

1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges & Universities EQUITY

Background

The Tribal Colleges and Universities' (TCU) Land-grant Equity program focuses on the development of culturally grounded students and faculty by creating a dynamic and engaging learning environment. The program's goal is to prepare students for agricultural and related careers in the private sector, Tribal and non-Tribal governments, and academia/research. The TCU Equity program teaching applications must demonstrably incorporate a Tribal leadership development component to equip students with technical and leadership abilities upon graduation.

Protecting the Environment

Salish Kootenai College's (Montana) "Growing A New Generation of Stewardship for Tribal Natural Resources" program builds current and future Native lands resource managers and also provides a strong educational base for Tribal College graduates in managing federal, state, municipal, and private natural resources. The program aims to perpetuate Native culture and build the capacity of the Tribal workforce via three approaches: Recruitment and Career Pathways; Curriculum Access and Enhancement; and Technology and Experiential Learning. Graduating students will demonstrate the strong leadership, communication, technical, and social (including cultural) skills needed to conduct research and manage natural resources in systems that are becoming more complex and more vulnerable. Today's students--future land managers--will stabilize or improve the stewardship of natural resources because of management informed by multidisciplinary education and research.

Building Student Success

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University's (Wisconsin) Equity Program supports student success with traditional ecological knowledge and field-based education in the sciences. The goals of the program are to develop a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and develop traditional ecological knowledge and agriculture based educational programming to increase involvement with local K-12 school districts. The college's Sustainable Agriculture Research Station will aid in the course curriculum and provide field-based labs to allow students to experience and conduct research. Ultimately, successful students will graduate and pursue leadership, professional, and academic careers in the biological sciences.



Strengthening Food Sovereignty

United Tribes Technical College's (North Dakota) Equity program enhances and expands the college's Food Sovereignty Initiative by incorporating and securing additional resources for staff, faculty, and students and by directing a greater educational focus on Tribal Leadership skill development. Students learn about culturally significant food sovereignty practices and values and experience inter-generational opportunities that create lasting, real-life, and hands-on connections with food and community. Students create their own sense of leadership by participating in established forums on Tribal leadership, including the annual Tribal Leadership Summit and monthly Tribal board meetings. The program supports leadership development through experiential learning. After graduation, students can share their gained knowledge and experience back within their respective communities and Tribal Nations.

The Tribal College Equity Grant Program

Tribal College Equity grants fund formal learning at the 1994 Land-grant institutions. Faculty use the funding to develop and improve courses in agricultural sciences, enhance teaching skills, provide student stipends, and invest in new technology to reach more students in remote reservation communities. Some faculty have used Equity funding to help build laboratories and create new degree programs in tribally-relevant areas, such as forestry and natural resources management. In addition, Equity payments may be used to support student recruitment and retention. The programs focus on agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences. 1994 faculty strive to graduate students who can achieve their life goals in agricultural and science careers. Since several 1994 institutions are 2-year degree granting colleges, many students aspire to advanced degrees. Other students seek training to begin a technical career in agriculture. Still other students want to earn certifications to improve their daily lives. The overarching goal of the 1994 Land-grant institutions is to use Equity payments to help graduate empowered students who can embrace their future with new skills and knowledge.

For more information on TCU Land-Grant research, contact John Phillips, jphillips@aihec.org.

TCU Equity Funding: 10 History of Annual Federal Appropriations

2013	\$ 3.1 million
2014	\$ 3.4 million
2015	\$ 3.4 million
2016	\$ 3.4 million
2017	\$ 3.4 million
2018	\$ 3.4 million
2019	\$ 3.4 million
2020	\$ 4.0 million
2021	\$ 4.5 million
2022	\$ 4.5 million
2022	\$ 5.0 million
2023	\$ 7.0 million



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