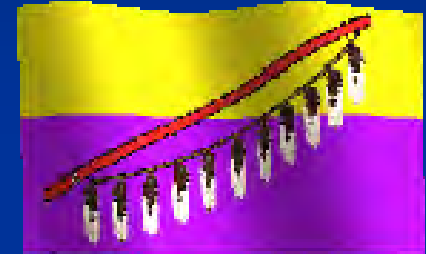


# TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE



JANE LATANÉ  
Interim President

# **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Tohono O'odham Community College is a two-year institution of higher education founded by a charter approved by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council on recommendation from the Executive Office in 1998.**

# **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**The commitment to found a college primarily to serve the needs of the O'odham was based on two primary needs:**

- to provide more accessible higher education**
- to preserve and enhance the culture and language**

# TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY PROFILE

- *Tohono O'odham* means “Desert People”. The Tohono O'odham were peaceful farmers and hunters and gatherers, living in extended family groups with well-defined traditions and norms.



# OLD AND NEW TRADITIONS



Old Running  
Game



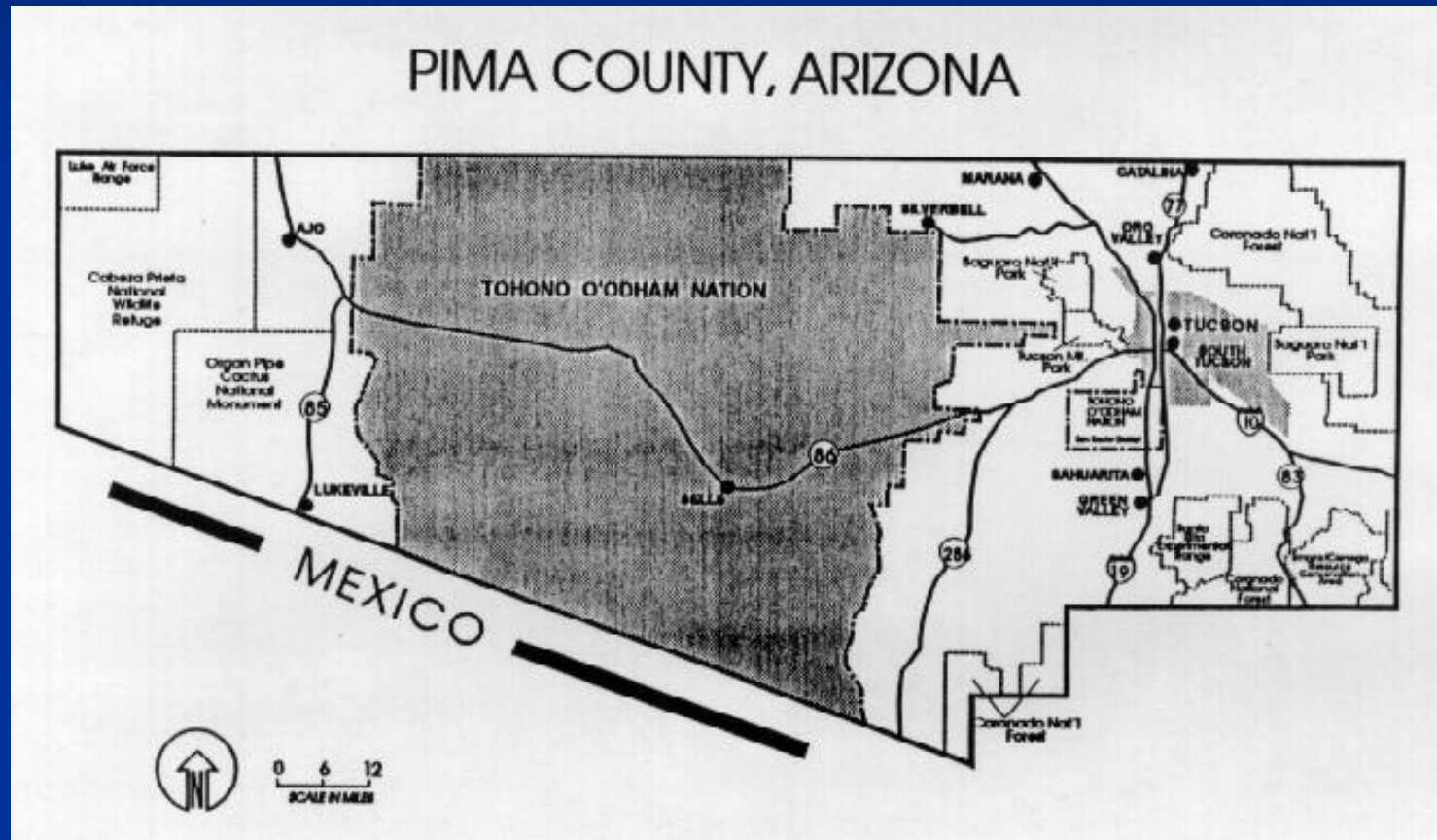
Circle Dancing

# TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

- A sovereign Nation with Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches.
- 11 Political districts with local government structure
- Land base comprising 2.8 million acres of Sonoran Desert; comparable in size to the State of Connecticut
- The Nation shares 70 miles of international border with the Republic of Mexico
- Languages spoken are Tohono O'odham and English

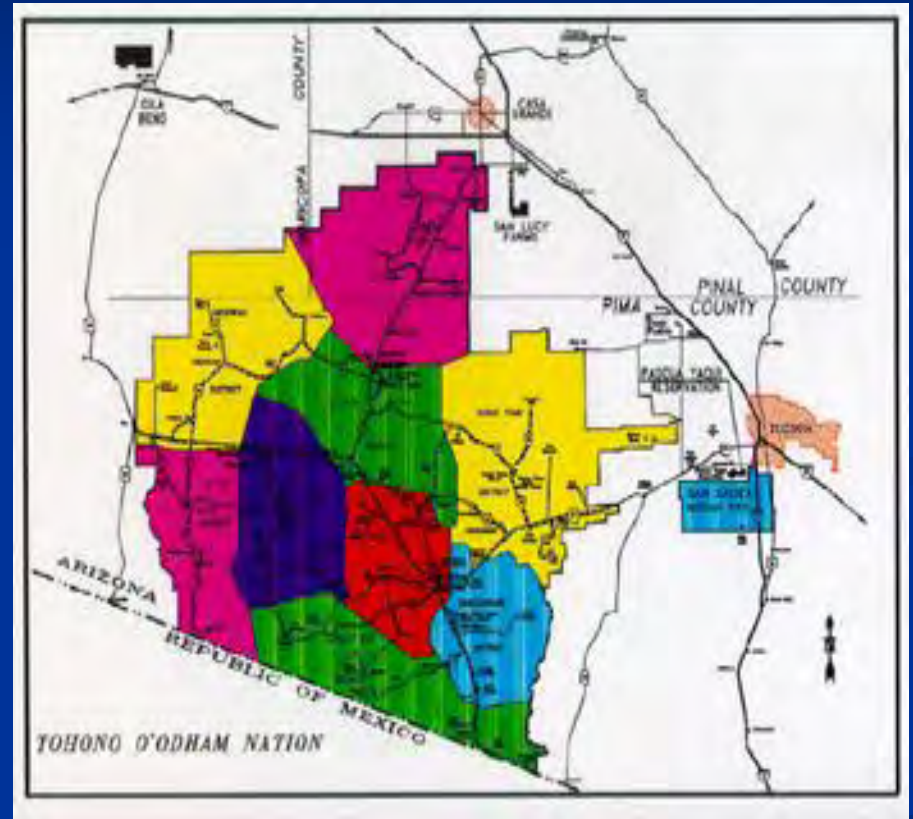


# Tohono O'odham Nation: Second largest reservation lands in the U.S.



# Geography and Demographics

- 85 villages scattered across the main reservation, with adjacent sections; San Xavier, San Lucy, Florence Village and San Lucy Farms.
- Total population of 30,000, with 15,000 residing on Nation.
- Capitol located in Sells, Arizona with approximately 2,500 residents.
- No permanent lakes, rivers, or streams
- No public transportation except for health care providers.





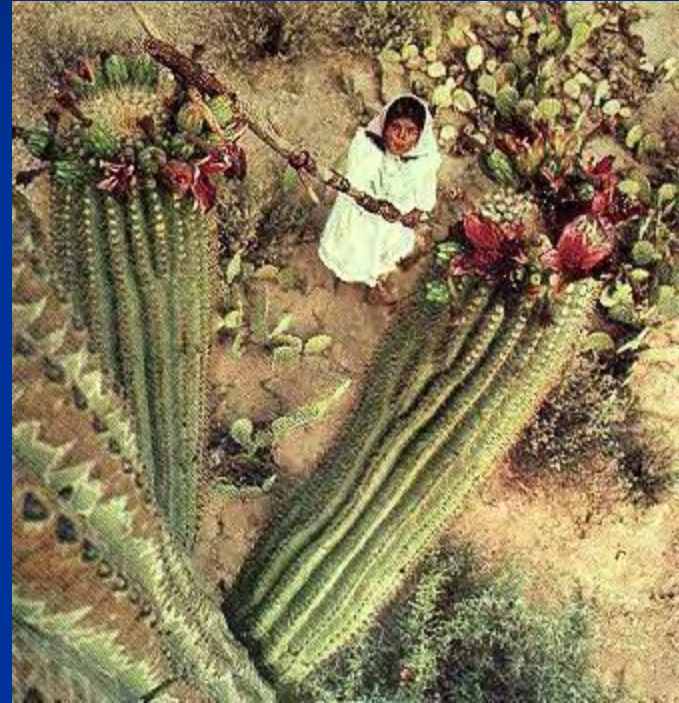
# Historical Socio-Economic Conditions

- **Increasing imposition of European and Western culture since Spanish invasion.**
- **Increased cultural trauma resulting from this imposition, including relocation, boarding schools, loss of self-sustaining economy.**
- **Loss of cultural identity resulting in lack of family and community values guiding behavioral norms.**

# Traditional Activities



Traditional Basketmaker,  
ca 1918



Picking Sahuaro Fruit

# **Current Government Structure: Executive Branch**

**The Executive Branch includes the elected Chair and Vice Chair, and departments that provide law enforcement, education, natural resources, enrollment, and Health and Human Services programs and services.**





# Government Structure:

## Legislative Branch

- The Tohono O'odham Legislative Council (TOLC) is comprised of a 22 member Council; 2 elected representatives from each of the 11 districts.
- TOLC elects the Chairperson from the council membership.
- Changes to Tribal Code, must have comment period and approval from respective Districts with final approval by the Legislative Council.



# Government Structure: Judicial Branch



- The Tribal Court System includes a Children's Program, a Group Home, and a Diversion Program.
- Adults may be incarcerated for crimes taking place on the Nation that are less than felony levels that require federal prosecution.
- Members are represented by Advocates.





# HISTORY OF TOCC

- The College operated under the Tucson-based Pima Community College from 1998 – 2002.
- First year of independent operation was 2003.
- Initial accreditation received in 2005.
- College occupies modulars leased from the public school system.

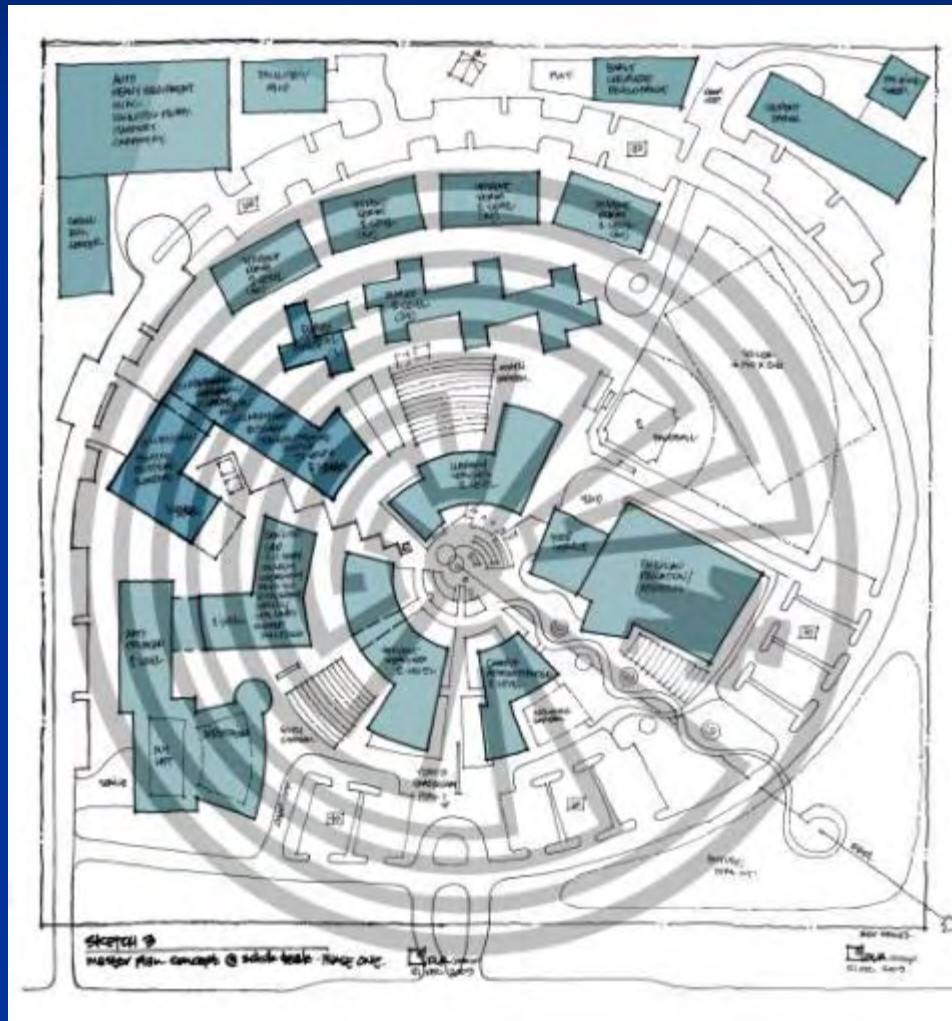
# CURRENT CAMPUS



# TCUP PROJECT

- Permanent campus site bid by the districts
- Main campus site requires complete infrastructure development
- Nation provided funding for infrastructure
- Grant awarded in 2008, to provide four housing units for faculty or students, each with two one-bedroom units

# DESIGN OF NEW CAMPUS



# DESIGN OF NEW CAMPUS





# **IMPORTANCE OF PROJECT**

**Tribal funds are enabling completion of utility and road infrastructure**

**TCUP Funding is providing housing for cohorts of students to live on campus to complete short term curricula including Certified Nursing Assistant, language and culture immersion courses, fire and police certifications, etc.**

**U.S. Department of Education is funding a four-room classroom building, with technology funded by a USDA rural development grant**

# IMPORTANCE OF PROJECT

- This grant will facilitate increased numbers of students completing short-term courses of study by allowing them to avoid travelling great distances daily.
- Many students miss classes due to lack of reliable transportation
- Educating students in cohorts will facilitate collaborative learning processes, retention, and successful completion of programs

# CHALLENGES

- **Grant awarded prior to infrastructure development, delaying ability to use the funds.**
- **Processes for bidding for architect, developing the design for the master plan for the campus to complete pre-infrastructure requirements all lengthy**
- **Initial project provides very limited housing**

# CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

- **The steps completed:**

- Architecture firm retained, completed master plan;**

- Test well completed, can be used for water for first phase of the campus;**

- Engineering firm completed preparation;**

- All permits, tests completed (including environmental, archaeological reviews);**

- Construction firm to be selected this month.**

# SUCCESES

- Received approval to modify original housing concept to four studio apartments per unit, increasing number to be housed;
- Original proposal included four housing units, actual costs allowed three, allocated new Title III funding for one unit, allowing up to 20 students for on-campus, cohort courses;





# SUCCESES

- **Grant for classroom building from USDA will allow for immediate use of the campus after simultaneous construction with housing.**
- **Outreach to Tohono O'odham organizations has identified high need, occupational advancement curricula to be provided at new campus: Certified Nursing Assistant; emergency preparedness; advanced firefighter and police certification; substance abuse certificates, Court Advocates, etc.**

# OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES/IMPACT

- **Completion of first phase of new campus will:**

**Provide housing for students who would have to travel one to two hours;**

**Increase skilled workforce on the Tohono O'odham Nation through provision of immersion courses;**

**Establish the College in its permanent location, encouraging further financial commitment from the Nation and funders.**

# CURRENT TOCC LANDMARKS

