



## CANKDESKA CIKANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (CCCC) Priorities for the 118th Congress (February 2023)

Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) provide rigorous postsecondary education and research opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIANs) and other rural community residents. TCUs offer higher education that is uniquely Tribal, founded on Native languages, culture and philosophy with strong student support systems; this is family oriented sovereignty. Unfortunately, federal education completion metrics fail to consider the unique nature of students served at TCUs. Federal completion rates focus on first-time, full-time students. Success at TCUs is defined holistically, because most students attend part-time, are transfer students, or single parents who live in poverty. Our shared vision is **Strong Sovereign Nations Through Excellence in TRIBAL Higher Education**.

### CCCC FACTS...

- Chartered in 1974
- Associate Degree granting institution
- Enrollment trends from Spring 2020 to Fall 2022 documents an 88% increase!
- Very Affordable Tuition at \$150/credit hour; starting Spring 2020, provided students direct assistance with tuition, fees, & books waived using COVID Relief funding.
- Six to eight students per faculty member
- Fall of 2022: 47% Part-time students; 53% Full-time students
- CCCC student Persistence Rate improved from 49% (FA20-SP21) to 62% (FA21-SP22)
- Over 2,500 gift cards in \$25 or \$50 increments were distributed to students for groceries, supplies, or gas



CCCC students, faculty, and staff have shown tremendous perseverance and resiliency. The COVID-19 relief funding helped CCCC to remain open and to make the transition to distance education a seamless and positive experience as well as assuring a safe teaching and learning environment.



### Dani Lohnes

CCCC Student Senate President

"I am very grateful for CCCC. I am currently working toward my Associate's Degree in Indigenous Studies and CCCC has been very helpful in my progress toward reaching my goal. CCCC has shown me ways to be more involved in my community and interning in a business atmosphere."



### Aisha IronHawk

CCCC Student Senate Secretary

"I am beyond grateful to be going to CCCC and pursuing an Associate's in Fine Arts. CCCC has given me such great opportunities of reaching my goals and making sure I am involved as much as I can be."

## Cankdeska Cikana Community College: 1994 Land-Grant Programs

Kitchens are the heart of the home, so CCCC made it the heart of the Land Grant Extension as well. Thanks to special permissions from USDA NIFA CCCC was able to use Extension funds to renovate kitchen space to include teacher and student stations that allow students to follow along with cooking lessons. Leveraged funds through a small SARE grant, as well as the help of CCCC Carpentry students, made this kitchen a reality. When is a kitchen not just a kitchen? When it also becomes:

- A place for community gardeners to preserve their produce. (Community gardens funded by an Extension grant from NAAF)
- A hub for community members who want to start a business. (Farmers Market with SNAP funded by a grant from NDSU)
- A classroom for kids to learn the basics of cooking (4-H programs funded by a grant from CYFAR)
- A center for teaching traditional Dakota recipes (Food preservation micro credential program funded by FSOP)
- A learning environment for people to learn how to cook healthy foods (Nutrition education funded by USDA NIFA grant)





**CCCC Supports AIHEC's REQUEST: \$40 million TCU Internet Technology (IT) Service Fund  
USDA – Rural Utility Service**

The ongoing pandemic has exacerbated the digital divide and underscored the lack of broadband access across Indian Country. To address these deficiencies, Congress must act to establish a *permanent TCU IT Service Fund within the USDA-Rural Utilities Service Program*. TCUs, which are 1994 land-grant institutions served by USDA, need approximately \$40 million set-aside annually to cover rapidly increasing network, connectivity, and equipment costs; maintenance, infrastructure expansion; and IT professional development.

**CCCC IT upgrades between March 2022 to Spring 2023:**

External bandwidth continues to be a challenge – the 100 Mbps link to CCCC's internet provider is not adequate and the college has moved multiple public facing servers into the Cloud to save bandwidth. The cost to make the upgrade/change to the current bandwidth is a challenge as well as covering the expense in the future:

- Current monthly internet expense is \$2,010 for 100 Mbps
- Provided 804 laptops and 90 printers to students at over \$500,000
- Provided 57 laptops and 20 printers to faculty/staff for at over \$150,000
- Spent approximately \$8,000 for 'Hot Spots' on the Spirit Lake reservation
- License for ZOOM access doubled to \$4,000/year
- Campus hardware updates, including servers, is approximately \$450,000. Upgrading the internal main campus system to 100Gbps backbone with 40 Gbps to each client switches and the two outside internet access points for the east and west parking lots is ongoing work being accomplished for the updates.



**CCCC Supports AIHEC's REQUEST: \$3.2 billion TCU Construction Fund  
DOI – Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)**

A July 2021 AIHEC survey of the 35 TCUs revealed many chronic unmet facilities and infrastructure needs, including lack of student and faculty housing, inadequate classroom space, insufficient libraries, and outdated laboratories.

- TCU deferred maintenance/rehabilitation: \$400 million (total)
- TCU completion of master plans: \$2.7 billion (total)
- TCU operation and maintenance: \$20 million (annual, recurring need)

AIHEC strongly urges Congress to fund dedicated TCU facilities programs through DOI-BIE to modernize existing facilities and build sustainable, 21st century campuses.

**CCCC's Unmet Needs List  
January 19, 2023**

<b>Professional staff</b> development (5 FTEs) (librarian, counselor or social worker, IT security, development and assessment)	\$400,000
<b>VMM Library</b> acquisitions, tech upgrades	\$100,000
<b>Evelyn Green Learning Center</b> (GED) services, tech upgrades	\$100,000
<b>Dakota Studies Program</b> (4 FTEs for instructors-in-training; bachelor's program)	\$500,000
<b>Campus safety improvements</b> (curbing, sidewalks, computer and security upgrades, maintenance support)	\$200,000
<b>CCCC Head Start Facility</b> tech/security upgrades	\$100,000
<b>Equipment/vehicles</b> (van for student transportation, tractor for community gardening program, lawn equipment)	\$300,000
<b>Construction or renovations</b>	<u>\$3,500,000</u>
Student Tiny Houses (10 units x \$150,000 each)	\$1.5 million
CDL classroom/lab/parking lot	\$1 million
Library entrance improvement, expansion	\$1 million
Carpentry Lab (to build/move tiny homes)	\$2 million
<b>Total Unmet Need for CCCC</b>	<b>\$7,200,000</b>

