



AMERICAN INDIAN
HIGHER EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM



NUETA HIDATSA SAHNISH
NHSC COLLEGE

Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College Priorities for the 119th Congress

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.



Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College At A Glance

Student to Faculty Ratio: 5.8:1

80 Full-Time & 157 Part-Time Students

68.3% Retention Rate

Highest level of degree/program available:

Bachelor's Degree - No TRIO Program

Only TCU with a Bachelor's Degree in Native
American Studies

At Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College, several critical student support services are provided to address the unique needs of our students, promoting their academic success, overall well-being, and campus experience. Here are some of the services we offer:

1. **NHSC Food Pantry:** The NHSC Food Pantry helps students in need by offering free access to non-perishable food items and essentials. This service aims to reduce food insecurity and ensure students can focus on their studies without worrying about where their next meal will come from.
2. **Counseling Services:** The NHSC Counseling Department provides counseling, lunch and learns, resources, and referrals to help students manage stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges.
3. **Emergency Aid Program:** NHSC's Emergency Aid program provides students with an opportunity to access a variety of services through our EA program. This program provides unique funding opportunities for transportation, food, car repairs, certain medical expenses, and housing needs.

These services among others, are integral to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for our tribal college, ensuring that students have the resources they need to succeed both academically and personally.

Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish 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.



Truck drivers play a critical role in meeting our supply demands, and NHSC is located in the heart of the North Dakota oil industry, which leads to an increased demand for Commercial drivers. NHSC's CDL program focuses on direct industry training which provides employers with a steady supply of qualified drivers.

In addition to the training, NHSC has recently become a registered apprenticeship for CDL drivers and signed agreements with two local tribally owned trucking companies. NHSC's CDL program focuses on direct industry training, which provides employers with a steady supply of qualified drivers



In the summer of 2024, two young ladies started the CDL program. Neither of these students had ever been in any vehicle larger than a pickup. They were nervous and unsure, but they stuck it out and each passed the Department of Transportation CDL driving test and obtained their Commercial Drivers License. Jenelee Silk worked at a convenience store in the evenings while she was taking the class and Chandra Yankton worked nights at the casino. The day after obtaining their CDL they applied to a locally owned trucking company and were hired. Today, with the long hours they work each of them is earning approximately \$80,000 a year. It was obvious from the beginning that these students were committed and hard-working and that work is truly paying off for them.

Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College

Driving Economic Development

In November 2024, 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.

NHSC promotes economic growth on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation through its direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of students and regional businesses. The college serves as an employer and buyer of goods and services for its day to day construction operations. In addition, NHSC is one of the primary sources of higher education to the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation residents and supplier of trained workers to regional industries, enhancing overall productivity in the regional workforce. For example, the Associates and Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration is desired to fill the various administrative positions. The average associate degree graduate from NHSC will see earnings of \$11,500 each year compared to a person with a High School Diploma or equivalent. This increases the student's quality of life and lessens their need for assistance.

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.



NHSC currently does not have any building trades and on the MHA Nation, there has been a lot of building of new facilities. Most important to the MHA community is the concern for maintaining these new buildings. Various tribal organizations have asked about the possibility of creating training programs that would instruct individuals on the basic maintenance of buildings. The thought has been to create a new program for Facility Maintenance that would teach students how to do things like fix a light switch, replace a toilet or faucet, strip and wax floors, all of the basics to maintain a large or small facility. The difficulty is that at this time NHSC lacks the funding and space to create such a program. This program would benefit many of the tribal organizations including the NHSC campus itself in terms of the upkeep and maintenance of their facilities. This Facility Maintenance program could be a certificate that would take one or two semesters which would allow a steady flow of employees into the workforce.