Haskell Indian Nations University: 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 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.

HASKELL FACTS:

- Enrollment Trends (Fall 2020/Fall 2023): 20% increase
- Affordable Tuition: Tuition Free / On-Campus Fees are $715; Off-Campus Fees are $240
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 25:1
- Part-time/Full-time: 73/806
- Persistence/Retention/Completion Rate: 53.8% (Fall 2021 to Fall 2022)
- Highest level of degree available: Baccalaureate
- TRIO Programs: Student Support Services
- Haskell is the only tribal university in the world with an entirely Indigenous student population.

Over 130 Tribes, Nations, Pueblos, Alaska Villages, and Rancherias are represented at Haskell, affording our students a culturally unique experience unavailable at any other University. NSF grants and our Environmental Protection Agency partnership, to cite just two examples, provide students with research opportunities as soon as they enroll at Haskell. Students can enroll in University of Kansas courses at no extra-tuition cost thanks to our MOU with University of Kansas (KU). And our commitment to students extends to their goals after Haskell as seen with our Career Services Office and Bridge-Programs. This is all part of what we affectionately refer to as "the Haskell Experience."

Haskell Indian Nations University: 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.

Haskell's extension efforts include the following:

- Our university remains in the forefront of climate change and Indian Country research, and extension funding assists in continual outreach efforts. We offer events each semester on aspects of climate change and the idea/reality of "power and place." These events involve community conversations and student research on mitigating efforts and solutions regarding climate change and land. These events assist in keeping the local community vested in this topic.
- Our library offers a book-club of titles written by Indigenous authors. This has included our first "read across campus" book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, involving events coordinated with local community partners. Additionally, the book-club hosts authors, either in-person or online. Several hundred individuals have participated in this programming, and its events remain popular with the public.

HASKELL: Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges:

- Progress: fully functional campus helpdesk; increase in IT staffing due to hiring contractors.
- Hardware update costs: $1,500,000 (includes campus-wide tech refresh, modules and controllers upgrades.
- Expenses associated with cybersecurity: $200,000 (includes trainings and Cisco products).
- Challenge: recruiting qualified IT permanent personnel.
- Challenge: due to Haskell's unique role in the federal system, the University is unable to purchase needed software in a timely manner. This includes software needed by our GIS and Environmental Science students.

Haskell Indian Nations University: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation

Haskell is in Lawrence, KS, and is situated on 320 acres. We have 41 campus buildings, 12 of which are U.S. National Historic Landmarks. Funding has not kept up with the needs of our facilities; this includes our historic buildings and infrastructure such as underground piping. This directly impacts student-success initiatives. Below are only a few items that need to be addressed.

- Title III funding allowed us to update our science labs (pictured above), however the overall building does not allow for growth of our STEM programming, which limits our ability to increase the numbers of majors. This is a challenge with other academic buildings.
- Due to the age of campus, we are not in overall compliance with ADA requirements.
- Our childcare building, Little Nations, is unusable due to extensive weather damage, and needs to be razed.
- Hiawatha Hall, a historic landmark has sat vacant since 2001 due its hazardous internal conditions. This multiuse building faces our central quad so is public-facing both our students and the surrounding public.
- Curtis Hall, our dining services building, is equipped with out-of-date infrastructure, and currently cannot accommodate the increasing weather changes occurring with climate change.
- Residential housing remains a challenge, and Haskell is doing its best to retrofit new technologies (i.e., HVAC) into buildings not built with these in mind.