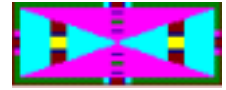


Little Big Horn College



Little Big Horn College: 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.

LITTLE BIG HORN COLLEGE: AT A GLANCE

- **Enrollment Trends (Spring 2023/Fall 2023):** Fall 2023 had a 33% increase in enrollment from Spring 2023.
- **Affordable Tuition:** \$1600.00 per semester. \$3200.00 a year.
- **Student to Faculty Ratio:** 12:1
- **Part-time/Full-time:** Spring 2023 enrollment 260 students. Fall 2023 enrollment 385 students.
- **Persistence Rate:** 58%
- **Highest Level of degree/program available:** 2-year associate degree programs.
- **TRIO Program:** No



Little Big Horn College Student Services offers childcare for students, with a daycare on campus; feeds students. There is a program that brings clothing for students, provides free school supplies and back packs. LBHC also provides food to families on occasions and has resources available to help with living expenses for the students and families.



LITTLE BIG HORN 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.

Little Big Horn College (LBHC) offers high quality degrees, certificates and programs. We equip our students for the professional workforce. As well as personal development that brings prosperity and leadership to Crow Country. LBHC aims to preserves, protects, and perpetuates the Apsaaloké language, history, and culture.

Little Big Horn College was chartered by the Crow Tribe of Indians in January 1980; after gaining its foundation through extensive adult and higher educational programming by the Crow Central Education Commission. Association and affiliation with units of the, Montana University System demonstrated the Crow Tribal ability to design and instruct college level course work. The college began providing higher education and vocational training in 1981; along with courses of study in business, nursing, and general studies.



**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.



LITTLE BIG HORN COLLEGE: Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges:

- Computer hardware cost for faculty, staff and students. Laptops/tablets were provided to first time students.
- Cybersecurity expenses.
- Software updates.
- Annual fees, including cloud base service and software leasing.
- Recruiting IT personal.



**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.

LITTLE BIG HORN COLLEGE: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation

LBHC is located in Crow Agency, a rural community in southeastern Montana. Prior to the COVID 19 pandemic LBHC was faced with no available student housing. A majority of LBHC students travel over 60 miles to attend classes on campus. The nearest grocery store is 12 miles from campus. Weather conditions can be extreme during the winter and rain months; which calls for annual building repair expenses. The community also has limited BIA law enforcement available, in an event, officer response time is delayed.

- Assist students with weekly gas vouchers and transit bus passes.
- LBHC Café serves breakfast and lunch during the day to students, faculty, and staff.
- Roof repair work on Health and Wellness Center.
- Installed security cameras throughout campus and outdoor building speaker announcement system.
- Employ two full-time security with alternating night time security shifts.