



CANKDESKA CIKANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE Priorities for the 119th 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.

Cankdeska Cikana Community College: AT A GLANCE

- Chartered by the Spirit Lake Tribe in 1974; accredited by the Higher Learning Commission
- Public, non-profit institution offering 8 associate degrees and 4 certificates
- 123 employees including 22 faculty, 57 Head Start staff
- Enrollment trends: Spring 2024 (280) and Fall 2024 (239) enrollment decreased following record enrollments during the three years prior.
- 5-year averages (2019 – 2024) have remained fairly steady at 55% Part-Time, and 45% Full-Time with an average non-Native student population of 15%, 6% high school/dual-enrollment, and a Student to Faculty ratio of approximately 13 students per faculty member (2023 – 2024)
- Accessible and very affordable tuition at \$150/credit hour
- Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 Persistence Rate increased slightly from 59% to 61%
- Fun Fact: CCCC has experienced record numbers of graduates over a 3-year period (2021 – 2022 through 2023 - 2024)



Critical student support services offered at Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC) are numerous and diverse, including professional tutoring tailored to specific course offerings, hybrid classes in the evenings to accommodate the high percentage of students who work full-time and have families, flexible class schedules, transfer and career services, internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing, transportation assistance, and laptops available for all students. An Angel Fund and Emergency Fund are also available to help with funding for larger emergencies, such as rent, internet and other utilities, appliance breakdowns, or car repairs.

Cankdeska Cikana Community College: Strengthening Our Workforce

CCCC College's carpentry program prepares students for entry-level carpentry positions by offering hands-on learning experiences, including building and selling a home each year. Students learn cabinetry construction with the CNC machine, blueprint reading, construction math, and how to use both hand and power tools.

In the fall of 2022, the carpentry program and administration developed a plan to build tiny homes and provide them to students to help alleviate housing shortages on the reservation. Students were selected through an application process based on their needs, family size, and Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

The first tiny home was completed in December 2024. This home is 900 square feet and includes two bedrooms, one full bath, and all necessary appliances. It costs approximately \$80,000 to build and is energy-efficient, featuring a four-foot crawl space and a slab on grade. The project's unique aspect is that the carpentry program previously built and sold homes and other small projects, such as sheds and dog houses, to fund future initiatives. However, for this project, the funds raised by the carpentry students were used to build homes for students while they received real-world, hands-on education and gave back to the community. The second tiny home is set for completion in the fall of 2025.





Cankdeska Cikana Community College: Driving Economic Development

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.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, CCCC added **\$12.9 million** in income to the CCCC Service Area economy, a value approximately equal to **1.4%** of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, CCCC's impact supported **213 jobs**. For perspective, the activities of CCCC and its students support **one out of every 53 jobs** in the CCCC Service Area.

Over the years, students have studied at CCCC and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly acquired knowledge and skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in the CCCC Service Area. The net impact of CCCC alumni currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to \$5.7 million in additional income in FY 2022-23.



Cankdeska Cikana Community College: Building Our Futures

Serving a rural, Tribal community presents many challenges, yet CCCC students and staff demonstrate resilience, fortitude, and perseverance in building and promoting educational excellence. The Social Work and Early Childhood Education programs aim to address the significant need for social workers and early childhood educators in the surrounding areas. Graduates from both programs are immediately employable in support groups, victim services, SAFE, homeless coalitions, Indian Child Welfare, case management, Social Services, nursing homes, hospice, family advocacy, as well as teaching roles from birth through grade three, including Head Start, daycares, and kindergartens. Most (over 90%) work within the community and state.

CCCC is developing an Allied Health certificate for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and Qualified Service Providers (QSPs). These certificates will address a critical need, as over 450 CNA positions are currently open throughout the state. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, CNA employment is projected to grow by 21 percent due to the increasing elderly population.

Another developing certificate is Advanced Manufacturing with 3D printing. This certificate allows CCCC to create prototypes in its state-of-the-art laboratory, increasing productivity and enabling continuous development of new products to respond to the needs of the medical field, NASA, and engineering.

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