



# IAIA<sup>®</sup>

INSTITUTE OF  
AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS

## INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS: PRIORITIES FOR THE 118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

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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, cultures, and philosophies, 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.





## FACTS

### Enrollment Trends (Spring 2020/Fall 2022)

Spring 2023 FTE (490) enrollment decreased by 15.0% from Spring 2021 (426)

Fall 2023 FTE (537) enrollment increased by 3.9% from Fall 2021 (517)

#### Fall Semester FTE Student Enrollment

	FA2021	FA2022	FA2023
Total	517	540	537

#### Spring Semester FTE Student Enrollment

	SP2021	SP2022	SP2023
Total	426	462	490

#### Affordable Tuition

\$5,166 per year; \$3,874 for online only

#### IAIA Retention Rates of First-time Undergraduate Freshmen and Transfer Students

Cohort	Retention Rates
Fall 2020	56%
Fall 2021	68%
Fall 2022	58%

#### Student-to-Faculty Ratio

9:1

#### IAIA Annual Degree Production

Academic Year	Awards
2019–2020	83
2020–2021	85
2021–2022	81

#### Highest Level of Degree Available

Master of Fine Arts

#### TRIO Programs

No

### Enrollment and Critical Support Services

Full-time student enrollment increased for each of the fall semesters (2021–2023). Additionally, IAIA collaborated with UWILL, a counseling agency that serves the students, faculty, and staff with virtual counseling. We joined the JED Campus, a program designed to help guide us through a collaborative process of comprehensive systems and policy development with customized support to build upon existing student mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention efforts. The IAIA pantry expanded to support students with food gift cards to make off-campus food purchases. We also increased cultural ceremonial services and continued prevention programming for suicide prevention, mental health awareness, healthy relationship awareness, and reducing risk in substance use and training for students and counselors. We support students with emergency aid to help support health care, childcare, loss of employment, and housing.

## INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS: 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 IAIA Land-Grant Department introduced two new programs this year:

- **An Introduction to Beekeeping and Pollinator Stewardship for Indigenous Stewards**

Through the Beekeeping program, a cohort from across the country was selected to participate in a year-long program that covers 1) Focus on apiculture—the study of bees, 2) Bee biology and physiology, 3) Connection to habitat and forage, 4) Pollinator ecology: land and water stewardship through an Indigenous lens, 5) Holistic management, 6) Harvestable hive medicines, and 7) Bee arts. By the end of the program, participants will be able to develop or enhance pollinator stewardship programs, gain familiarity of how to manage hives, and serve as local mentors for their Indigenous communities.

- **IAIA Native Grassland and Pollinator Restoration**

In the IAIA Native Grassland and Pollinator Restoration program, the Land-Grant Department is developing a Native Grasses and Pollinators guide and TCU Pollinator Habitat Guide through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Office of Tribal Relations. The research area includes the IAIA campus and neighboring Tribal community participants’ lands. USDA-ARS Pollinating Insect Research Laboratory in Logan, Utah, will serve as collaborators for the duration of this research project.

The Indigenous Youth Agriculture (IYA) program continues to reach youth in Tribal communities across the country. The program teaches the basics of agriculture, botany, and entomology in relation to culture while learning healthy eating habits.



### **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 American Indian and Alaska Native students—behind the rest of the US 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.



## **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 a 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 twenty-first-century campuses.



## **INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS: BROADBAND, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING CHALLENGES**

- The Information Technology (IT) Department would like to strengthen cybersecurity at the college by hiring a consultant to conduct a thorough threat analysis that would be enterprise-wide. IAIA employs robust firewalls, spot testing, and a cyber event response plan to mitigate the potential for and effects of a phishing, malware, or ransomware attack. However, a comprehensive evaluation by a third party would take the college's safeguarding of IT infrastructure to another level by identifying potential security gaps.
- For many years, IAIA has employed a fragmented approach to its software for financial tracking, student information, payroll, human resources, financial aid, and fundraising. This model has become highly inefficient, and the college is committed to moving toward a fully integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, which would bring these functions into one database. The fully integrated model would require much less manual data processing, more timely reporting, and better cross-training between departments.

## **INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS: CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REHABILITATION**

- The IAIA campus is now over 20 years old. With this age comes numerous deferred maintenance needs.
  - Exterior steel beams around many of the buildings need repainting.
  - The student residence center has a backlog of heat pump units within the individual dorms that need to be replaced.
  - The café space that serves food to the entire campus community has had several large pieces of kitchen equipment reach the end of their useful lives, requiring replacement.
- The IAIA Museum of Contemporary Arts is in a historic downtown building in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Due to its age, the building requires HVAC and security systems upgrades. As the country's only museum for exhibiting, collecting, and interpreting the most progressive work of contemporary Native artists, it is essential that this facility have these upgrades performed.
- Work on the IAIA Campus-Wide Solar Master Plan continues. The master plan calls for solar arrays to be installed on most building rooftops throughout the campus. To date, three buildings have had rooftop arrays installed, leaving six more yet to be done. The total estimated cost to complete the plan is \$1.9M, and once finished, the arrays will produce over 1.5M kWh of energy each year.