

1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges & Universities EXTENSION

Background

Tribal Colleges and Universities' (TCU) land-grant extension programs provide science-based and culturally-relevant community education to Tribal populations in areas such as diet, nutrition and health; the environment; economic and community development; and youth development. TCU extension programs provide remote Tribal communities a local and trusted connection to the wide range of extension services provided by the land-grant cooperative extension system. TCU extension programs provide the knowledge, tools and resources that help create jobs, reduce poverty, and increase prosperity in Tribal communities.

Protecting the Environment

Salish Kootenai College (Montana) Extension program is working to reduce the impact of invasive species on the reservation and surrounding regional landscapes through education that helps landowners restore land productivity by controlling and containing new invaders. Educational activities include native plant restoration and extension-led research implementing new technologies and practices. Increasing community science literacy helps land management, conservation and agricultural production. Tribal College students gain extension education and community research experience working with the Tribal community agricultural producers and regional research scientists addressing the effects of invasive species.

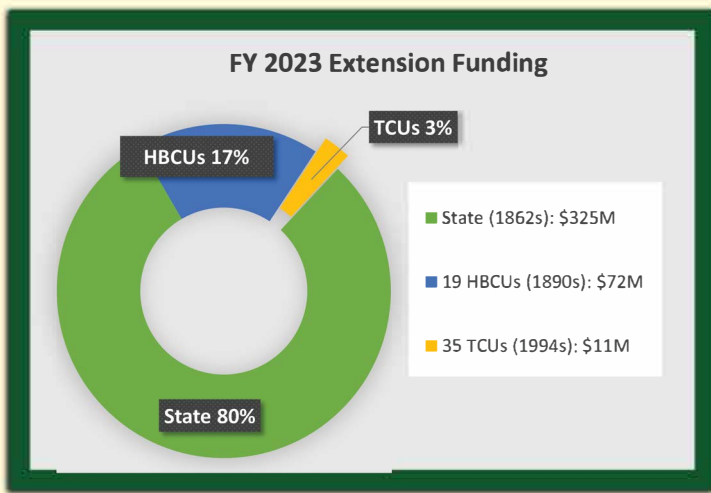
Increasing Economic Prosperity

The Northwest Indian College (NWIC) (Washington) Financial Literacy Program offers extension programming to Lummi Tribal members, Tribal middle and high school students, youth, families, regional and national partners. This program helps build financial and academic success in students, youth and families and promotes a college-going culture through curriculum grounded in Tribal values, summer bridge programs for students, and the training of Tribal school teachers. NWIC Extension increases the capacity of Tribal communities to provide financial literacy education programs and activities, thereby increasing household financial security, reducing poverty, and creating a more vibrant local economy.



Strengthening Food Sovereignty

Food Sovereignty is more than food security—it is about local communities restoring and controlling traditional tribal food pathways. Little Priest Tribal College Extension (LPTC) is developing culturally infused science-based programs in food sovereignty through experiential learning and demonstration gardens that increase community engagement in food initiatives in the Winnebago (Nebraska) community. LPTC Extension is creating culturally relevant extension programming for HoChunk youth that focuses on building leadership skills and increasing food, agriculture, natural resources, and health literacy. The college is developing partnerships with local school districts, youth programs, and Tribal leaders to connect classroom experiences with real world opportunities that will lead to increased interest in food sciences, agriculture, natural resources, and health promotion.



The Tribal College Extension Grant Program

The Tribal College Extension grant program allows 1994 Land-grant institutions to create extension programs for their reservation communities that target local needs. Funding from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture supports Tribal College Extension programs activities such as reservation youth participating in fun activities in a safe environment; farmers and ranchers gaining science-based insights to improve their productivity; and financial literacy training that enhances rural reservation economies. The 1994 Land-grant institutions also provide culture-centered family activities to restore Native languages, traditions, and agriculture practices, protect reservation forests, and monitor water quality. Projects may help Tribal ranchers learn about new bison health practices, build community gardens to promote the re-introduction of traditional foods, and establish 4-H chapters for Tribal youth. In addition, grants emphasize supporting and enriching local communities.

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

