

Disrupting TCU Funding Harms Local Economies



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The recent executive orders and subsequent Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memos raise concerns about the continuity of critical federal funding and programs that Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) rely on to provide economic development, education, and student services. TCUs are critical in workforce development and economic revitalization, benefiting entire states. TCUs receive 74% of their total revenue from federal funding, meaning TCUs would shut down if broad freezes persist. **Maintaining federal support is essential to sustaining a strong workforce and ensuring a high-quality educational experience for students.**

Every TCU Would Face

Reduction in employment. TCUs generate more than 30,000 jobs across their local and regional economies. Most of these positions are directly supported by federal funding. An extended pause or freeze in funding would threaten faculty and staff positions both on and off campus.

Elimination of programs. Most Tribal Colleges operate with just one full-time faculty member per department, leading to course reductions, program closures, reduction in available student services, and closure of essential community services.

Hinder research and agriculture innovation.

Students, particularly in STEM fields, would lose valuable hands-on research experiences, affecting their academic and career development. Additionally, TCU research programs studying lands, local agriculture, waters, and wildlife would immediately cease.

Additional loss in revenue. A reduction in programs and services would lead to decline in student enrollment and retention. This additional loss of revenue would force the majority of TCUs to close their doors in 6 months or less.

South Dakota Specifically Noted

- **Immediate Impact:** Program suspensions, reduction in student services, and a potential shutdown of certain TCUs.
- **Financial Consequences:** Heavy reliance on federal funds means any freeze would force closures and cutbacks.
- **Impact on Students:** Students would lose critical support systems, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds. Students won't be able to afford tuition, which will cause spikes in dropouts.
- **Impact on Faculty/Staff:** Layoffs and program discontinuations would negatively impact faculty retention, pay, and motivation.
- **Impact on Research:** Research funding would be halted, affecting ongoing projects and faculty-student research experiences.





SOUTH DAKOTA – TCU PROFILES

	<i>Student to Faculty Ratio</i>	<i>Highest Level of Degree</i>	<i>Persistence Rate</i>	<i>Tuition</i>
Oglala Lakota College	22:1	Masters	70.5%	\$84/credit
Sinte Gleska University	8:1	Masters	49%	UG:\$175/credit GR:\$200/credit
Sisseton Wahpeton College	7:1	Bachelors	-	\$3,360/year
Sitting Bull College	9:1	Masters	70%	UG:\$1,800/year GR:\$350/credit

ABOUT TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Tribal Colleges and Universities are chartered by their respective Tribal governments, including the ten Tribes within the largest reservations in the United States. The 34 accredited TCUs operate more than 90 campuses and sites in 16 states – covering most of Indian Country – and serve students from more than 250 federally recognized Indian Tribes. TCUs vary in enrollment, focus, location, and student population. They all share the mission of Tribal self-determination and service to their respective communities.

