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**KBOCC Mission Statement:** Formed out of our American Indian identity, the mission of the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College is to provide post-secondary education rich in Ojibwa culture, tradition, and beliefs that support lifelong learning.

## Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa 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.

### KBOCC AT A GLANCE

- Enrollment Trends (Spring 2023/Fall 2023): 234 / 219
- Affordable Tuition: \$175 per credit
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 10 to 1
- Part-time/Full-time: 179 / 52
- Persistence Rate: 81%
- Highest Level of degree/program available: Associate degree



### KBOCC supports students in various ways:

- On-site Childcare at \$1.00/hour
- Food pantry, transportation assistance, and 24/7 virtual counseling
- Emergency aid and a free lunch program
- Wellness center with various amenities, including a gym membership
- Student Support Center for holistic support and cultural events for community engagement



### KBOCC: 1994 Land-Grant Programs

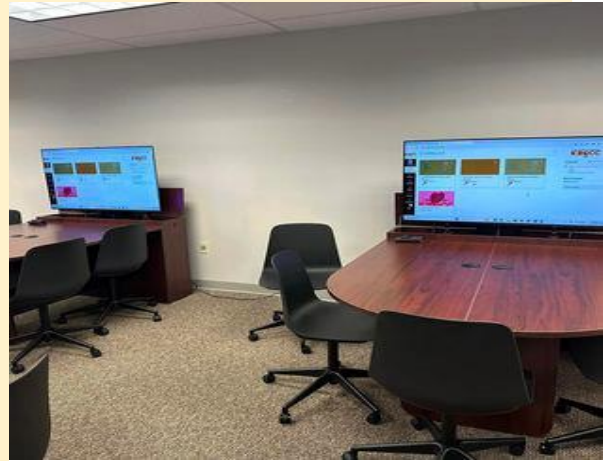
1994 Land-grant institutions: The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act created the "1994 Land-grants" more than 25 years ago. Since then, funding for the 1994 land-grant programs and resources have remained inadequate to address the growing agriculture needs and opportunities in Indian Country.

KBOCC: Our extension program diligently promotes and educates on traditional foods for our region, blending cultural authenticity with a modern touch. Emphasizing the honorable harvest of local foods, we empower individuals with the freedom and resources to sample, experience, and prepare ancestral cuisine. This initiative fosters food sovereignty and sustainability, supporting our tribal and local communities.

### **REQUEST: \$40 M 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 AI/AN student – 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.



#### **KBOCC: Broadband and IT Challenges**

- Complete migration to Azure and other new software.
- The initiative to create a more connected campus at KBOCC is driving up costs.
- Stricter cybersecurity standards have resulted in additional expenses for consulting, hardware, and licensing.
- The integration of video conferencing equipment to support remote students is contributing to increased yearly support costs.
- The inclusion of additional software and hardware in KBOCC's infrastructure is causing a significant budget increase.



### **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.

#### **KBOCC: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation**

Our original hospital-based campus from the 1950s needs repairs. Growing programs require construction funds for a new campus. Ongoing maintenance strains finances, despite upgrades. Adequate funding would allow a new building with a nursing program, labs, and vocational facilities, benefiting both students and the community by addressing workforce shortages.

#### **Overall Needs:**

- New Buildings
- Generator
- Updated Plumbing
- Storage Space