

Red Lake Nation College (RLNC) Project description for HF 2343 (SF1700) \$3M Bonding Bill proposal



Artist rendering of the new, \$15.2M Red Lake Nation College (RLNC) site project located in Downtown Minneapolis at 900 S. 3rd Street, across from US Bank Stadium on the Metro Line. This project will serve over 120K Minnesota Natives. There are over 50K Natives in the Twin Cities. This site is also open to the public for anyone to attend in person or online. Project has been started and is scheduled for completion by December 2023 if the final \$3M is obtained by 12/31/23.

Seeking \$3M for Red Lake Nation College Downtown Minneapolis Site - Completion by 12/31/23

This is a \$3M bonding bill to complete a new \$15.2M Red Lake Nation College Site project located in Downtown Minneapolis. The project has been started and is set for completion by 12/31/23. The Red Lake Nation Tribe and Red Lake Nation College originally had funds to complete the entire project. However, due to inflation costs, pandemic shortages, & construction material cost increases, project costs increased \$3M, and more funding is now needed to complete this project. The proposed \$3M bonding request would be used to cover the final 20% of the construction, renovation, FF&E & IT/Technology costs of this \$15.2M project.

Red Lake Nation College is a 2-year, public college that will predominately serve 120K MN Native Americans. Tribal Colleges provide excellent higher education grounded in Native language, culture, values and pride. We are more successful at getting Natives to continue their higher education. This is an effort to bring our successful, rural Tribal College model to the largest concentrated population of 50K Natives in Minnesota, the Twin Cities. This bill will place the State as a major partner to help complete the final 20% piece of this important project, and as a strong supporter of the successful Tribal College model of Native higher education.

All Natives in MN are also residents of the State. There is currently no Tribal College located in the Twin Cities to serve them. Once completed, the Twin Cities and Minnesota will be home to the first Tribal College located in a major urban city in the USA. Further, Native Americans have the worst education achievement levels, largest socio-economic gaps, and highest poverty rates of any of the major minority groups in Minnesota, and Nationally. This Native education project will be an attempt to close these huge education gaps and serve the “most underserved”, high-poverty community of Native Americans in the higher education field in Minnesota.

This modest investment of \$3M will provide a large impact with a significant Return on Investment (ROI) with students either transferring and feeding into the State system schools, or earning higher salaries after graduating.