

NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE



Through education, Northwest Indian College promotes Indigenous self-determination and knowledge



ABOUT NWIC

Chartered by the Lummi Nation, Northwest Indian College's main campus is located on the Lummi Nation Reservation in Bellingham, Washington — 20 miles south of the Canadian border. NWIC is the only fully accredited Tribal College serving the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

The College offers in-person and online classes at the main campus and six extended campus sites: Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Swinomish and Tulalip in WA and Nez Perce in ID.

We are committed to our students, the Tribes we serve and advancing Tribal sovereignty for the protection and enhancement of our homelands and future generations.

NWIC is a proud member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC).



NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE PRIORITIES FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

118TH CONGRESS | FEB. 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.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF INDIGENOUS HIGHER ED

NWIC grew from the Lummi Indian School of Aquaculture and was officially chartered as Lummi Community College in 1983. Following accreditation in 1989, the College's name was changed to the Northwest Indian College to reflect its wider mandate to serve Native people through the Northwest.

QUICK FACTS

- 18.5% ↑ Overall student enrollment
- 11% ↑ Applicants who enroll
- 11% ↑ Student retention
- 7% ↑ Persistence
- 4% ↑ Applications
- 2,000 🎓 Degrees & awards since '90
- 370 🎓 Bachelor's grads since '10
- 6 🎓 Years of 100+ grads
- 4 🎓 Bachelor's Programs

We support student needs for food security and mental health care by providing food pantries at each campus and an Indigenous mental health care professional. Student support services have also put together a number of drives for clothing and household items for students in-need. CARES Act funding has provided **\$1.2M** in direct student relief.

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Monica Little (Lummi)

Monica studies Tribal Governance & Business Management and recently earned her real estate license. She aims to teach Native people about the housing market and enjoys leading her weekly student wellness classes.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Pre-Engineering

Created in-part with NASA, NWIC's Pre-Engineering program was born out of the College's award-winning Rocket Club. The two-year program is completing accreditation.



COMMUNITY WORK

Energy Sovereignty

In collaboration with Lummi Nation, NWIC interns and pre-engineering faculty completed solar panel installation trainings, micro-grid feasibility studies and will soon install panels on two campus buildings.



REQUEST: \$40M 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.

NWIC'S CHALLENGES

Northwest Indian College has an incredible team of Informational Services and Distance Learning staff to provide students, faculty and staff with technology and Internet support. Though CARES Act funding aided in getting laptops, hotspots and other necessary equipment to students, we still struggle to help students who live in more rural locations — especially on Tribal lands — in accessing the Internet. Being that in-person instruction may not be feasible for these students due to their location and costs associated with commuting, it's imperative they have the tools to succeed in a distance-learning environment.



REQUEST: \$3.2 B TCU CONSTRUCTION FUND | DOI — BIE

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. AIHEC strongly urges Congress to fund dedicated TCU facilities programs through DOI-BIE to modernize current facilities and build safer 21st century campuses.

- TCU operation and maintenance: \$20 million (annual, recurring need)
- TCU deferred maintenance/rehabilitation: \$400 million (total)
- TCU completion of master plans: \$2.7 billion (total)

NWIC'S CHALLENGES

Chronic underfunding of TCUs continues to be a major challenge. TCUs have never received full authorized funding by Congress per the Tribally Controlled College and University Act. As a result, more resources are needed to support retention efforts for faculty and staff — not just students — due to the lack of competitive salaries. This is also exacerbated by rising inflation and cost of living increases. Although NWIC is grateful for the significant infusion of COVID-19 relief funding in response to the pandemic, institutional efforts to recruit and retain qualified faculty and staff will be severely impacted unless there is increased operational funding, through the BIE/TCU Act, to help offset the end of the COVID-19 relief grants.



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.