

# UTTC Highlight: Welding Technology Program

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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.

## United Triber Technical College facts:

- Enrollment Trends (Spring 2024/Fall 2024): Enrollment increased from 500 students in Spring 2024 to 576 in Fall 2024.
- Affordable Tuition: Tuition and fees have remained unchanged at \$1,800 per semester for full-time certificate/associate and \$3,120 per semester for full-time bachelor for the academic year of 2024-25.
- Student to Faculty Ratio: The student to faculty ratio for Fall 2024 is 12:1.
- Part-time/Full-time: Part-time undergraduate enrollment was 41, and full-time undergraduate enrollment was 535, for a total of 576 for Fall 2024.
- Persistence/Retention/Completion Rate: Persistence rates were at 70%, retention was at 49%, and graduation rates were tracked at 6 years, which is 25%.
- **Highest Level of Degree/Program Available:** Five bachelor's degrees are offered in Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Elementary Education, Fisheries and Wildlife Biology, and Environmental Science and Research.
- Fun Fact: UTTC was established and is governed by the five tribal nations that are located entirely or partially in North Dakota, aiming to meet the workforce needs of their communities.

TTC College is an urban residential campus that provides family housing, dormitories, childcare, elementary school, transportation, food pantry, and student health and wellness for the 95% Native American, 65% first-generation, and 80% low-income student enrollment.

## UTTC: Welding Technology Program







t United Tribes Technical College (UTTC), we proudly offer a specialized Career and Technical Education (CTE) program in Welding Technology. Our commitment to community-focused education ensures our graduates are well-prepared to contribute to Tribal and regional economic growth.

## Welding Technology Program

ur Welding Technology program offers students the opportunity to learn various welding techniques and applications. With a focus on safety and precision, students are trained to meet industry standards. The program covers essential skills such as:

**MIG Welding:** Metal Inert Gas welding, known for its versatility and speed.

**Stick Welding:** Shielded Metal Arc Welding, ideal for outdoor and heavy-duty applications.

**SAW (Submerged Arc Welding):** Used for high-quality, large-scale welding projects.

Students gain practical experience through hands-on training and projects that simulate real-world scenarios. We partner with local manufacturing and construction companies to provide internships and job placement opportunities, ensuring our graduates are ready to enter the workforce.

## Industry Partnerships

e have strong partnerships with various industries to enhance

our students' learning experiences and job prospects. These partnerships include:

**OSHA 10:** Providing essential safety training ensures students are well-versed in workplace safety standards.

**JB Industrial:** Collaborating with our Welding Technology program to provide practical training and job opportunities.

Manufacturing and Construction Companies: Collaborating to offer hands-on training and job placements.

## Support and Assistance

orkforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): UTTC participates in WIOA programs to provide additional support and assistance to our students. WIOA helps fund education and training, career counseling, and job placement services, ensuring our students have the resources they need to succeed.

### Career Services

Job Placement Assistance: Assisting students in discovering job opportunities related to their field of study.

Resume and Interview Workshops: Preparing students for the job market with practical skills and tips.

Networking Events: Connecting students with potential employers and industry professionals.

These pathways ensure that UTTC students are well-prepared to enter the workforce and succeed in their chosen careers. UTTC provides a solid foundation for students to build their professional futures by focusing on practical skills, industry certifications, and strong partnerships.

## Student Success Story

Molina Bruguier: Molina, a 28-year-old welder from the Yankton Sioux Reservation, has found her calling at Marmen Energy in Brandon, SD. She plays a crucial role in building wind turbine towers as a welder assembler. Her journey of overcoming gender stereotypes and becoming a skilled professional is a testament to her determination and the support she received from UTTC. Molina's story inspires many, showcasing the power of perseverance and community support.

At UTTC, we provide our students with the education and opportunities they need to succeed in their chosen careers and positively impact our community.









## **Driving Economic Development**

TTC offers certificate, associate, and bachelor degree programs that prepare students for high-demand and high-wage careers. Each semester, students represent over 40 tribal nations across the country. UTTC is a catalyst for economic growth locally and regionally by offering educational opportunities, research, and leadership skills for Tribal and other rural students.

AIHEC conducted an economic impact study in 2015 to analyze the importance of TCUs in the regional and national economy. UTTC is governed by the five Tribal nations in North Dakota and contributes significantly to the local and state economies.

In FY 2022-23, UTTC added \$39.9 million in income to the Bismarck/Mandan regional economy, a value approximately equal to 0.4% of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, UTTC's impact supported 537 jobs. North Dakota taxpayers gained \$9.1 million in added tax revenue and public sector savings in return for investments in UTTC.



## Building Our futures

nited Tribes Technical College is transforming workforce development through culturally responsive programs targeting critical emerging fields like cybersecurity, computer science, engineering, research, and special education. By integrating technical skills with cultural knowledge, UTTC will cultivate a new generation of leaders and professionals prepared to drive meaningful change and create economic opportunities for their communities in the 21st century.

