



THE POWER OF CONNECTION, CULTURE & COMMUNITY

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.

Fort Peck Community College FACTS:

- Enrollment Trends: = 713 (Spring 2023); 500 (Fall 2023)
- Affordable Tuition: \$1125 (12+ credits)
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 13 to 1
- Part-time/Full-time Students:for Fall 2023
 - 262 Full-time Students
 - 238 Part-time Students
- Persistence Rate AY 22-23 was 60%
- Highest level of degree available: Associate Degree
- TRIO Programs: Student Support Services



Meeting the Student Success Challenge:

FPCC provides students critical support services such as student housing, emergency student aid funding, free laptops, free internet installation, in-person and 24/7 online tutoring services, mental health counseling, monthly stipends for food security and childcare, and online and hybrid course delivery options.

Fort Peck 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.

Fort Peck Community College Equity in Education: The long-term goal of the last Equity In Education program was to connect American Indian undergraduate students to food, agriculture, natural resources, and human (FANH) sciences degree opportunities while providing experiential learning opportunities to promote the reservation land base for American Indians on the Fort Peck Reservation.

During the project period 2018-2022, Fort Peck Community College was able recruit a qualified instructor and provided lab kits to students who were pursuing science courses with lab requirement in an online setting, two faculty were able to participate in GIS training, and 100% of full-time faculty participated in professional development that increased their knowledge for successful online course delivery and engaging students. Enrollment in programs related to FANH was consistent, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Most excitingly, FPCC did an increase in students in Environmental Science of 50% from Fall 2018 to Fall 2021.

**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.

Fort Peck Community College: Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges:

- Continued support with local ISP, currently have 15 services for a total of 2+Gb at same 2023 rate of \$1185
- \$250,000 on hardware upgrades, expansion, and replacement Jan to Dec. 2023
- \$60,000 for migration of integrated software to cloud
- Access control project completion scheduled for 2024
- Cybersecurity still major point of research, lack of knowledge of the subject makes solution finding challenging
- Remains difficult to hire qualified personnel at out tribal college (unrealistic pay scale for required skill set)

**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 21st century campuses.

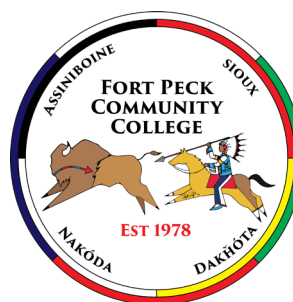
Fort Peck Community College: Construction, Maintenance & Rehabilitation

FPCC needs additional faculty offices, as many of the current offices are too small or have inadequate shared spaces to meet social distancing requirements. FPCC has had a Health & Community Wellness facility on their Master Plan for years, which would include a gymnasium, a weight room, kitchen space, office spaces, and a community meeting space for public usage. The college needs a new facility for their Wellness Center in Wolf Point, as it is located in buildings that are old and in desperate need of renovations and rehabilitation, besides being very space-constricted. These wellness centers are very popular in their respective communities and they both get usage anywhere from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. throughout the day.

There is also a need for infrastructure renovations across campus, including new sidewalks, additional parking lots and spaces, additional lighting on and around campus buildings, and several streets across campus are in desperate need of new paving.

Other facility needs that FPCC has include additional faculty housing, additional dorm space, a dedicated Maintenance & Janitorial building, and various equipment needed for building, renovating and rehabilitating facilities and infrastructure across campus. These additional needs include:

- New Classroom building with Faculty offices
- Health & Wellness gymnasium facility
- Science Lab space
- Vocational Education space
- Faculty Housing
- Additional Dorm
- Maintenance & Janitorial building
- Sidewalks, driveways, and parking lot updates
- Lighting across campus



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