Tribal Colleges & Universities: Leveraging Federal Resources

April 25, 2012
In 1968, the first tribal college was created by American Indians for American Indians.
“With education, we are the white man’s equal. Without it, we are his victim.”

Chief Plenty Coups, Crow

The collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities.
37 TCUs -- 79 Sites in U.S.

Serving 75,000+ American Indians in 15 states through academic and community education programs.

34 TCUs are chartered by their respective Tribal governments; 3 are chartered by the U.S. government.
TCUs & Indian Lands

TCUs:
- American Indian Higher Education
- Where the Indians Are!

TCUs:
- MT & ND: All Tribes = TCUs
- AZ, MT, ND: Largest Tribes = TCUs
“Tribal Institutions of Higher Education”

Fully Accredited (5-10 years) or Candidates
The collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities.

**Tribal College Students**

- **Women dominate**
- **Age: 16-24 years**
- **Age: 1/3rd over 30**
- **Financial support: 78 %**
- **Higher degrees: 50 %**

13 TCUs offer 4-year degrees in their own right
2 offer Master’s degree
The collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities.

AIHEC’s Vision is:
Sovereign Nations through Excellence in Tribal Higher Education.
TCUs: *most poorly funded* IHEs in the country...

- **Federal Responsibility** -- TCU Assistance Act -- appropriated at $5,325 per full-time Indian student

- **No Federal support** for non-Indians (20%)

- **Most tribes cannot afford to support**
Facilities Situation in 1998...

Old Facilities – Leaking Classrooms
Abandoned Federal Buildings
Old Fish Warehouse
Converted Gymnasium
Few Computer & STEM Labs
2 TCUs with Dorms
Hope & Commitment:

- NEW Executive Order & WHITCU Office
- Recognition of Need: “The 10 poorest counties in the U.S. are rural, and their poverty rates are staggering, in some cases higher than 60 percent. The way to deal with these problems is to put people to work.”

Andrew Cuomo, 1999
The collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities.

WHITCU, AICF, AIHEC Public-Private Pship

- **AICF:** $30 M Lilly Endowment
- **HUD TCUP:** $5 M/Year x 10 years
- **USED Title III:** $8 M x 8 years – now open (formula)
- **USDA RD:** $4M/Year x 11 years
- **DoD Instrumentation:** $2.5-3.5 M/year
TCUs: Change Agents...

TCUs Are Leading American Indian Communities As Innovative & Cost-Effective Agents of Change & Restoration: TCUs ARE Nation Building!
Maximizing HUD-TCUP: Sitting Bull College

Entrepreneur & Child Care Centers:
Helping families help themselves and the Tribal Nation

Leveraged $3.8 Million into $24 Million, toward $40 Million

Student & Community Housing:
Building homes and communities for families
The collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities.

3-4 Fold Leveraging is COMMON

Little Big Horn College:
$600,000 for $7.85 M
Community Library, Tribal Archives & Admin

Library @ Little Big Horn College
Leveraging w/State, Tribe, Private…

Diné College: $600,000 for $6.1 M Community Library & Cultural Center
The collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities.

TCU HUD Impacts Tribes in Profound Ways

OLC’s Head Start Centers

Community Libraries, Health & Wellness Centers, Housing, Computer Labs, Entrepreneurial Centers…
The collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Regional Tribal, Community, Clan-based Law Enforcement Training; Interior MOA

Community Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Youth & Elder Initiatives; Tribal Governance; Civic Engagement

SUSTAINABILITY: Climate Change Conference, Renewed Commitment

Strengthening Tribal Nations

Building Tribal Nations
The collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Power of Partnerships

The NEED remains great and ...

“tools alone do not create educational change. The power is not in the tool but in the community that can be brought together & their collective vision....”

M. Riel
The collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation's Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Sovereign Nations through Excellence in Tribal Higher Education.

AIHEC Vision