

Niiwin Akeaa Campus
111 Beartown Road
Baraga, MI 49908
Phone: (906) 353-4630
Fax: (906) 353-8107



Wabanung Campus
770 N. Main St.
L'Anse, MI. 49946
Phone: (906) 524-8400
Fax: (906) 524-8106

"Catch Your Dream Through a Superior Education"

KBOCC: 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.

KBOCC:

- Enrollment Trends (Spring 2020/Fall 2022): Up 61%
- Affordable Tuition: \$160 per credit
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 5/1
- Part-time/Full-time:124/32
- Persistence/Retention/Completion Rate: 53%
- Highest level of degree/program available: Associates Degree
- We showcase our Native American veterans in our student services hallway. Just walking into our building is a welcoming experience, with fabulous artwork and cultural displays.



KBOCC provides childcare for our students. We have a food pantry that students can access as well as a clothing exchange. Mental health/counseling is one of our main priorities and we currently offer all students/staff/faculty funding to help with mental health and an online UWILL mental health service. Our online tutoring service tutor.com is very successful. We have more students utilizing tutoring than we have ever had. Our students receive a free lunch daily as well. We just received initial approval to start a nursing program. The whole community is excited for this program.



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 agricultural needs and opportunities in Indian Country.

KBOCC: “Our land grant extension program works industriously to encourage, promote, and educate on traditional foods for our region. We have worked to introduce culturally appropriate foods with a modern twist. We have taught the importance of honorably harvesting your own local foods. Allowing people, the freedom, and resources to sample, experience, and prepare what our ancestors would have used. It supports our tribal and local community by promoting food sovereignty and sustainability. All the people who have participated have had nothing but positive feedback, it is encouraging all to think about what and where their food comes from.”

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.



KBOCC: Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges:

- Hardware update costs are very high
- Difficult to even get contractors to fill orders or do bids.
- Implementing a cybersecurity system.
- We have rewired our whole building and installed a new camera security system.
- Waiting for more switches to come in so we can get the security system installed.
- More space to become a multi-generation HUB.
- We need space for large events such as graduation/ceremonial events.



**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.

KBOCC: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation

- KBOCC was built in the early 50's and our buildings need much repair.
- All our pipes for water/sewer are starting to back up (see picture above) pipes are starting to break or freeze up.
- We need an alternate power source, so we are starting the process to put in a new generator. The one we have now is inoperable.
- We would like to offer more CTE classes in construction, welding, and HVAC.
- These CTE classrooms should include labs for hands on work and for optimal instruction..
- Our parking lot and sidewalks need to be repaved due to underground pipes breaking.
- Investigating a solar panel project.