturing**

**First TCU to launch
accredited PhD program**



TRIBAL Colleges and Universities: *Educating, Engaging, Innovating, Sustaining, Honoring*

TCU-Tribal Partnerships:

Nation Builders:

Sovereignty &
Economic
Sustainability



Native Language Research: To succeed, Native Language programs must have in place basic building blocks of language. Currently, we believe only two languages taught at TCUs have a **full set of building blocks** in place. It is a greater challenge outside of TCUs.



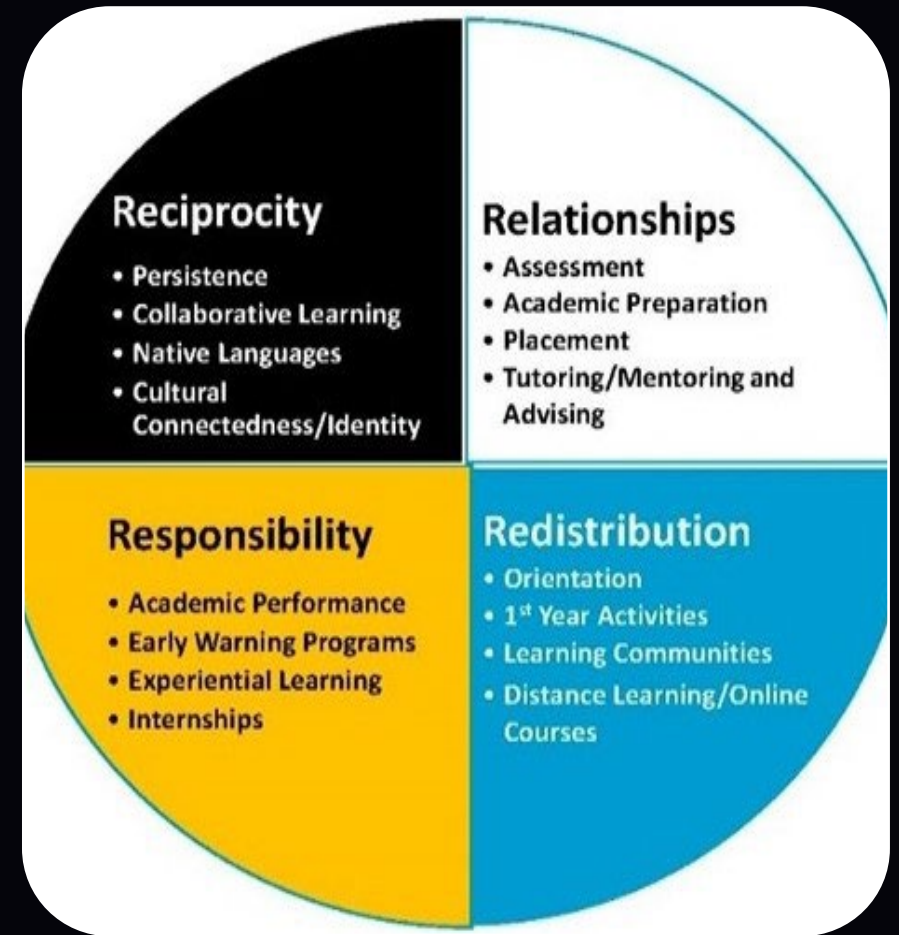
WORKFORCE & JOB CREATION: Aseto'ne Health Research & AIAN Health Workforce Development; DOE Advanced Manufacturing; Apprenticeships; TCU Cyber-Security Workforce & **Head Start Partnership Program: Teachers and Staff**



INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS: Grow Our Own at Home: Potential new pilot program for TCUs to work with high schools and Head Start/BIE schools to develop teacher pathway programs (paid internships, early college, 5-year associate & accelerated BA/BS degree w/career placement)

Rising from the sovereign power of our AI nations, AIHEC is committed to the inherent rights of Native peoples to define and control our destiny, including establishing our own Tribal institutions of higher education.

Essential to ownership of our education systems is our ability to evaluate and accredit our own programs and institutions.



ACCREDITATION

Covid-19 Relief Funding & Ongoing Needs

- \$800 million (3 bills: April 2000-March 2021)
- Student & Institutional Funding: “Construction” allowed now
- TCU CI Costs up Significantly
- Sustainability: State/Regional Networks
- Mental Health Challenges



	TCUs	2-year IHE	4-year IHE
Average Connectivity	336 MBPS Max: 1,060 MBPS Lowest: 6 MBPS NOW: 744 MBPS (25 TCUs)	513 MBPS	3.5 GBPS
Average Hardware Cycle	8.29 years	3-5 years	
TCU Internet Cost	Highest: \$250,000/year Iḷisaḡvik College Barrow, AK		



AIHEC RESEARCH SURVEY ON

The Impact of covid-19 on TCU Student Experiences

A survey of student needs, perceptions, and impacts following the onset of the pandemic and the transition to online/distance learning.

RESPONDENT PROFILE SIMILAR ACROSS YEARS



Native

Fall 2020

486 Students Surveyed

Spring 2022

263 Students Surveyed



Female

RESPONDENTS ARE PARENTS & OLDER THAN TCU STUDENT POPULATION

Respondents:

- Largest Age Groups 25-34 (2020) & 35-49 (2022)
- Majority Unmarried w/ Dependents



Overall TCU Population:

- Largest Age Group 18-21
- Most Unmarried w/ No Dependents



Students are Worried about Paying Bills

2 out of 3 students are confident in covering costs for college, but over half are worried about being late on bills in the next 90 days

Paying for College

Majority of student respondents rely on federal financial aid, grants, and scholarships to supplement their cost of attendance.



Covid Impact on Careers

About half the survey respondents:

- lost their job or had a reduction in hours/pay due to the pandemic
- increased their desire to obtain a career that helps their community or make the world a better place

Students Need Mental Health Support

1 in 3 students report unmet mental health needs across survey years



Highest Reported Unmet Needs

1. Mental Health
2. Food
3. Clothing
4. Child Care
5. Internet
6. Housing



ONLINE LEARNING

Before covid-19 pandemic majority of student respondents did not take online or hybrid courses.

As of spring 2022, given the choice over half the student respondents would rather attend class online/remote.



Ongoing TCU covid-19 Needs:

Solutions Designed from the Proper World View

Student Mental Health: *2 Landmark AIHEC Student Surveys/Studies (Next week = Update)*

Reliable, Affordable Internet: *Sustainable; Regional/-state networks*

New Construction and Rehabilitation of Existing Facilities: *Outdated facilities cannot be fixed with “temporary trailers”*

Online Course Delivery: *Shared Resources - TCU National University System*

Faculty/Staff Support: *Online Credentials*

Ongoing Student Support

Inform & Educate

Data Points: TCU Revenue Sources



**Annual Federal
Operating
Appropriations:**
Interior
\$8,400
*(5 different
funding sources)*



Tribal Funding:
17 TCUs --
\$31.36M
(\$1.8M ave)
(AY2019-20)



Tuition & Fees:
\$3,065 average
(\$1,300 to
\$6,000)



State Funding:
Limited
(3-6 states)
level varies,
primarily for
non-Native
students

FY 2024 Interior Funding Requests

AUTHORIZATION/ TCU PROGRAM	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY2024 AIHEC Request
Title I, II, III and contracts (29 TCUs)	\$76,510,000	\$87,926,000	\$110,000,000
Title V (Tribal career/technical institutions)	\$8,151,000	\$9,156,000	\$15,000,000
TCU Infrastructure Improvement	\$15,000,000	\$16,000,000	\$35,000,000
Interior: American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act			
Institute of American Indian Arts	\$11,741,000	\$13,482,000	\$14,000,000
HINU and SIPI	\$28,622,000	\$30,325,000	\$30,352,000

ISSUES:

- Howard University v. TCUs
- TCUs Do Not Receive Contract Support Costs
- TCUs Are Growing in Number and Students
- No Study on Facilities; No Needs Based Funding
- No O&M Funding

TCUs: Culture is the Core -- The Corn Stalk in the Center

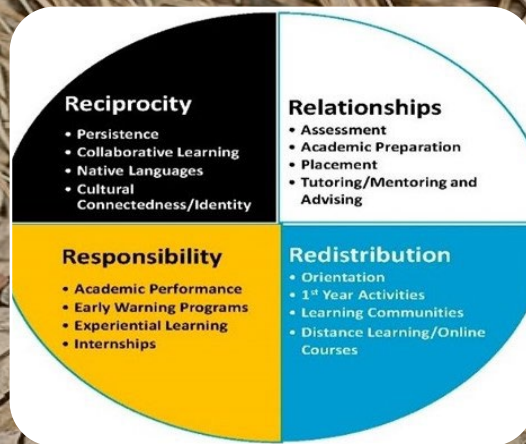
***“Start every week with pipe;
end every week with drum...”***



Help Native Students Succeed

The Importance of Identity:

- Spirituality & Ceremony
- Place & Land
- Community & Family
- Personal Gifts
- Tribal Scholarship
- Sovereignty





***“Whoever controls the education
of our children controls our
future.”***

Chief Wilma Mankiller



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