



WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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White Earth Tribal & Community College: 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.

White Earth Tribal & Community College Facts

- Enrollment Trends (Fall 2022): 102 Students Enrolled
- Affordable Tuition: \$170 per Credit
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 7:1
- Part-time/Full-time: 55 PT / 47 FT
- Retention Rate: 75%
- Highest level of degree/program available: Associate of Arts (AA)



White Earth provides various resources to accommodate students' needs and challenges. We offer students emergency aid, which covers up to \$1,000 in groceries, gas, bills, and car repairs. Students also have access to computers, hotspots, mental health services, tutoring, school supplies, cultural and school related workshops, and more.

Melissa Brown, known as "Missy" around campus, said in a questionnaire "For a lot of people, it is very hard to ask for anything. WETCC and staff are very welcoming making it easy to talk with, to be open and honest about our needs". When we asked if there was any particular service she used she commented, "I have used student services, emergency aid, tutorials, student resources, certificate programs, customized education, library, note taking, Anishinaabe culture teachings, storytelling, moccasin making, and all traditional classes that work with my schedule". Missy comments about how White Earth Tribal and Community College "...make success so much easier and have worked with me pushing me to do the best I can at everything possible not just in school but at work and at home. Thank you WETCC for being part of my life and helping me grow in all areas of my life. Miigwech."

White Earth Tribal and Community College: 1994 Land-Grant Programs

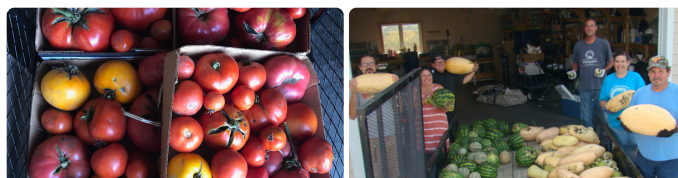
1994 Land-grant Institutions: The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act created the "1994 Land-grants" more than 25 years ago. Since then, funding for the 1994 Land-grant programs and resources have remained inadequate to address the growing agricultural needs and opportunities in Indian Country.

White Earth Tribal and Community College: In February 2020, WETCC was ranked by Hope University as having the highest food insecurity, home insecurity and homelessness among its students, whose average age is 32 years old, in the United States compared to other 2-year surveyed universities. Currently, White Earth Ojibwe Nation territories are considered a Federally Designated Food Desert.

The Community Extension Service Department is proud of the work to address the food insecurity issues through Traditional Food Sovereignty Initiative of growing and distributing produce, seeds, plant starts, and garden grow boxes in 2020-2022.

2020-2022 Cumulative Approximate Total

16,719 lbs. Fresh Produce
25 Youth Grow Boxes
18,227 Seed Packets
13,346 Plant Starts
85 Elder/Vets/Disabled Garden Beds



WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE (FEBRUARY 2023)

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.

White Earth Tribal and Community College: Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges

Reliable broadband is essential for our rural area where we struggle with:

- Having access to high-speed internet at home, phone service, and hotspots.
- Faculty, staff, and students all need to rely on virtual support from IT.
- Cybersecurity is a concern.



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.

White Earth Tribal and Community College: Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation

WETCC would like to expand our offerings to include a trades program. We are looking at offering Construction Technology AAS program that would provide a high-quality educational experience designed to prepare future-focused professionals in the plumbing, carpentry, electrical, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) construction trades. In addition, we are partnering with RREAL (Rural Renewable Energy Alliance) to get students certified by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners which we are exploring to add this specialty to the trades program.



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