

MN Tribal Colleges

“Partnerships for Success”



MINNESOTA TRIBAL COLLEGES

BILLS SUPPORTING THIS REQUEST: SF 636. HF750.

Our \$3M Request: \$1M/Yr.-Unrestricted for EACH Tribal College for Operations & Maintenance.



Agenda Topics

- **Introductions**
- **Our Tribal College Story**
- **Our Results & Future Plans**



Transforming Communities

- *TC's are "2-Year Community Colleges" that serve a **UNIQUE MARKET NICHE – Higher Ed. For Natives***

- **We're in the PEOPLE BUSINESS!**

- **We BUILD PEOPLE UP!**

- **Vision: Prepare students for bachelor's, master's & beyond, not just 2 years.**



TC's Without Borders: Vision & Students



- WE ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ANYONE CAN ATTEND.
- WE SERVE PREDOMINATELY NATIVE COMMUNITIES. (15-20% Non.N.)
- SERVE & PARTNER WITH TRIBES: "ANYWHERE – ONLINE".
- OPEN ENROLLMENT: HS DIPLOMA OR A GED.
- ACCESS & OPPORTUNITIES = FOR NATIVES, LOW INCOME.

BIG THREE – W/E, RL & LL

- **OUR 3 NATIONS MAKE UP APPROXIMATELY 70% OF MN NATIVES.***
- **THIS IS 48K OF 70K. LARGE UNDERCOUNTS OF NATIVES IN CENSUS.**



* MN Chippewa Tribe (MCT) online data.

Our Tribal College Recipe



- What makes us Unique, What we do better in educating Natives in higher ed.:
- “Secret Sauce”:
- Small class size, Personalized, 1 on 1 Attention.
- Family Connections w/ students. “Family Colleges”
- Education: “Native Perspective” – 7 Ojibwe Values, Pride and Culture, Language.
- Mentorship – 1st Generation, 70% Native Faculty & Staff.
- Support system - Counseling, Emergency Fund, Food Shelf.

Proof Our TC System is Working: Results

	USA National	MN State	
	<u>2 Yr. Avg. *</u>	<u>2 Yr. Avg.*</u>	<u>RLNC*</u>
• <u>Persistence Rate</u>	75%	69%	85%
• (Fall to Spring)			
• <u>Retention Rate</u>	61%	--	56%
• (Fall to Fall)			
<u>HS Grads</u>	<u>88%</u>	<u>87%</u>	<u>MN Natives: 35-58%</u>

• **OUR TRIBAL COLLEGE MODEL SYSTEM WORKS! ROI-MAJOR IMPACT.**

• Based on most recent 2020 to 2023 Statistics verified from National public DOE, NCES, State-MN DOE and RLNC Tribal College sources. For All Institutions.

HLC Accreditation

- The highest level of Accreditation in the USA is **Regional Accreditation**. There are 6 in USA.
- We built Excellent, Professional Teams of Faculty & Staff.
- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) covers 19 states, incl. MN.
- Often times, Tribal Colleges are unfairly discredited or devalued.



The Higher Learning Commission

Excellent Academic Standards

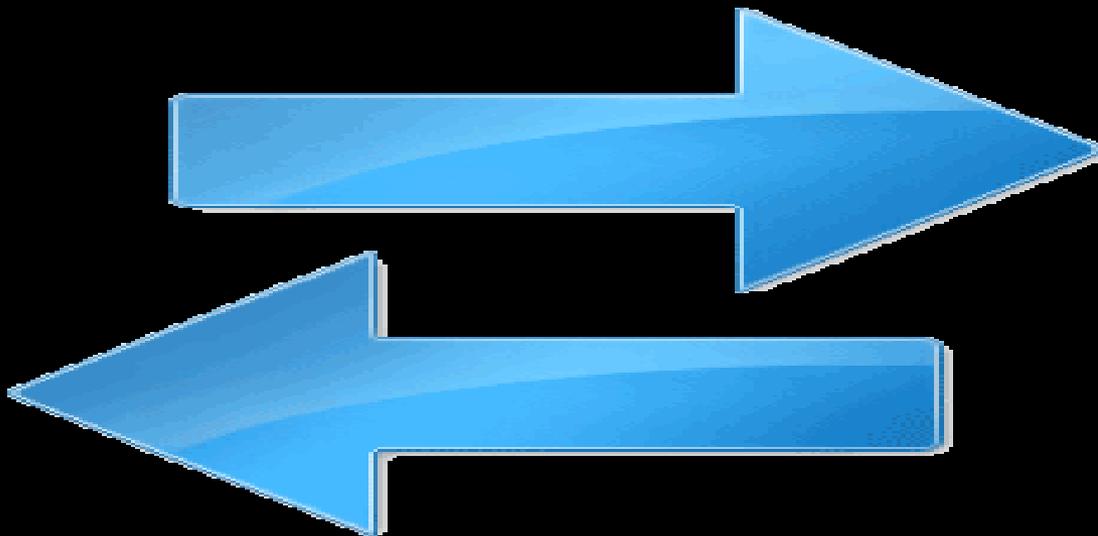
- This means RLNC, meets the same **HIGH QUALITY ACADEMIC STANDARDS** as all other Major Universities!
- We are in the SAME ARENA as:





TC Academic Partnerships

- We have **“EASE OF TRANSFER”** For TC credits to **ALL MNSCU STATE SCHOOLS.** **(NO COST Transfer)**
- **ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS W/ ALL 4 YR. STATE.**



*** More Pathways for 4 Yr. Degrees.
FREE TUITION based on Income.**



Student Benefits & Student Support

- **TC Students are low-income, emphasis grants.**
- **Since low income, our rates are \$140-\$195/cr.**
- **Most ALL TC STUDENTS grad. w ZERO DEBT!**
- **Counselors & Mentoring, 1 on 1 help, higher cost**
- **TC Students get Laptops_w/ Tech Fees:**



Expanding to Serve Minneapolis - Fall 23'

- **RLNC has approx. 8K Off-Rez. Members, over 50K Natives total in Twin Cities.**
- **Currently, NO Tribal College Serving Twin Cities.**
- **RLNC will be one of 1st TC in downtown urban- USA.**



MN Higher Ed Budget Allocations - 2021

<u>College System</u>	21' MN Budget <u>Allocation</u>	MN % of Their <u>Total Budget</u>
• U of M	\$684M	18%
• OHE (State System)	\$353M	76%
• 3 TC's in MN	\$ 0	0%

(RL, LL & W/E)

70% of MN Natives

* ONLY 3 MN Public Higher Ed Schools NOT receiving ANY direct State operational \$'s. (RL, LL & W/E)

Results of Tribal College Under-Funding

- Less Staff & Infrastructure than mainstream schools
- Key jobs left unfilled. Most staff must do 2-3 jobs.
- TC's pay only 70% of 2-year State school's salaries.
- Difficult to staff BEFORE pandemic. Impossible now



High Poverty, High Need Communities

- **Poorest counties & areas of MN, w/ lack of educ. funding, results in greatest educational injustices.**
- U of M tuition funds 26% of their budget.
- State system tuition funds 10% of their budget.
- TC's tuition at \$140 to \$190 per credit, only funds about 3-5% of our budgets.
- **Our Tribes, grants, Feds & donations support us.**
- **Without MN support, EVERY system will struggle.**
- TC's: “Missing a big piece of the pie”.



MN Support Would Help “Expand” our TC Model



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