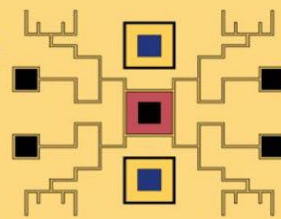




# Aaniiih Nakoda College



## AANIIH NAKODA COLLEGE: Priorities for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress (February 2025)

Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) provide rigorous postsecondary education and research opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIANs) and other rural community residents. TCUs offer higher education that is uniquely Tribal, founded on Native languages, culture, and philosophy with strong student support systems and community engagement. Through these educational opportunities, research, and industry partnerships for high-demand careers, TCUs are laying the foundation for sustainable economic development within Tribal Nations and beyond. Together, we build *Strong Sovereign Nations through Excellence in TRIBAL higher education*, empowering individuals and strengthening communities.

### AANIIH NAKODA COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

- **Enrollment Trends (Spring 2024/Fall 2024):** 133/115
- **Affordable Tuition:** 12-17 credits \$1540.00
- **Student to Faculty Ratio:** 1/10
- **Part-time/Full-time:** SP24-FT 83 PT 50
- **Persistence Rate:** 80%
- **Highest Level of Degree/Program Available:** Bachelor of Science
- **TRIO Program:** Yes
- **Fun Fact:** ANC is one of the first to begin an American Indian Language Immersion School teaching students from grades 1-8.



Aaniiih Nakoda College (ANC) provides students with free snacks and lunches, a food bank, and complimentary mental health counseling. We also offer free professional clothing for students and in-person peer tutoring. Through Project Success and the American Indian College Fund, we provide emergency aid assistance, paid internship opportunities, and other paid internships via various grants.



### AANIIH NAKODA COLLEGE: Strengthening Our Workforce

TCUs prepare professionals in high-demand fields, including agriculture and natural resources management, health, information technology, and building trades. By teaching the job skills most in demand within our communities, TCUs are laying a strong foundation for Tribal and regional economic growth.

ANC's "Grow Our Own" Nursing Education Program has significantly impacted the local nursing workforce since its inception in 2016. Since then, five cohorts of nursing students have graduated from the program with an Associate of Science in Nursing. Of these graduates, 94 percent have successfully passed the national licensure exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), and all graduates who passed the NCLEX have secured employment as RNs. Notably, 87 percent of program graduates accepted their first nursing job at a local healthcare facility serving Montana's remote Hi-Line region.



In addition to offering graduates excellent opportunities for employment in high-skill, high-demand roles, ANC's "Grow Our Own" Nursing Education Program is addressing the region's critical shortage of RNs while providing residents with culturally safe, high-quality healthcare.



### AANIIH NAKODA COLLEGE: Driving Economic Development

In 2015, AIHEC conducted an economic impact study to analyze the importance of TCUs in the regional and national economy. TCUs act as a catalyst for economic growth locally and regionally by enhancing educational opportunities, research, and leadership skills for Tribal and other rural students.

Full participation in today's information economy requires sufficient broadband access and a trained information technology workforce, both of which pose challenges for rural areas like the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and the surrounding Hi-Line region of northcentral Montana. While Tribal, state, and federal governments are actively addressing critical broadband infrastructure issues, ANC is focused on meeting the area's workforce needs for qualified computer and information technology professionals.

Over the past seven years, 30 students have graduated from the college's Associate in Science (A.S.) degree program in Computer Information Systems (CIS), and among those graduates, 60 percent are currently employed in the field, while another 20 percent are continuing their education at the baccalaureate level. ANC intends to build on the historical success of its CIS A.S. degree program by introducing a new CIS Bachelor of Science degree program within the next three years.

TOTAL ALUMNI IMPACT	
<b>\$2.3 BILLION</b>	<b>ADDED INCOME</b>
<b>28,778</b>	<b>JOBS</b>
Job equivalents indicate jobs created by TCUs, both full- and part-time. They are based on industry-specific jobs to sales ratios. The \$2.3 billion alumni impact supports 28,778 jobs nationwide. (EMSI & AIHEC, 2015)	



### AANIIH NAKODA COLLEGE: Building Our Futures

TCUs are resilient, resourceful, and proud to lead the nation in many areas, including preparing an American Indian and Alaska Native workforce of engineers, nurses, land managers, technicians, and teachers. Always looking to the future, TCUs are focused on building new partnerships, advancing educational excellence, and creating economic opportunities for Tribal and regional communities.

Fort Belknap and various communities along Montana's Hi-Line are experiencing significant shortages of both truck and school bus drivers, which poses a serious challenge to local transportation and logistics. In response to this pressing issue, the Fort Belknap Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO), in coordination with the Montana Department of Transportation, is collaborating with ANC to launch a comprehensive Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training program.

This initiative aims to provide local residents with the essential skills, knowledge, and credentials needed to secure employment in these vital roles. By addressing the workforce shortages, the program intends not only to enhance local job opportunities but also to improve the overall mobility and connectivity of the region, ensuring that residents have reliable access to essential services and employment.