Our Red Lake Nation College Motto: Ji-Mino-Bimaadiziwin (The good life for us all)
Red Lake Nation College: Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges:
- Continuing hardware refresh policies at 3 year replacement cycles on devices.
- Adding multi-gig infrastructure to support future wifi 6+ access points and devices. Switch estimated at $10,000.
- New in classroom technology in mid deployment allowing for better distance learning opportunities through better room wide audio solutions.
- Verizon data plans for student devices to allow for hyflex learning. No alternative available outside of Verizon, monopoly caused by service area and coverage, lacking AT&T or T-Mobile coverage.
- Addition of advanced computer lab planned/in-progress, to enable high performance workloads for clubs, select programs, and extracurricular activities. (Video editing, programming, large datasets/data manipulation, eSports, artificial intelligence workloads, 3d modeling, animation, and other rendering projects) estimated $30,000 outside of current hardware refresh budgeting.

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.

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needs, including lack of student and faculty housing, inadequate classroom space, insufficient libraries, and outdated laboratories.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.

Red Lake Nation College: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation
Red Lake Nation College Minneapolis Distance Learning Site will predominately serve 50,000 Native Americans who live in the Twin Cities. Tribal Colleges provide excellent higher education grounded in language and culture. This model is more successful at getting Natives to continue their education. This is an effort to bring this successful Tribal College model to the largest concentrated population of Natives in Minnesota, the Twin Cities.
- There is no Tribal College located in the Twin Cities.
- Once completed, Minneapolis and Minnesota would be home to the first Tribal College located in a major urban city in the USA.

Further, Native Americans have the worst education achievement levels, largest socio-economic gaps, and highest poverty rates of any of the major minority groups in Minnesota, and Nationally. This Native education project will be an attempt to close these education gaps and serve the “most underserved”, high-poverty community of Native Americans in the higher education field in Minnesota.

This modest investment will provide a large impact with significant Return on Investment (ROI) with students either transferring and feeding into the State system schools, or earning higher salaries after graduating.

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