

Sitting Bull 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.



Student Support Services: Language Immersion/Childcare Center, food pantry, transportation (bus/vouchers), clothing exchange, mental health/counseling, free coffee and meals, tutoring, emergency aid assistance, paid internships, and cultural activities.

Sitting Bull College:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Enrollment Trends:
 2020: Spring 272, Fall: 236
 2021: Spring 210, Fall: 268
 2022: Spring 273, Fall: 265 ● Affordable Tuition:
 Undergraduate \$1,800.00 per semester
 Graduate - \$350 per credit hour ● Student to Faculty Ratio: 9:1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part-time/Full-time: 25%/75% ● Persistence Rates:
 Fall 2020-Spring 2021: 64.8 %
 Fall 2021-Spring 2022: 74.9% ● Highest level of degree/program available:
 Masters ● TRIO Programs: No |
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Sitting Bull 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.



Sitting Bull College: 1994 Land-Grant Programs

Sitting Bull College (SBC) Land-Grant program's primary mission is to "promote and enhance the ability of Tribal members' self-sustenance and economic well-being". This is accomplished by providing opportunities for community members to engage in agriculture relevant programming at SBC.

The Ag Extension program incorporates the following programming components:

- Agriculture and related business technical assistance including financial literacy and business planning.
- Development of vegetable production systems, including irrigation systems and green house production.
- Hands on ranching activity, including exposure to various types of facilities, livestock care and management, along with equipment use and operation.
- Horsemanship, use of horses in agriculture operations, training, rodeo activities, history of the horse in Dakota/Lakota culture.
- The establishment and delivery of a community market for local craftsman, artisans, producers and other vendors
- Curriculum offering of an Associate of Science degree in Pre-Vet.

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.

Sitting Bull College Broadband and IT Progress & Challenges:

- Additional IT staff with cyber security backgrounds.
- Additional IT faculty. Sitting Bull College has been trying to begin a Bachelor's degree in IT, but have been unable to, due to lack of highly qualified faculty.



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.



Sitting Bull Maintenance, Rehabilitation College: Construction,

Sitting Bull College has constructed two facilities in the last two years. A research center completed in the fall 2022 and an agricultural center currently under construction. Both projects were doubled in price from what normal construction cost would be. In addition, we have been waiting over three months for electrical components to complete the agricultural center.

Additional Needs:

- Cafeteria – We currently do not have one on campus
- Wellness Center – We currently do not have one on campus