

Focus on Tribal Colleges (May 2000 Communique)

Concern for the formal education of American Indians dates back to at least 1723 when William and Mary College opened "special facilities" to house Indian students. Later in 1775, the Continental Congress appropriated \$500 for the education of Indians at Dartmouth College. Still later, many treaties between the U.S. government and Indian nations and tribes included specific provisions for the education of Indian children. The Snyder Act of 1921 authorized the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide educational services and the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 established the powers of tribal governments and authorized loans to pay for tuition and other expenses of Indians in postsecondary educational programs.

By 1996, approximately 134,000 American Indian/Alaska Native students were enrolled in postsecondary education where they constituted less than 1 percent of all students (American Indian Higher Education Consortium, 1998).

Exactly 50% of these students were enrolled in community colleges. About 8.2% of these students were engaged in graduate or professional school studies (American Council on Education, 1998).

According to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (1998), the history of U.S. American Indian postsecondary education can be characterized as involving "compulsory Western methods of learning, recurring attempts to eradicate tribal culture, and high dropout rates".

In contrast, the Tribal College movement grew out of the American Indian "self-determination" movement of the 1960s. The first tribally controlled college was established in 1968 by the Navajo Nation. Today the nation's Tribal Colleges consist of 31 institutions: 28 tribally chartered and locally managed colleges and 3 federally chartered Indian colleges governed by national boards. All but three of these institutions are fully accredited by regional accrediting agencies, while the others are candidates for accreditation. All started as two-year institutions; but now four of the colleges offer bachelor's degrees and two offer master's degrees. All have open admission policies and most are located on remote reservations. Only eight of these colleges provide housing and only six provide board or meal plans. In 1994, in recognition of the essential ties between the colleges, tribal lands, and local economic development, Congress designated Tribal Colleges as land grant institutions.

In 1996, Tribal Colleges enrolled approximately 24,600 students, or about 18.4% of all American Indian students involved in postsecondary education that year. Tribal College students are typically nontraditional students: In 1996-1997, their average age was 31.5 years, about half were single parents, 64% were female, and half attended college on a part-time basis (AIHEC, 1998).

Because most Tribal Colleges are located on reservations (i.e., federal trust territory), local property taxes cannot be levied for their support, and states have no obligation to fund them. Consequently, major funding sources for Tribal Colleges are primarily federal, including the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of

Tribal Colleges are distinguished by their dual mission: (a) To rebuild, reinforce, and explore traditional tribal cultures, using uniquely designed curricula and institutional settings; and (b) to address Western models of learning by providing traditional disciplinary courses that are transferrable to 4-year institutions (AIHEC, 1998, p. A-3 & A-4). These colleges are essential repositories of tribal knowledge (e.g., records, documents, oral histories) and their cultural-centeredness is reflected in course offerings on tribal languages, history, and literature. They also contribute to community life by offering adult basic education and GED programs, business/entrepreneurial training, social services, and by supporting a variety of community events and programs.

1978 (TCCUAA), which is administered by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Title III of the Higher Education Act. Consequently, Tribal Colleges are chronically underfunded requiring them to charge tuition and fees that on the average are 52% higher than those charged by all of the nation's 2-year public institutions. In 1996, President Clinton issued a White House Executive Order on Tribal Colleges and Universities that directed all federal departments and agencies to increase their support to these institutions.

References

LaCounte., D. W. (1987). American Indian students in college. In D. J. Wright (Ed.), Responding to the needs of today's minority students. New Directions for Student Services, no. 38, 65 - 79. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and The Institute for Higher Education Policy (1999). Tribal Colleges: An introduction. Alexandria, VA: Author.

Resources on Tribal Colleges

Tribal College Journal of American Indian Higher Education
PO Box 720 Mancos, CO 81328
870-533-917
e-mail: info@tribalcollegejournal.org
Web site: www.tribalcollegejournal.org

American Indian Higher Education Consortium
121 Oronoco Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-838-0400
e-mail: aihec@aohec.org
Web site: www.aihec.org

American Indian College Fund
8333 Greenwood Blvd.
Denver, CO 80221
303-426-8900
e-mail: info@collegefund.org
Web site: www.collegefund.org

White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities
e-mail: whitcu@inet.ed.gov
Web site:
www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/TribalCol/index.html

Society of Indian Psychologists
President: John M. Chaney, PhD
Oklahoma State University
Department of Psychology
211 North Murray
Stillwater, OK 74078-0250
e-mail: jchaney@okstate.edu
Newsletter Editor: Patricia Alexander
Oklahoma State University
Department of Psychology
Stillwater, OK 74078
e-mail: pat@okstate.edu

**Leading U.S. Baccalaureate Institutions
Of American Indian/Alaska Native PhDs: 1991-1995**

INSTITUTIONS	NUMBER
University of Oklahoma	26
Oklahoma State University	20
University of Wisconsin-Madison	14
University of Arizona	14
University of California-Berkeley	14
Pennsylvania State University	13
University of Arkansas-Fayetteville	13
Stanford University	13
Harvard University	10
University of Michigan	10
University Missouri-Columbia	10
University of North Carolina -Chapel Hill	10
North Carolina State University-Raleigh	10
University of Texas-Austin	10
Northern Arizona University	10
University of Washington	10
Texas A&M University	9
Purdue University	8
University of South Dakota	8
University of California-Los Angeles	8
University of California-Santa Barbara	8

SOURCE: National Research Council, Survey of Earned Doctorates

American Indian 1995 PhD Recipients

Major Fields/Subfields	Total PhDs		Indian/Alaska Native	
	#	%	#	%
All Fields	27,603	100.0	148	100.0
Physical Sciences	3,652	13.2	11	7.4
Engineering	2,382	8.6	10	6.8
Life Sciences	4,996	8.1	27	18.2
Social Sciences	5,034	18.2	29	19.6
Psychology	2,942	10.7	14	9.5
All Other Social Sciences	2,092	7.6	15	10.1
Humanities	3,979	14.4	19	12.8
Education	5,680	20.6	40	27.0
Professional/Other	1,880	6.8	12	8.1

SOURCE: National Research Council, Survey of Earned Doctorates

Tribal Colleges in the United States and Canada

Name/Location	Established	Chartering Tribe(s)
Bay Mills Community College 12214 West Lake Shore Drive Brimley, MI 49715 906/248-3354 fax: 906/248-3351 email: mmcleod@bmcc.org	1984	Bays Mills Indian Community
Blackfeet Community College P. O. Box 819 Browning, MT 59417 406/338-7755 fax: 406/338-3272	1974	Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
Cankdeska Cikana Community College P.O. Box 269 Fort Totten, ND 58335 701/766-4415 fax: 701/766-4077 email: ericstev@hoopster.little- hoop.cc.nd.us	1974	Spirit Lake Sioux Tribal Council
Cheyenne River Community College P. O. Box 220 Eagle Butte, SD 57625 605/964-6044 fax: 605/964-1144 email: jgarrett@rapidnet.com	1974	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
College of the Menominee Nation P. O. Box 1179 Keshena, WI 54135 715/799-4921 fax: 715- /799-1308 http://www.menominee.com e-mail: vfowler@menominee.com	1993	Menominee Nation
Crownpoint Institute of Technology P. O. Box 849 Crownpoint, NM 87313 505/786-5851 fax: 505/786-5644 email: jmtutt@aol.com	1979	Navajo Nation

Tribal Colleges in the United States and Canada

Name/Location	Established	Chartering Tribe(s)
D-Q University P. O. Box 409 Davis, CA 95617 fax: 916/758-4891 email: motis@daq.cc.ca.us	1971	Coalition of 19 Tribes and Bands
Dinéé College P. O. Box 126 Tsaile, AZ 86556 520/724-6669 fax 520/724-3327 e-mail: tlewis@crystal.ncc.cc.nm.us	1968	Navajo Nation
Dull Knife Memorial College P. O. Box 98 Lame Deer, MT 59043 406/477-6215 fax: 406/477-6219 email: aspang@dkmc.cc.mt.us	1975	Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College 2101 14th Street Cloquet, MN 55720-2964 218/879-0800 fax: 218/879-0814 email: ljbriggs@asab.fdl.cc.mn.us gopher://gopher.fdl.cc.mn.us	1987	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Fort Belknap College P. O. Box 159 Harlem, MT 59526 406/353-2607 fax: 406/353-2898 email: tshortbull@dc.edu.com	1984	Gros Ventre and Assinboine Tribes
Fort Berthold Community College P. O. Box 490 New Town, ND 58763 701/627-4738 fax: 701/627-3609 email: ldemeray@nt1.fort-berthold.cc.nd.us	1974	Three Affiliated Tribes of the Arikara, Hidatsa and Mardan

Tribal Colleges in the United States and Canada

Name/Location	Established	Chartering Tribe(s)
Fort Peck Community College P. O. Box 398 Poplar, MT 59255 406/768-5551 fax: 406/768-5552 email: jimsh@fpcc.cc.mt.us	1978	Assinboine and Sioux Tribes
Haskell Indian Nations University 155 Indian Ave, Box 5030 Lawrence, KS 66046-4800 785/749-8497 fax: 785/749-8411 e-mail: bmartin@ross1.cc.haskell.edu	1970	Federally Chartered
Institute of American Indian Arts Box 20007, St. Michael's Drive Santa Fe, NM 87504 505/988-6463 fax: 505/986-5543 email: dwarrior@incad.org	1988*	Congressionally Chartered
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College R.R. 2, Box 2357 Hayward, WI 54843 715/634-4790 fax: 715/634-5049 e-mail: lcoacc1@win.bright.net	1982	La Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Leech Lake Tribal College Rt. 3, Box 100 Cass Lake, MN 56633 218/335-2828 fax: 218/335-7845 email: larry@paulbunyan.net	1990	Leech Lake Tribal Council
Little Big Horn College P.O. Box 370 Crow Agency, MT 59022 406/638-2228 fax: 406/638-2229 e-mail: janine@main1.lbhc.cc.mt.us	1980	Crow Tribal Council
Little Priest Tribal College P.O. Box 270 Winnebago, NE 68071 402/878-2380 fax: 402/878-2355 e-mail: jwb@lptc.cc.ne.us	1996	Winnebago Tribe

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Nebraska Indian Community College P.O. Box 164 Niobrara, NE 68760 402/857-2434 fax: 402/857-2543 email: sky708@aol.com	1979	Omaha Tribal Council Santee Sioux Tribe, and Yankton Sioux Tribe
Northwest Indian College 2522 Kwina Road Bellingham, WA 98226 360/676-2772 fax: 360/738-0136 email: blorenc@nwic.edu	1983	Lummi Indian Business Council
Oglala Lakota College P.O. Box 490 Kyle, SD 57752 605/455-2321 fax: 605/455-2787	1971	Oglala Sioux Tribal Council
Red Crow Community College P.O. Box 1258 Cardston, Alberta, Canada T0K0K0 403/737-2400 fax: 403/737-2101 e-mail: redcrow@upanet.uleth.ca	1980	Blood Tribe of Standoff Alberta
Salish Kootenai College P.O. Box 117 Pablo, MT 59855 406/675-4800 fax: 406/675-4801 email: j_mcdonald@skc.edu or anita_bigspring@skc.edu	1977	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council
Sinte Gleska University P.O. Box 490 Rosebud, SD 57570 605/747-2263 fax: 605/747-2098	1971	Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
Sisseton Wahpeton Community College P.O. Box 689 Sisseton, SD 57262 605/698-3966 fax: 605/698-3132 e-mail: elden@daknet.com	1979	Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribal Council

Tribal Colleges in the United States and Canada

Name/Location	Established	Chartering Tribe(s)
Sitting Bull College HC1, Box 4 Fort Yates, ND 58338 701/854-3861 fax: 701/854-3403 email: rsmcneil@aol.com	1973	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

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Name/Location	Established	Chartering Tribe(s)
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute P.O. Box 10146-9169 Coors Road, NW Albuquerque, NM 87184 505/897-5347 fax: 505/897-5343 email: ce@native.sipi.bia.edu	1971	Federally Chartered
Stone Child College Rocky Boy Rt. Box 1082 Box Elder, MT 59521 406/395-4313 fax: 406/395-4836 email: steve@sccrockyboy.org	1984	Chippewa Cree Business Committee
Turtle Mountain Community College P.O. Box 340 Belcourt, ND 58316 701/477-5605 fax: 701/477-5028 email: cartym@aol.com	1972	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
United Tribes Technical College 3315 University Drive Bismarck, ND 58504 701-255-3285 fax 701-530-0605 email: dmgipp@aol.com	1969	North Dakota Development Corp (representing four tribes)
White Earth Tribal and Community College 202 Main Street South P.O. Box 478 Mahnomon, MN 56557 218/935-0417 fax: 218/935-0423	1997	White Earth Reservation Tribal Council