

RED LAKE NATION COLLEGE (RLNC) BONDING BILL (HF 2343) HELPING ALL MN NATIVES

DESCRIPTION:

- The HF 2343 (SF1700) proposed bonding bill is a \$3M bonding bill for the construction/renovation and completion of our new RLNC Minneapolis Downtown site location at 900 S. 3rd St.
- This Bonding bill is HF2343 and SF1700. It was already presented in Senate Cap. Investment Committee.

MARKET FOCUS:

- THERE ARE 120K NATIVES IN MN. They would be served by this site via ONLINE CLASSES.
- WE HAVE 50K NATIVES IN THE TWIN CITIES. They would be served for IN-PERSON CLASSES.
- We are a 2-year Community College that serves predominately Natives, but 15-20% are Non-Natives.
- Minneapolis has one of the largest urban populations of Natives in the USA, with over 50K.
- Almost half of our 17K Red Lake Tribal Members live there.
- There is currently NO Tribal College serving the Twin Cities. We serve ALL Natives. OPEN to the PUBLIC.

PROBLEM:

- National and MN State averages of Natives HS grad rates are 85% to 90%. MN Natives are 35% to 58%.
- This is NOT an Education Gap, this is an EDUCATION CANYON IN MN.
- In 2015, MN Legislature set a 70% GOAL for Higher Ed attainment of at least 1 yr. of post-sec. ed. by 2025.
- Quick Update on Natives in MN: As of 2020, lowest of all racial groups by far: Natives at only 28%.
- RLNC is one of only 3 public higher education schools NOT receiving any direct MN operational funding.
- We are NOT under-funded. We are NEVER-FUNDED. These are ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
- The ECONOMIC, NEVER-FUNDING for NATIVES IN MN has led to our EDUCATION CANYON.
- We had the entire \$12M for this project but inflation costs drove the final price up \$3M to \$15M.
- Now we need the final \$3M, or final 20% to complete this important project. Red Lake paid for the first 80%.

SOLUTION:

- RLNC focuses on small classes, student support, 70% Native staff & faculty, language, culture and pride.
- Our Tribal College model provides retention rates above, or equal to State and National averages.
- RLNC has the same exact Accreditation as Notre Dame and the U of M.
- We have Articulation Agreements with all MN schools and are a “feeder system” for MN 4 yr. schools.
- We have a lot of positive energy, thoughts and talk about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).
- What we need is action, funding and partners, NOT positive talk about DEI.
- In 2021, the U of M system got \$684M and MN State System got \$353M in Direct Operational support from MN.
- In 2021, RLNC was one of 3 public schools to get \$0 from State higher education appropriations.
- All MN Natives are also legal residents of the State too.
- We need this State funding to make a dent in the EDUCATION CANYON for MN Natives.
- Please help us fund this critically important MN bonding bill.
- This modest \$3M request will make a huge ROI impact since it is the Final 20% of the project.
- IF NOT NOW, WHEN? WITH A \$17B+ SURPLUS IN MN, NOW IS THE TIME TO ADDRESS THE EDUCATION CANYON FOR NATIVES IN MN.
- This new Tribal College will be the first of its kind in the USA. It will be a National Showcase.
- MN CAN BE THE HERO IN THIS SUCCESS STORY.
- BEST WAY TO ADDRESS THE NATIVE EDUCATION CANYON IN MN: THE TRIBAL COLLEGE'S.
- OUR TRIBAL COLLEGE MODEL WORKS BEST WITH EDUCATING NATIVES!
- BEST ROI for only \$3M, for the FINAL 20% of the project. Red Lake Tribe and College paid first 80%.
- The Education Canyon for MN Natives: Let's try something new: TC's and give First-Time Funding.