

CANKDESKA CIKANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (CCCC) Priorities for the 118th Congress (February 2024)

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; this is family oriented sovereignty. Unfortunately, federal education completion metrics fail to consider the unique nature of students served at TCUs. Federal completion rates focus on first-time, full-time students. Success at TCUs is defined holistically, because most students attend part-time, are transfer students, or single parents who live in poverty. Our shared vision is ***Strong Sovereign Nations Through Excellence in TRIBAL Higher Education***.

CCCC FACTS

- Chartered by the Spirit Lake Tribe in 1974
- Public, non-profit institution
- Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission
- 8 associate degrees and 6 certifications offered
- 120 employees including 24 faculty, 50 Head Start staff
- Fall 2023 enrollment (325) has more than doubled since Fall 2019 – includes high school dual/college credit students
- 14% is the average non-Native student enrollment (2019-2023)
- Accessible and very affordable tuition at \$150/credit hour
- Tuition/Fees/Books covered using COVID relief funding (spring 2020 – spring 2024) for students meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Ten students per faculty member
- Fall 2023: 56% part-time students; 44% full-time students
- Fall 2022 to Spring 2023 Persistence Rate was 59%
- CCCC does not have TRIO programming



Elia Paulson
CCCC Student Senate President

"Attending CCCC has allowed me to experience more of my Dakota culture and language from our Elders, as well as, new opportunities to learn from other Tribal college students. Tribal Colleges and Universities are important because you are able to learn more about your culture and language while receiving a personalized, quality education."



Aisha IronHawk
CCCC Student Senate Secretary

"As a student at CCCC, the support I receive from the staff and faculty has allowed me to truly go after whatever my heart desires. Tribal Colleges and Universities are important because the educational opportunities and support they provide to their students are unsurpassed."

1994 Land-Grant Programs

We planted the seeds, and our community blossomed! Fueled by generous grants from USDA NIFA, Food Safety Outreach Program, Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education, the Native American Agriculture Fund, and others, the CCCC Land Grant Extension program sprouted a harvest of community connections in 2023.

Our bustling Farmers Market reached its peak, drawing a record 150 visitors per market. It was a joy to witness the vibrant exchange of local bounty and entrepreneurial spirit! We tilled the soil of local gardens, visiting over 60 homes and pouring nearly \$20,000 of services into our community. The Community Garden bloomed with 20 thriving plots, and we shared the joy of growing with 150 seed packs bursting with diverse vegetable seeds and seedlings.

We believe nurturing goes beyond just filling plates. Over 250 participants dug into our workshops on cooking, nutrition, community building, and even stress-busting crafts. And our 4-H program burst from 5 to 20 regular attendees, learning about STEM.

These successes aren't just our own; they're a testament to the power of partnerships and collaboration. With each community event, workshop, tilled bed, and gifted seed packs, we feel privileged to be part of a community that truly values growth, both literal and metaphorical. We're still learning, still growing, but seeing the seeds we sow blossom into vibrant connections fuels our commitment to keep cultivating a brighter future for everyone.





CCCC Supports AIHEC's REQUEST: \$40 million TCU Internet Technology (IT) Service Fund USDA – Rural Utility Service

The ongoing pandemic has exacerbated the digital divide and underscored the lack of broadband access across Indian Country. To address these deficiencies, Congress must act to establish a *permanent TCU IT Service Fund within the USDA-Rural Utilities Service Program*. TCUs, which are 1994 land-grant institutions served by USDA, need approximately \$40 million set-aside annually to cover rapidly increasing network, connectivity, and equipment costs; maintenance, infrastructure expansion; and IT professional development.

CCCC IT upgrades between Spring 2023 to December 2023

External bandwidth was increased from the 100 Mbps link to 1,000 Mbps. The monthly internet expense fell from \$2,010 for 100 Mbps to \$1,150 for a 1,000 Mbps.

- Provided 275 laptops to students at over \$185,000
- Upgraded 20 laptops to faculty/staff for at over \$35,000
- Upgraded 45 computer in student computer labs at over \$30,000
- Upgrading the internal main campus system continued to a 100Gbps backbone with 40 Gbps to each client



CCCC Supports AIHEC's REQUEST: \$3.2 billion TCU Construction Fund DOI – Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)

A July 2021 AIHEC survey of the 35 TCUs revealed many chronic unmet facilities and infrastructure needs, including lack of student and faculty housing, inadequate classroom space, insufficient libraries, and outdated laboratories.

- TCU deferred maintenance/rehabilitation: \$400 million (total)
- TCU completion of master plans: \$2.7 billion (total)
- TCU operation and maintenance: \$20 million (annual, recurring need)

AIHEC strongly urges Congress to fund dedicated TCU facilities programs through DOI-BIE to modernize existing facilities and build sustainable, 21st century campuses.

CCCC's Needs List

Professional staff development (5 FTEs)	\$500,000
(records management/archivist, curator/historian, librarian, IT security, development)	
VMM Library acquisitions, tech upgrades, 1 FTE	\$100,000
Evelyn Green Learning Center (GED) services, tech upgrades, 1 FTE	\$100,000
Campus safety improvements (curbing, sidewalks, parking lots)	\$500,000
CCCC Head Start Facility (tech/security upgrades)	\$100,000
Equipment/vehicles (student van, tractor, snow removal equipment)	\$300,000
Construction or renovations	\$6,000,000
CDL classroom/lab/parking lot	\$2 million
Library entrance improvement, expansion	\$2 million
Carpentry Lab (to build/move tiny homes)	\$2 million
Total Need for CCCC	\$7,600,000

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