

College of Menominee Nation: Priorities for the 118th Congress (February 2023)



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.

COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION FACTS

- Enrollment Trends (Spring 2020/Fall 2022): 22% increase in enrollment since Spring 2020
- Affordable Tuition: \$250/credit - Since 2021, CMN has offered 50% tuition discount to all students
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 5:1 (Fall 2021)
- Part-time/Full-time: 67 full-time students, 214 part-time students (Fall 2022)
- Persistence Rate: 89% (AY 2021-2022)
- Highest level of degree/program available: Bachelor's degree
- TRIO Programs: No



CMN offers critical student support services to help meet student needs: traditional workshops, (including traditional teas, traditional language, Menominee History, elders communication), mental health counseling (addresses anxiety, depression, conflict resolution, stress management, grief and loss, trauma, family dynamics, mindfulness, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), LGBTQ+), student food pantry, transportation, gift and gas cards, alcohol and drug workshops (referrals and resources), Goodwill Industries (clothes, shoes, household items), and assistance with financial hardships (auto repairs, emergency funding).



COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE 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.

For the first time ever among 1994 Tribal Colleges, CMN was awarded a USDA-NIFA AFRI SAS grant (\$10 Million). This is in collaboration with two other 1890 Land-Grants and three 1862 programs. A collaboration pulling in all three land-grants is unique and shows the strong collaboration that can occur to serve rural communities. The title of the project “Sustainable Aquaculture Production of High Omega-3-Fishing Using a Novel Feed Additive (Hemp)” will increase CMN’s ability to develop and implement a research line that will benefit students and faculty. In addition, the project will offer both an education and community extension component that falls directly in line with CMN’s mission as a land-grant institution. It will bring opportunities to learn about both aquaponics and aquaculture by providing training, workshops, and field day.

**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.



- Creating a more connected campus has put a strain on CMN's fiber bandwidth and resulted in increased internet costs
- To ensure CMN is meeting appropriate cybersecurity standards, additional costs have incurred related to consulting, hardware, and licensing
- Bringing video conferencing equipment into the classroom in support of remote students has increased yearly support costs
- The additional software and hardware brought into CMN's infrastructure has put a strain on staff time and increased the need for specialized labor



**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 MENOMINEE NATION: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation

- CMN faces challenges primarily in buildings that house classroom spaces. Having older buildings that do not fit the current programmatic structure of CMN's campuses fuels the need for redesign, better safety options, and redesigned learning spaces. The pandemic showed CMN's facilities management how inefficient some of the internal and external facility components are and led staff to research how CMN could be better. Areas most impacted by the need or change are within student resource areas, planning and meeting spaces, student support departments and office spaces, and the creation of outdoor spaces for learning activities. Redesigning and creating spaces will allow CMN to better serve students while maintaining safe environments for students, staff, and faculty.
- Technical Trades- increasing classroom space
- Shirley Daly Hall- redesigning learning spaces
- Glen Miller Hall- updating faculty and student support services areas to be functional to students
- Outdoor classrooms- construction of outdoor learning environments
- Sidewalks- re-paving of sidewalks to create safe walking spaces