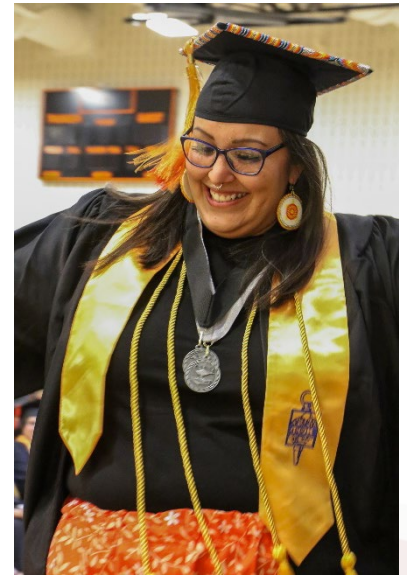


## FOND DU LAC TRIBAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress (February 2023)

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.

### FOND DU LAC TRIBAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACTS:

- Enrollment Trends: 23% Fall 2022 enrollment increase compared to prior Fall 2021.
- Affordable Tuition: Tuition & fees are approximately \$5,998 per year for full-time students.
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 13:1
- 54% Full-time / 46% Part-time (Fall 2022 enrollment census)
- 47% Fall-to-Fall undergraduate retention (Fall 2021 to Fall 2022)
- Highest level of degree/program available: Bachelor's
- TRIO Programs: Yes – Student Support Services
- **FDLTCC Significant Fact:** After years of hard work, FDLTCC was recently approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer its first Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. We are the first two year Tribal and Community College in Minnesota to offer a baccalaureate degree. The program curriculum delivers culturally relevant methods with an emphasis in Anishinaabe ways of knowing that are intertwined with professional outcomes that aligns to state standards.



### Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College: Critical Student Support Services Offered to Meet Student Needs

FDLTCC provides numerous supports for meeting student basic needs, including a food pantry, transportation passes, mental health/counseling partnerships with the Fond du Lac Reservation Behavioral Health program and a local agency, in addition to an on campus social worker. Emergency funding is available to support students with paying for childcare, utilities, groceries, gas, housing/rent costs, transportation, and educational expenses. The college also utilizes the student success communication platform from EAB Starfish, which allows staff and faculty to proactively identify and provide support to students.



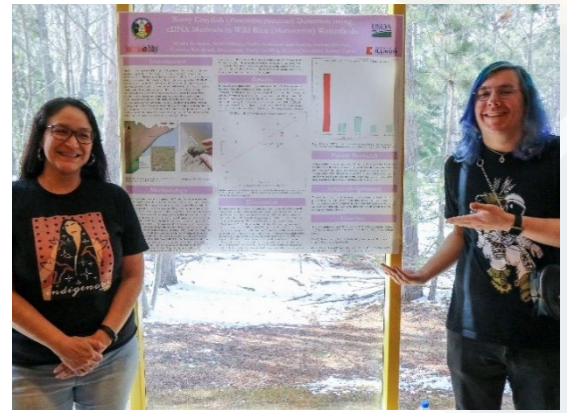
### FOND DU LAC TRIBAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE: 1994 Land-Grant Programs

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.

The Environmental Institute (EI) at FDLTCC is the Tribal College 1994 Land Grant Extension Department and is determined to be a catalyst for positive change. The EI is dedicated to providing education, skills, and research that help our communities connect with empowering opportunities and partnerships through culturally relevant research and programming. Thirteen Moons shares knowledge of Ojibwe culture through workshops, events, and outreach. By coordinating regular workshops on traditional resource ecology and leadership development, Thirteen Moons shares Ojibwe culture which fosters resiliency within the Fond du Lac community and beyond. The Gichi Manidoo Giizis Pow wow is a unique event that brings over 1500 community members together with state, federal, and tribal agencies to learn more about programs that benefit the land and people.

**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.



**Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College: Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges**

The campus cyberinfrastructure, security, computer resources and student success technology has seen significant improvement during the past three years often because of emergency funding during exigent circumstances. It is vital for the continued success of our mission to have sustainable, budgeted, and structured financial support for these resources in the post-pandemic future.

- The past fiscal year saw increased federal and state legislature funding to improve rural and Tribal access to broadband internet, but the immediate short-term disparity still exists as an obstacle to education and economic opportunity for our students and communities.
- Hardware costs related to distance learning, Zoom classes, remote access and other COVID-19 related disruptions were largely paid for through federal and state one-time funding—leaving a potential looming life-cycle replacement financial hardship over the next five years.
- Cybersecurity continues to be an increasing area of concern, and this is reflected in additional work hours being allocated to supporting anti-malware, anti-phishing, spam prevention, data privacy and cyberinfrastructure upgrades. Additional funds have also been required to pay for additional security software and system upgrades.
- AIHEC is assisting FDLTCC and several other TCUs with accessing NSF grant programs aimed at improving institutional cyberinfrastructure and STEM research capabilities. Primary benefits will include aid in completing middle and final mile access to broadband internet and Internet2 research resources for TCU campuses. Students, faculty, and staff will only benefit from improved campus cyberinfrastructure if they and their homes have the technology required to take advantage of these improvements.



**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.

**Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation**

It has been approximately 30 years since the initial construction of the oldest parts of the FDLTCC campus. As a result, maintenance needs exist throughout the main campus, housing unit, and externally. With funding and grants, the college has been able to keep academic program equipment up to date and has had adequate facilities to deliver its mission both prior to and coming out of the pandemic, but there are still pressing maintenance needs need to be addressed. Since last year, supply chain issues caused a delay in the college receiving its heat pumps and they are being installed soon. The college is also currently installing a new energy control system. Additional facilities needs will be addressed as part of the process of updating the college's Strategic Plan this year.

**Upcoming Facility Needs:**

- Summer 2023: Concrete sidewalk replacement – Estimated \$100,000
- 0-5 Years: Flooring replacement throughout the college's buildings – Estimated \$5 million
- 0-5 Years: Interior space redesign (new office space, upgrades) – Estimated \$2 million
- 0-10 Years: Housing dorm unit flooring, heat pump replacements, and kitchen upgrades – Estimated \$950,000