



## Sitting Bull 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.

### Sitting Bull College: AT A GLANCE

- Enrollment Trends: Spring 2024 - 267/Fall 2024 - 310
- Affordable Tuition: \$1,800 full-time 12-18 credits, \$350 graduate credit
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 9 to 1
- Part-time/Full-time: 76% full-time/24% part-time fall 2024
- Persistence Rate: 70%
- Highest Level of degree/program available: Master's
- TRIO Program: No
- Fun Fact: Sitting Bull College received two electric vehicles in 2024, a van used by the public transit program and a truck used by campus security.



**Sitting Bull College (SBC)** offers a range of essential student support services tailored to meet our students' needs: Language Immersion/Childcare Center, food pantry, transportation (bus/vouchers), clothing exchange, mental health/counseling, free coffee and meals, online and face-to-face tutoring, emergency aid assistance, paid internships, and cultural activities.



### Sitting Bull 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.

SBC offers various career and technical education (CTE) programs, including building trades, electrical, and welding certificates. These certificate programs collaborate with the local high school by sharing instructors. College instructors teach junior high school students for two hours each day. After completing their junior year, students can enroll as dual-enrolled students in the certificate programs.

Other successful programs include an online Associate of Science in Practical Nursing and Information Technology/Cybersecurity. The online nursing program is one of the largest programs at the college and is helping to address the critical shortage of healthcare workers for reservations. The Information Technology program has launched an e-sports initiative and is competing at the collegiate level.



## 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)

### Sitting Bull 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.

SBC contributes economic value to the Standing Rock Reservation as an employer of local residents and a significant buyer of goods and services. In FY 2022-23, the college employed 110 full-time and part-time faculty and staff, with 58% residing on the Standing Rock Reservation. The total payroll at SBC was \$7.2 million, a substantial portion of which was spent locally on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining, and other household expenses. Additionally, the college allocated \$5.3 million for expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services. SBC's operational spending generated \$7.6 million in income for the region during the analysis year. This amount reflects the college's payroll, the multiplier effects of local spending by the college and its employees, and an adjustment accounting for funding received from regional sources. The \$7.6 million in added income supports the equivalent of 112 jobs in the region.



### Sitting Bull 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.

Internships and hands-on instruction are a significant part of the curriculum at SBC. For example, students in the veterinary assistant certificate program complete their internships at local veterinary clinics that serve the reservation. The program is designed to prepare students as assistants to veterinarians and/or veterinary technicians. Graduates will leave the program equipped with competencies in veterinary ethics and professionalism, animal anatomy and physiology, terminology, animal care activities, and the use of technology and equipment.

The building trades and electrical certificate programs collaborate with the college, enabling students to build one house per year, which is then rented by college employees. This additional housing has helped address the housing shortage and has been used as a recruitment tool for hiring qualified faculty and staff.