



COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION

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College of the Muscogee Nation: 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.

The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) offers critical student support services which are essential to meeting the needs of our tribal students. Services include emergency aid assistance, food pantry, Health Shelf, Health and Wellness services including referrals to mental health counseling, student housing, and the Day of Giving. CMN hosts campus activities aimed at celebrating tribal heritage. Activities include Indigenous Peoples Day celebration, Native American Heritage Month activities, observance of Native American Day, and other tribally relevant celebrations and activities year round.

College of the Muscogee Nation Facts:

- Enrollment Trends (Spring 2023/Fall 2023): both spring and fall 2023 terms trended higher in enrollment numbers. The spring 2023 trimester was a record high spring enrollment number. Looking at enrollment from year to year, the spring 2023 trimester showed a 20% increase from spring 2022 numbers, and fall 2023 showed a 3% increase from fall 2022.
- Affordable Tuition: \$146.50 per credit hour
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 10:1
- Part-time/Full-time: for fall '23, we had 260 students, 136 of those were less than 12 credit hours - 52% of fall '23 students were part time (less than 12 credits)
- Persistence Rate: Fall 2018: 44.6%; Fall 2019: 61.9%; Fall 2020: 39.4%; Fall 2021: 41.3%
- Highest Level of degree/program available: Associate Degree



College of the Muscogee Nation: 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.

College of the Muscogee Nation: The Natural Resources Associate of Science degree is consistent with the mission of our Land-grant status. The Natural Resources academic program is designed for students who are interested in the field of conservation and sustainable agriculture. Primary outcomes are as follows:

- Demonstrate the fundamentals of soil science, water resources, and ecology
- Examine the practices of natural resources conservation and sustainability
- Evaluate natural resources in relation to Indian land issues.



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.



College of the Muscogee Nation: Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges:

- A better user experience was needed and addressed by replacing the campus firewall with a new device for Single Sign On and additional security. Multifactor Authentication was installed to enhance the remote work connections.
- Anthology hosted Student Information System software workshops for campus staff and faculty
- Faculty and staff lacked laptops and printers/scanners during remote work which was corrected by providing the equipment.
- First-time students and online Muscogee Language Certificate students receive laptops and hotspots to allow D2L and Student Portal access.
- In Student Housing, Wi-Fi access was inadequate. USDA funded a project to upgrade campus wide Wi-Fi coverage. Thus, Wi-Fi Access Points were provided for extra capacity and stronger connectivity.
- Campus Cyber Infrastructure: OneNet network to boost CMN's campus connectivity and internet speed.



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.

College of the Muscogee Nation: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation

- During the spring rains the north part of campus tends to flood due to water coming from the east area outside the campus. In time, the College will need to address this problem due to the fact that the flooded area is not usable for current activities and further development.
- As the College develops additional degrees and increases its enrollment, expansion is needed for its café, bookstore, fitness center, and library. In addition, the College needs to complete its thoroughfares (streets and sidewalks) around campus to adequately address the increased traffic.
- The College is in the process of completing construction for the Exhibit/Lecture Hall and STEM building, Café renovation, and Pre-engineered Classroom/Security building.
- To prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus, the College will be adding additional classrooms, offices, and auxiliary support. In addition, a fourth building will be added to the circular campus master site plan for a Mvskoke Memorial Hall that includes the library, Native American Studies and Mvskoke Language Lab.