Tribal Colleges and Universities

Investments in TRIBAL Higher Education
Strengthen Culture, Community, and Citizens

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Self Determination: Strengthening Sovereign Nations Through the TRIBAL Higher Education

Diné College, Navajo Nation, 1968

We asked the parents, ‘How do you want your schools?’ That was the day something happened.”
Guy Gorman.
37 TCUs – More than 75 Campus in U.S. – 16 States

- Serving 160,000+ American Indians through academic and community education programs.
- 34 TCUs are chartered by their respective Tribal governments; 3 are chartered by the U.S. government

TCU Economic Return on Investment

RoI: For Every $1...
Federal: $2.40
Tribe/State/Region: $5.20
Students: $4.10
Place-based TRIBAL Education – Unique Missions to Transform & Sustain Native Nations

Building Tribal Nations

One Student at a Time: Hope, Identity, Sovereignty

2-year degree: 37
4-year: 13
Masters: 5

61% Female
39% Male

Average Age: 16-24, but many still are “non-traditional”

Financial Aid: 78%
Average Income: $15,000

73% are 1st Generation

TCU students bring family, history, & hope

AIHEC Proprietary

Student Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Civic Engagement

Economic Impact & Civic Development: ND TCUs = $182M to State’s Economy
Being Good Relatives

- Sense of Community
- Sense of Belonging
- Essence of culture
  - Our spirituality
- Promoting our health and well-being

TCUs: The Source of our Missions and Purposes
Teaching and Learning our Cultures and Languages
Providing Good Programs

- Language Restoration
- Cultural Teachings
- History & Today’s Tribal Society
- Community Engagement and Outreach
- Academic Programs

Perpetuation of Who We Are

- Ceremonial Life within our Colleges
- Arts and Imagery
- Structure and Organization
- Social and Familial Interactions and Relationships
- Tribal Scholars and Culture Bearers
- Curriculum and Instruction
Key TCU Goal: Economic Development
(Tribal College Contributions to Local Economic Development, February 2000)
5 Themes of TCU Economic Development

Direct Contribution to Tribal Economies

- Direct Contribution
  - TCUs hire tribal members: Academic staff/faculty; maintenance, drivers, coaches, office staff, cooks, outreach workers...
  - TCUs buy local goods and services: Providing jobs outside the TCU
  - TCU Employees spend money locally: business, entertainment, goods

TCU Investment: Proven Multiplier Effect = $100Ms to Tribal Communities
Workforce Development & Job Creation

21st Century Jobs = High Skills, Critical Thinking & Knowledge: College Degrees & Certificates

TCUs offer Certificates & Degrees in key fields:
- Career & Technical, including STEM Fields
- Social/Cultural: Nursing, Teaching, Social Work, Business

- TCUs have higher AI/AN graduation rates than all other IHEs
- TCUs tailor degrees/programs to economic potential of Tribe:
  - Hospitality, Gaming, Culinary Arts
  - Law Enforcement; Fire Fighting
  - Forestry/Natural Resource Management, including Aqua-Culture and Fisheries

- Job Creation: TCUs partner w/Tribes AND Private Industry to provide skills and knowledge needed for reservation-based manufacturing and business

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

TCU Small Business Incubators & Entrepreneur Centers help tribal members develop business plans; apply for loans, SBIR, and other programs; and develop marketing plans for products or services

Intern-/Externships help students find jobs AND gain skills for business & entrepreneurship

TCUs help Tribes develop multi-year strategic economic and community development plans

TCUs degree programs: Business Management, Hospitality, Entrepreneurship/Small Business Management
Agriculture & Land Development:
TCUs as 1994 Land-grant Institutions

1994 research and management guidance on land, natural resources, water, fisheries, crops/livestock & environment strengthens Tribal economic development efforts

Community gardens, greenhouses, and other programs to encourage healthy eating, traditional food use, and food sovereignty

Protection of cultural aspects of Tribal lands through draft codes and ordinances; strategic planning for sustainable use of Tribal resources, from mining and oil and gas production to forests and fisheries

Research to support economic viability of Native farming/ranching/fishing

NTU’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital provides large animal care for regional ranchers and farmers and conducts research to improve marketability of animals & crops

Research & Innovation: Intellectual Capital

- TCUs are building tribal capacity to secure patents, copyrights, trademarks, keys to protecting intellectual capital
- TCUs work together to develop marketable products in metallurgy, laser and 3-D imaging, & other emerging technologies
- In TCU research labs, students/faculty work in digital technology, computational, chemical, communications, and other growth fields to attract new business and create new products/processes for the world market

TCUs partner w/Boeing, Lockheed Martin, NASA, Capital Cities Comm, IBM, Intel, for students internships, research projects, jobs and to attract industry/private sector

TCUs partner w/R-1s in diverse fields – health/behavioral science, aeronautics, mining, sustainable development, and alternative energies
Education is the Answer

Scholarship Impact

- In 2010-11, the College Fund awarded nearly $4.9 million to 3,529 students
  - Average award - $1,383
- In 2015-16, we awarded nearly $7.8 million to 4,126 students
  - Average award - $1,884

Why Scholarships Matter

- Average cost of TCU education is $14,500
- Maximum PELL award is $5,815
- Gap of $9,000 must be filled through scholarships and other sources such as student income from working

Building Student College Access and Success

- Internships
- Research awards
- Fellowships
- Circle of Scholars
- Career Center
- Financial literacy
  - FATV
  - Curriculum

Sabrena Discovers Tribal Colleges and Her Full Potential
Stand With Native Students

What our students say about their experience:

1) The majority work
2) Over 60% care for dependents compared to less than 25% nationally
3) Only 24% had any kind of family financial support compared with 60% nationally
4) Average financial need was nearly $10,000

* Fostering Success—report on scholars supported by the College Fund 2012

What our students say about their education:

Education is Social Justice Education Empowers Nations

• Education signals that our students are seen, are heard, and that we stand with them
• Non-traditional students who are a significant part of TCU student populations are necessary to dismantle systems of oppression
• TCU students impact global issues and solve complex world challenges such as climate change, sustainable business practices, health care, and family restoration
• Scholarships support education – education leads to social change, healing, and the hope and skills for a better future
Presenters:

Carrie Billy, AIHEC
www.aihec.org

Cynthia Lindquist, Cankdeska Cikana Community College
www.littlehoop.edu

Elmer Guy, Navajo Technical University
www.navajotech.edu

Cheryl Crazy Bull, A*CF
www.collegefund.org