



# TCU & AIHEC Overview

Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children  
December 3, 2020



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## ***Honoring: Land Acknowledgement***

We acknowledge that we live & work on Indigenous Land that is now home to citizens of many diverse nations, including Tribal nations.



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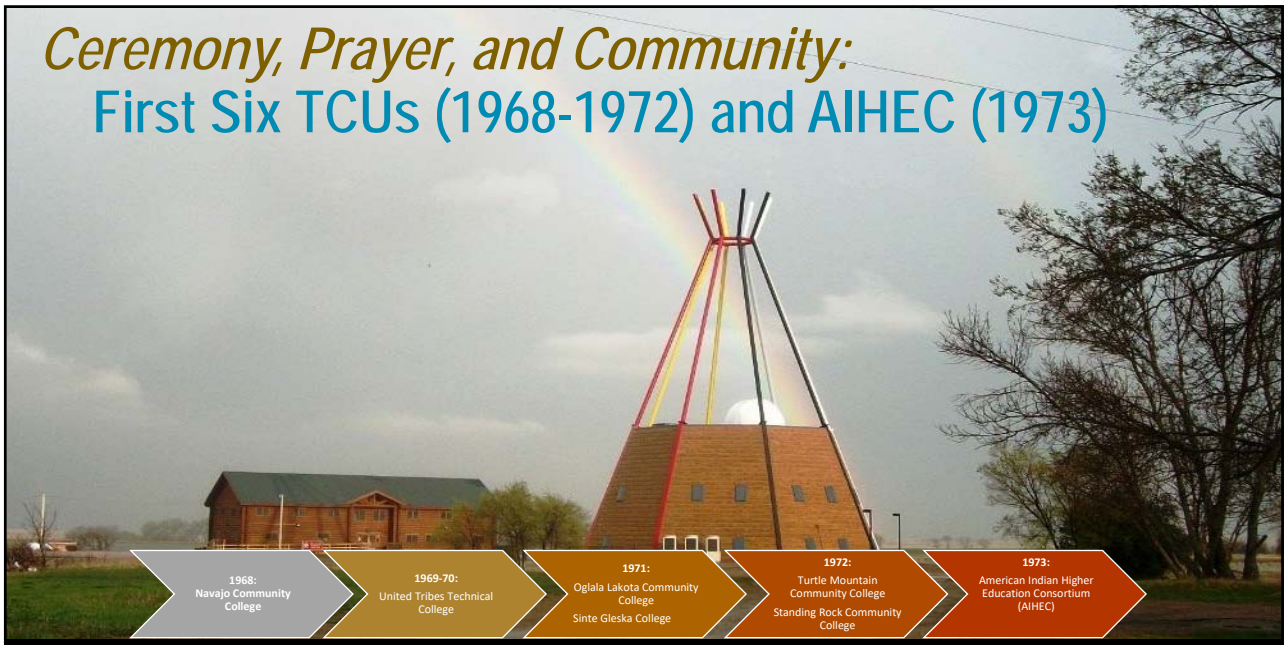
*"Whoever controls the education of our children controls our future."*  
 Chief Wilma Mankiller




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## *Ceremony, Prayer, and Community:* First Six TCUs (1968-1972) and AIHEC (1973)

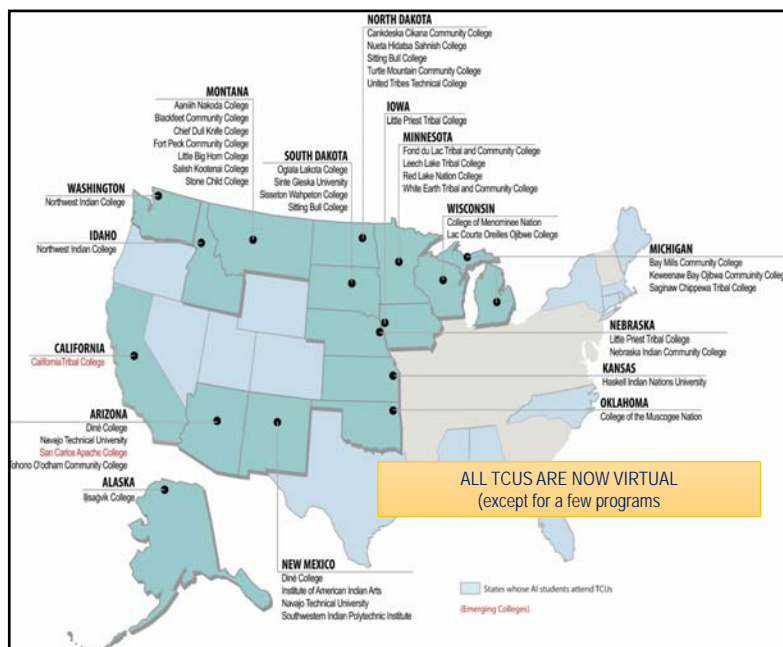


<p>1968: Navajo Community College</p>	<p>1969-70: United Tribes Technical College</p>	<p>1971: Oglala Lakota Community College Sinte Gleska College</p>	<p>1972: Turtle Mountain Community College Standing Rock Community College</p>	<p>1973: American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)</p>
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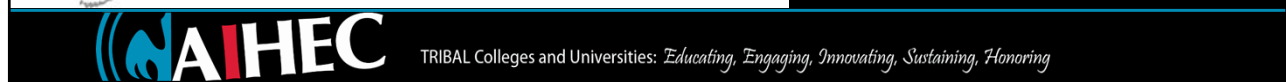


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- 2nd Circle of TCU Movement:**
- 37 AIHEC Members: 35 Accredited TCUs
  - 75 sites across 16 States
  - TCU students come from 30+ states
  - 230+ federally recognized Indian Tribes are represented at TCUs
  - New TCUs are emerging



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**Vision for the Movement:**  
*second circle of the tribal college movement*

**Strong sovereign Tribal Nations through excellence in TRIBAL higher education**





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**TRIBAL COLLEGES**  
Colleges:  
*Completion with a Tribal Purpose™:*

Academics,  
Employment, and  
Community,  
Place, Past,  
Future



**Sustaining Tribal Culture & Ways of Knowing/Being:**

Native Language Restoration, including language requirements

Land and Water Sustainability  
Food Sovereignty  
Cultural Traditions  
Identity & Family



**Comprehensive Education & Social Systems:**

Head Start, & Dual Credit  
Immersive pre-K-8  
Native World View

Disease Prevention/Health Promotion  
Behavioral Health/Trauma  
Community-based Native Language Programs



**Preparing & Creating Professional Workforce:**

Nursing: Cert. to 4-yr

Teaching: pre-K to 12:  
Native Language Instruction w/Apprenticeships

Native Environmental Science, Forestry, etc.  
Research: Indigenous Participatory Research



**Economic Impact & Civic Development:**

Job Creation Initiative  
Student Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Civic Engagement

Voting & Sustainability Initiatives  
AIHEC Student Conference

**Building Tribal Nations**



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*One Student at a Time...*

2-year degree: 35  
4-year: 18  
Masters: 5

63% Female  
37% Male

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

Financial Aid: 78%  
Average Income:  
\$21,390

51% are 1<sup>st</sup> Generation;  
28% = Dev. Math

AI/ANs off-rez: 78%  
AI/ANs in/near urban center: 71%



*In past 8 years, Completion up 32%, Degrees up 17%*



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*Post-Secondary Ed Challenges: Native Students and TCUs, Then, the pandemic.*



**Lack of Academic Preparation: 30-60 percent** Developmental Ed; Behavioral & General Health Issues: Suicide, Depression, Gangs, Alcohol, Violence, Diabetes, Obesity



**Lack of Fiscal Resources:** Chronic underfunding; lack of funding sustainability in key programs: student support, GED prep, childcare, Land-grant Extension



**Geographic, Infrastructure, and Socio-Economic Challenges & Barriers:** Over 50 percent of students = 1<sup>st</sup> generation; several TCU reservations are larger than some states



**TCU Faculty & Administration:** Development, Release Time, & Research Opportunities are difficult. Jobs are complex: Academic, Community, and Cultural Responsibilities.



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*TCUs: Serving Nations that have been knocked down...*

- NSF-funded assessment of TCU cyberinfrastructure
- 0-10 percent online to 100 percent
- SLOWEST & MOST Expensive Internet of all IHEs
- OLDEST equipment



	TCUs	2-year IHE	4-year IHE
Average Connectivity	336 MBPS Max: 1,060 MBPS Lowest: 6 MBPS	513 MBPS	3.5 GBPS
Average Hardware Refresh Cycle	8.29 years	3-5 years	
Average TCU Internet Cost	\$40,000/year Highest: \$250,000/year Iisagvik College Barrow, AK		



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THE NEW NORMAL IS OUR SPECIALTY.

NAVJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY  
CROWLSON 505.387.77

We recognize that we are living in a stressful time.  
Bay Mills Behavioral Health Presents:  
**Mental Health Power Hour**  
Starting May 4th - 3 Meetings Weekly  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Monday topic: Stress  
Wednesday topic: Youth Issues  
Friday topic: Adapting to Change  
Open Discussion in Each Meeting  
Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 6380-9179  
Password: 052000  
Call 906-248-8330 for more information.  
Everyone welcome!

PERSESSION SCHEDULE  
SESSION BEGINS 5/18/20.

SESSION	TIME PERIOD	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR	CREDITS	CAP
...	...	...	...	...	...

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**Salish Kootenai College:**

- SKC STEM Academy  
*(nearly all TCUs offer Dual Credit, most uncompensated)*
- K-12 Tutoring Centers
- COVID Child Care Centers

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Navajo Technical University:  
Ranked 4<sup>th</sup> top online college in New Mexico by national organization (July 2020)



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Diné College:  
Top 5 Degree-granting IHE for Native Students in the U.S.



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Bay Mills Community College this year will celebrate its first entirely online baccalaureate graduates – in Early Childhood Education.



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DHHS TCU-Head Start Partnership Program Funded: \$4M – 6 awards: *Teacher & Worker Training & Credential Programs*



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## Native Language Revitalization

- TCUs: *4-yr Native Language Teaching Degrees, Apprenticeships, Requirements, and Immersion Programs*
- All TCUs/AIHEC: *Reclaiming the Words of Our People Collaborative Action Planning Project*

The poster features the text 'Think Dakota' in a yellow, handwritten-style font. Below the text is a circular logo with a cross inside, flanked by two feathers. The group of people is diverse in age and ethnicity, and they are all smiling and holding their certificates.

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## Major Findings to Date

- **Need:**
  - Sustainable, Adequate Funding
  - Native Language Centers
  - Greater Multi-media Use
  - More Exposure to Language & Opportunities for Use
- **Community of Practice** (AIHEC Language Society):
  - Sharing best practices, stories
  - Leading by example
  - Continuous improvement
  - Resource sharing and leveraging
- **TCU-Centered Research:** integrating language and cultural teachings



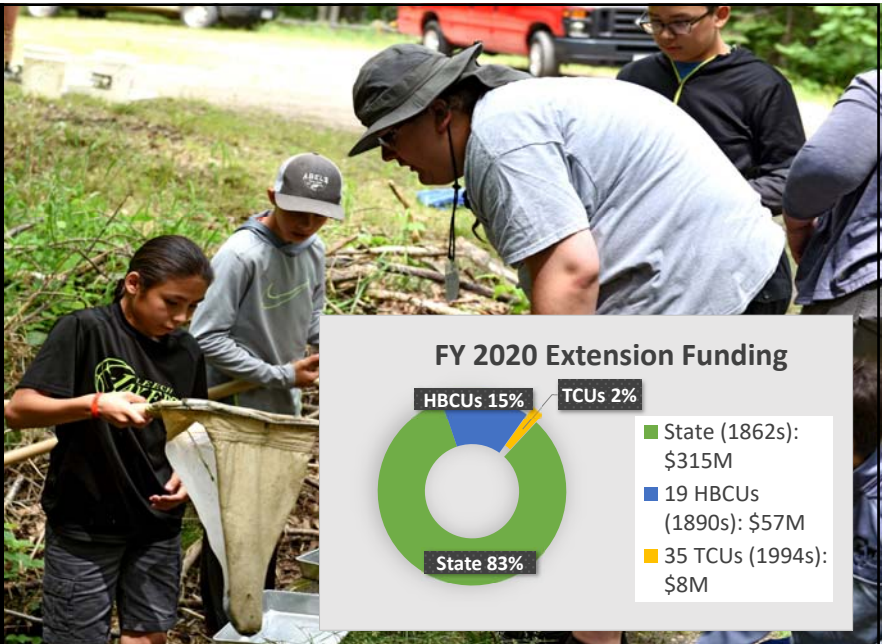
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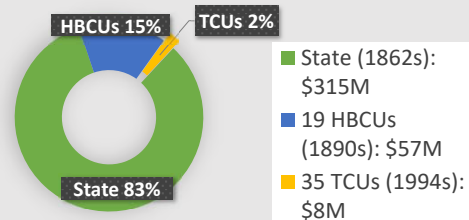
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TCUs are 1994  
Land-grant  
Institutions:

*1994 Extension  
Programs are youth  
& food sovereignty  
focused*



FY 2020 Extension Funding



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## Student Success Research & Programs



### Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Intermediaries for Scale

- Building AIHEC's capacity to support TCUs, ANNH Institutions
- Networks dozens of potential providers
- Goal: Strengthen TCUs and student success



### AIAN Student Success Framework:

- Two-year research study
- Methods: Literature review and student focus groups
- Goal: Student Success Framework
- *TCU COVID-19 Survey Launched*

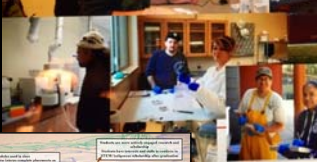


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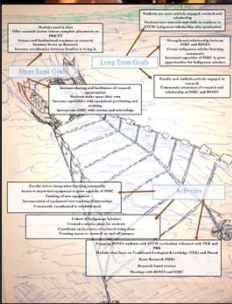
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## Indigenous Problem-based Learning



**TOCC Man in the Maze/I'toi Ki: Life-journey -- life cycle.**  
**Visual map is a measurement tool for Calculus I.**



**Student Success Collaborative: Innovations in Problem Based Learning, informed by Indigenous Evaluation Framework (Indigenous Values, Ways of Knowing; Builds Ownership)**



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# TCU Equitable Practices

- **Relationships with Local Schools**
  - Dual-credit programs & internship opportunities
  - Weekend academies, after school programs, family nights
  - TCU faculty at schools
- **Eliminating Barriers**
  - Flexible course offerings
  - Academic support
  - Career Concepts: skill building and supports for students living in generational poverty (social emotional skills)
- **Family Support & Emergency Aid**
- **One-one Relationships:**
  - Faculty who BELIEVE in students & support IDENTITY
  - Near peer mentors
  - Education & Research RELEVANT to community and family



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Rising from the sovereign power of our AI nations, AIHEC is committed to the inherent rights of Native peoples to define and control our destiny, including establishing our own Tribal institutions of higher education.

Essential to ownership of our education systems is our ability to evaluate and accredit our own programs and institutions.



## ACCREDITATION



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**The Importance of Identity:**

- Spirituality & Ceremony
- Place & Land
- Community & Family
- Personal Gifts
- Tribal Scholarship
- Sovereignty

*TCU Curriculum, Programs, and Values are Unique*

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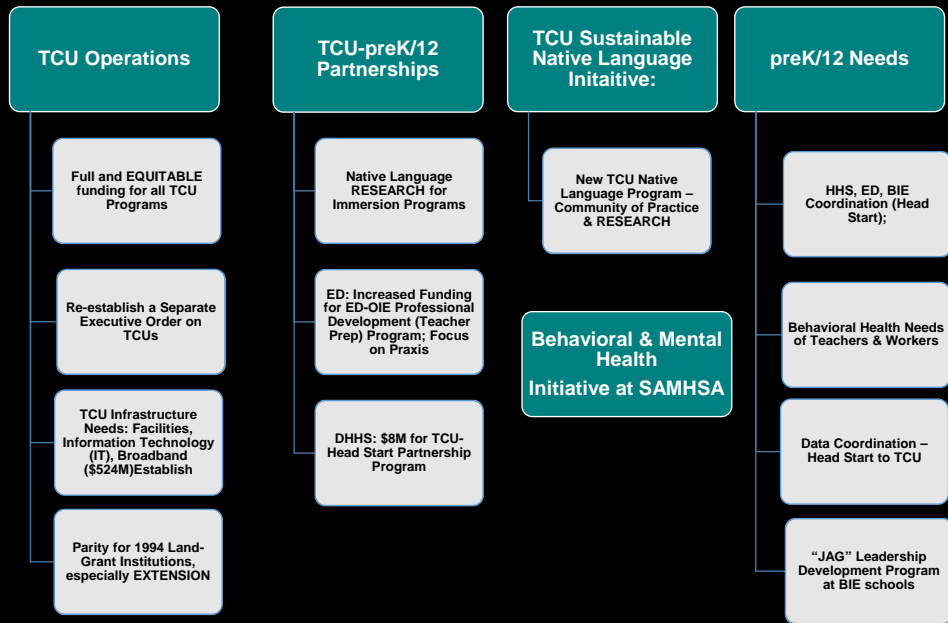
*TCUs: Culture is the Core -- The Corn Stalk in the Center*

*“Start every week with pipe;  
end every week with drum...”*

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# Recommendations



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## second circle of the tribal college movement

Strong sovereign Tribal Nations through excellence in TRIBAL higher education



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