



## Saginaw Chippewa Tribal 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.

### Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College: AT A GLANCE

- Enrollment Trends (Spring 2024/Fall 2024): 38% increase
- Affordable Tuition: \$60/per credit hour
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 6:1
- Part-time/Full-time: 79% PT | 21% FT
- Persistence Rate: 69.6% (Sp24 to Fa24)
- Highest Level of Degree Available: Associate Degree
- TRIO Program: No
- Fun Fact: SCTC has not increased tuition since its inception!



Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College (SCTC) offers several services both academically and outside the classroom. The Student Services program provides support that is uniquely grounded in the Seven Grandfather Teachings and the philosophy that all students can succeed. Most students attending SCTC are non-traditional, attending part-time, and require holistic support to achieve their academic and career goals. SCTC would like to highlight programs such as success coaching, supplemental instruction, and the writing center as key supports that significantly impact successful course completion rates. The college also organizes lunch-and-learn sessions several times each semester. These sessions include lunch and a 30 to 60-minute workshop on topics such as self-care, environmental issues, traditional teachings, and student group presentations. Furthermore, the college offers non-perishable food supplies for students who need assistance feeding themselves or their families. These food items are donated by staff and fellow students.



### Saginaw Chippewa Tribal 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.

SCTC collaborates with Tribal employees to improve job performance and prepare workers for positions within the Tribe. The college is currently partnering with the Tribe's education department staff to help them earn degrees in education. Additionally, the college supports the Tribe's higher education leadership roles through on-the-job mentoring while they complete their post-secondary degrees. The college's leadership interns are also gaining experience and confidence as they advance in four programs.

Joe Fisher graduated with honors in Spring 2022 from SCTC with an Associate Degree in Native American Studies. While at SCTC, Joe was an Equity Intern and a Supplemental Instructor for math; he also participated in the SCIT Leadership Program. After graduating from SCTC, Joe transferred to Central Michigan University (CMU) and as part of a class interned at Migizi (SCIT Economic Development Corp.) Migizi was so impressed with Joe that he was hired as soon as he finished his class. Joe will graduate from CMU in Spring 2025.



## 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)

### Saginaw Chippewa Tribal 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.

SCTC is located on the Isabella Indian Reservation. The college is chartered by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan (SCIT). SCIT and its enterprises, including Migizi Economic Development Corp., are the largest employers in Isabella County. With an associate degree, SCTC students and graduates are considered for employment at SCIT in many entry-level positions. SCTC offers four associate programs. There have been 77 students who have graduated with a Business Associate, 126 with a Liberal Arts Associate, 56 with a Native American Studies Associate, and seven with a General Science degree. Many of these graduates are employed at all levels of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, even at the Tribal Council level.



### Saginaw Chippewa 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.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College has started conversations with the local school district vocational education program to discuss vocational programming for the Tribal College. The vocational program has experience partnering with other higher education institutions, and the prospects are very excited about the prospect of working with the Tribal College. "A sizable professional trades shortage exists in Michigan and is expected to continue through 2030. Professional trades will account for more than 520,000 jobs in the Michigan economy, and approximately 45,000 new job openings are expected annually in the state during that time." (<https://www.mitalent.org/skilled-trades>) Data shows that employers in Michigan are now seeking talent to fill these roles more than ever before.

With the skills developed through professional trade careers, an individual can earn an excellent salary and benefits sooner than imagined. Areas of discussion will include IT, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, construction and automotive. Any of the above programs will benefit the Tribal community.