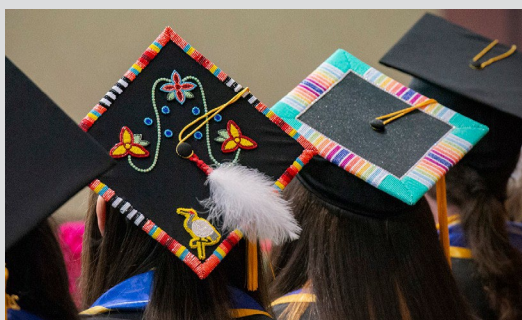




LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE: PRIORITIES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS (February 2024)

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.



LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE AT A GLANCE:

- Enrollment Trends: SP24: 232 FA24: 219
- Affordable Tuition: \$162/credit
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 16 to 1 (309/19 ft faculty)
- Full-time Students: 118 Part-time students:101
- Persistence Rate: 38%
- Highest Level of Degree: Associate degree – 2-year degree
- TRIO Program: NO
- Fun Fact: In 2025 Leech Lake Tribal College will proudly celebrate our 35th anniversary.

LLTC CRITICAL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Leech Lake Tribal College (LLTC) provides a range of unique support programs tailored to meet the needs of TCU students. These offerings include the Winter Bridge Program, Summer Bridge Program, food pantry, food vouchers, gas vouchers, emergency aid, mental health support, and the First Year Experience Course, aimed at facilitating a smooth transition into college life. The Emergency Aid fund ensures financial assistance for students facing unexpected challenges. LLTC demonstrates a comprehensive commitment to its students' holistic development and well-being, incorporating cultural and spiritual elements into its support services.



LLTC 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.

LLTC collaborates with partners like the Chippewa National Forest, Leech Lake (LL) Division of Resource Management, LL Tribal Police Department, LL Early Childhood Education, and other Tribal divisions to enhance educational opportunities and community development.

Through these programs and partnerships, LLTC plays a vital role in preparing students for the local workforce, fostering economic growth, and supporting community development.





LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE: DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOTAL ALUMNI IMPACT	
\$2.3 BILLION	ADDED INCOME
28,778	JOBS
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)	

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.

LLTC offers robust programs to equip students with skills tailored to local workforce needs. Programs include Business Management, Law Enforcement, IS Information Technology, IS Forestry, IS Human Health, Early Childhood Education, Integrated Residential Builder, and Electrical Technician.

LLTC collaborates with regional industries to ensure curricula align with current job market demands. Notably, the College has secured a \$9 million partnership with Fond du Lac College to promote STEM and agricultural careers, fostering a sustainable education system that benefits students and the community.

The success of LLTC’s approach is evident:

- 57% of 2024 graduates plan to continue their education in their chosen career fields or transfer to four-year universities, with many opting for Bemidji State University.
- 32% of 2025 graduates intend to enter the direct workforce, contributing to the local economy.
- Approximately 30% of current LLTC employees are alumni, reflecting the college’s role in developing qualified professionals who remain engaged with the institution and community.

LLTC’s commitment to education and community development injects about \$6 million annually into the local economy, underscoring its significant impact on regional growth and sustainability. LLTC ensures that the Leech Lake Nation thrives today and for future generations by strengthening the connection between education and economic development.

LEECH LAKE TRIBAL 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.

LLTC is committed to addressing the pressing community needs for skilled trades and workforce development. In the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe community, there is a growing demand for professionals in construction, renewable energy,

healthcare, and natural resource management. LLTC’s existing programs already serve as vital pathways to meet these needs by equipping students with hands-on skills and certifications.

To further support workforce development, LLTC programs could include sustainable construction and renewable energy technologies to support workforce development further. These programs would directly support community housing initiatives, energy independence, and environmental stewardship. Additionally, establishing specialized healthcare certifications, such as community health workers or social services, could address critical healthcare shortages while promoting regional wellness.

LLTC could foster new partnerships with local industries, Tribal departments, and regional businesses to align training programs with workforce needs. This would create a seamless pipeline from school to employment. By investing in these areas, LLTC will prepare skilled workers and drive economic development and self-sufficiency for Tribal communities, ensuring long-term prosperity for the Leech Lake Nation.

