



## Bay Mills Community College: Priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

### BAY MILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE: AT A GLANCE

- Enrollment Trends (Spring 2023/Fall 2023): Fall 2022: 468; Spring 2023: 482; Fall 2023: 577; Spring 2024: 651
- Affordable Tuition: \$95 per credit hour for 100-200 level courses and \$285 for 300-400 level courses
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 8:1 (IPEDS, Fall 2022)
- Part-time/Full-time: 355 part-time; 222 full-time (Fall 2023)
- Persistence Rate: 80% (Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 – preliminary rate before census)
- Highest level of degree/program available: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems. Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education



At Bay Mills Community College, many services are offered to support our diverse array of students. On campus, there is a Campus Cares Cupboard with fresh and non-perishable food items for students to access at any time. Students also utilize our Laptop Lending Program where they can check out a laptop for the semester for educational use. This year, an AIHEC club has been developed, along with a class, so students can have dedicated time to study for the competitions held in March.



### Bay Mills Community College: 1994 Land-Grant Programs

1994 Land-grant Institutions: The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act created the “1994 Land-grants” more than 25 years ago. Since then, funding for the 1994 Land-grant programs and resources have remained inadequate to address the growing agricultural needs and opportunities in Indian Country.

The Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) Land Grant Department operates its Waishkey Bay Farm (WBF) with support from NIFA’s 1994 research, extension, and equity funding. Waishkey Bay Farm is a 280-acre farm being developed as a teaching, research, and incubator facility focusing on sustainable agriculture and food production that is consistent with traditional Anishinaabek values. The pasture-based beef program at WBF recently supplied USDA-inspected beef products to the local Tribal-owned grocery store for the first time. This marked an important milestone in WBF’s efforts in support of Tribal food sovereignty and the local food system. BMCC is also very proud of its leadership role in the development of the Michigan Inter-Tribal Land Grant Extension System (MILES), supported in-part through NIFA’s Tribal College Extension Program. MILES reflects the commitment of the four state land-grant institutions (1862 and 1994s) to the success of each other, the Tribal Nations and citizens, and the entire State of Michigan.



**REQUEST: \$40 million TCU 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 that could leave Indian Country – and AIAN students – behind the rest of the U.S. for generations, Congress must act to establish a *permanent TCU IT Service Fund within the USDA-Rural Utilities Service Program*. An annual \$40 million set-aside for TCUs, which are 1994 land-grant institutions served by USDA, would help cover rapidly increasing network, connectivity, and equipment costs, maintenance, infrastructure expansion, and IT staffing.



**BAY MILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges:**

- Hardware update costs
- Expenses associated with cybersecurity
- Software maintenance agreements and enhancements such as: AccuFund, Camtasia Studio, Empower, Starfish, and VMware
- Continued acquisition of services that are cloud-based which require annual fees



**REQUEST: \$3.2 billion TCU Construction Fund  
DOI – Bureau of Indian Education**

A July 2021 AIHEC survey of 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 current facilities and build safer 21<sup>st</sup> century campuses.

**Bay Mills Community College: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation**

BMCC is in a rural community in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula and is located above the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel of the equator. BMCC's facilities are exposed to harsh winters that impact the campus overall, especially high-traffic areas such as entrances, hallways, parking lots, and sidewalks. Overall, BMCC strives to provide a safe learning environment. To ensure the safety of students and staff, BMCC is working on upgrading all security lights to LED lamps.

- Upgrades to lighting at West Campus and Waishkey Bay Farm
- Add shipping and receiving port at the MCP Administration Building
- Storage for all campuses