

FISCAL YEAR 2019 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS
TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



Appropriations Bill: INTERIOR

Agency: Bureau of Indian Education

AUTHORIZATION/TCU PROGRAM	FY 2018 ENACTED	FY 2019 BUDGET REQUEST	FY 2019 AIHEC REQUEST
Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act [25 USC 1801 et seq.]			
Title I, II, III and contracts (29 TCUs)	\$69,793,000	\$65,664,000	\$86,354,000 Fully fund at \$9K/ISC (Title I) \$17M (Title II) \$109K (Title III) TA: \$701,000
Title V (Tribal career/technical institutions)	\$7,505,000	\$6,464,000	\$10,000,000
TCU Infrastructure Improvement (25 USC 1813)			\$31,000,000

American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act [20 USC 4411]			
Institute of American Indian Arts w/Center for Lifelong Education & Museum	\$9,835,000	\$9,960,000	\$9,960,000
Haskell Indian Nations University & Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute	\$39,398,000 (Includes forward funding)	\$19,376,000	\$25,000,000

Honor Sovereignty: TCUs are chartered by their respective American Indian tribes, which hold a long-established special legal relationship with the U.S. federal government, actualized by more than 400 treaties, several Supreme Court decisions, Congressional action, and the ceding of more than one billion acres of land to the U.S. Despite the trust responsibility and treaty obligations, TCUs’ primary source of operating funds has never been fully, or adequately, funded. The funding plan we have set forth in this document represents a significant step toward adequate funding for the first time in the 40-year history of the TCU Act.

TCU Infrastructure Improvement: We urge Congress to fund section 113 (USC 1813) of the TCU Act – after 40 years – establish a new infrastructure development program for Tribal Colleges. A key part of the mission of TCUs is to prepare AI/ANs, and other rural community members to be self-sufficient members of the nation’s workforce. For TCUs to realize this goal, they must have the facilities necessary to education and train students for 21st century jobs. A TCU needs assessment revealed a need of \$120 million to address current TCU shovel-ready projects and facilities rehabilitation.

Engaged Institutions: TCUs are primary job creators in reservation communities that suffer some of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. TCUs offer high quality, culturally relevant postsecondary opportunities, and they uniquely fulfill broader, essential roles within their communities: they are community centers, public libraries, tribal archives, career and business centers, economic development centers, Native language hubs, research centers, and child care centers. Each TCU is committed to improving the lives of its students through higher education and to moving American Indians toward self-sufficiency.

Chronic Underfunding: Most TCUs are receiving **\$7,285/ISC** for academic year 2017–18, still short of the Congressionally authorized enrollment driven funding level for basic institutional operations. It has taken over 40 years to come within reach of achieving funding at **\$9000/ISC**, a significant step toward adequate funding. We ask Congress to take the last step and work to adequately fund these very deserving—and historically underfunded—*TRIBAL* institutions of higher education.