



Turtle Mountain College: Priorities for the 119th 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 centered; founded on Native languages, culture and philosophy with strong student support systems and community engagement. Unfortunately, federal education completion metrics fail to consider the unique nature of TCUs and our students. Federal completion rates focus on first-time, full-time students. But success at TCUs is defined holistically and most students attend part-time or are transfer students. Our shared vision: Strong Sovereign Nations through Excellence in TRIBAL Higher Education.

Turtle Mountain College at a Glance

Enrollment Trends

673

Tuition and Fees

Undergraduate \$ 1,313.00

Graduate \$ 2,983.00

Student to Faculty Ratio

10 : 1

Persistence Retention Completion

59% | 28% - 40% | 65%

Highest Level of Degree Offered

Master of Education

TRIO Programs Offered

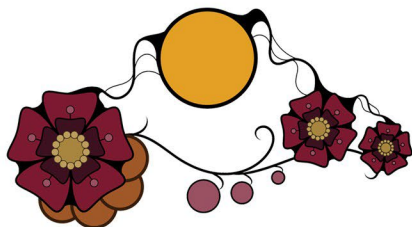
Yes

1994 Land-grant Institutions

The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act established the “1994 Land-grants” over 25 years ago. Since then, funding for the 1994 land-grant programs and resources has remained insufficient to meet the growing agricultural needs and opportunities in Indian communities Country.

How Turtle Mountain College Garners Community Building

Student life at Turtle Mountain College (TMC) focuses on community engagement and connection. Through various student-led chapters and professional development opportunities, students can meaningfully interact with the Turtle Mountain Community. This essence shines prominently when we consider the work of the Turtle Mountain STEM Infusion Project (TMSIP), which operates under a federal grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). During the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year, TMSIP revitalized the TMC American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), expanding its active student membership to over 55, making it the largest AISES college chapter currently in operation. The chapter has also earned the Chapter of the Year award for 2023-24, a prestigious national and international recognition. TMSIP provides a platform for Tribal members in STEAM fields or related areas to share their personal success stories and expose the audience to a variety of professions through bi-weekly learning lunches. Members of the TMC AISES Chapter demonstrated their community spirit by hosting a STEAM Christmas Carnival filled with various carnival games focused on STEAM. Over 900 elementary students attended the event, leaving with fun prizes, having visited a college, and interacting with friendly and enthusiastic TMC students. These transformative conversations and events create additional pathways for students and inspire their educational and professional development.





Turtle Mountain College: Strengthening our Workforce for the Turtle Mountain Region.

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.

The Commercial Driver program at TMC prepares students for professional driving careers through a comprehensive approach that combines knowledge-based learning with practical experience. The curriculum balances classroom instruction, hands-on lab work, simulations, and field training on streets and highways. Programs are regularly evaluated and updated to ensure they include realistic, career-focused content tailored to the students' prospective career paths. Experienced and knowledgeable instructors are committed to delivering high-quality education in a safe and well-maintained learning environment. The program prioritizes safety, professionalism, and a dedication to student success, striving to align graduates with career opportunities that best fit their needs and aspirations.

Turtle Mountain 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 Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (TMBC) community has been working to explore renewable energy. As a result, TMC has created a Solar Technician Certification program to promote healthy living and economic development while also addressing the infrastructural needs of the TMBC community and its surrounding communities.

As we venture into the field of renewable energy, we can tap into a new industry that promotes economic growth and development not only for the TMBC but also for the surrounding communities. This can be achieved by cultivating individuals who are capable of sustaining the workforce and meeting the infrastructural needs required for pursuing renewable energy.

