

# STATE FUNDING REQUEST FOR MINNESOTA TRIBAL COLLEGES 2022

**Thank you for supporting Minnesota's Tribal Colleges.**

**Together we can bridge the education canyon that exists for Native Americans in Minnesota.**

**Native Americans are the most underserved of Minnesota residents in higher education.**

As a direct result, they have the lowest education attainment rate of any racial or ethnic group in the state. For the past 30 years, Tribal Colleges have been the only public schools in Minnesota required to educate Minnesota residents without any State public operational & capital funding.

Native Americans who live in Minnesota and attend Minnesota Tribal Colleges are the only residents in the state who are NOT supported by operational funding at the public school of their choice.

**MN Tribal Colleges are being treated differently than all other MN public colleges and, therefore, are being discriminated against by not receiving State funding like all other public schools in MN.**

Why State Funding is Needed: Federal funding to Tribal Colleges covers only the bare minimum, leaving many operational issues, including:

- Chronic understaffing
- No funding for Infrastructure
- Almost 100% of Tribal College students live in poverty, so tuition and fees cannot be increased to provide additional funding.

**Our Request: \$1 Million per Year for each MN Tribal College (Total of \$3 Million/Year)**

\$3 million is a tiny investment for the most underserved of Minnesota residents in higher education, especially when compared to the approximate \$1.1 billion 2022 budget allocation for the U of M and MN State system. Even so, \$3 million has the potential to benefit countless lives of Native American citizens.

**Return on Investment: Tribal Colleges educate students out of poverty and assist them in becoming productive workers and tax-paying citizens.**

A recent survey of RLNC graduates found a 100% placement rate. Grads were either employed and earning \$10,000 more with their degree, or transferred to a 4-year Minnesota college or university.

**Minnesota Tribal Colleges — Transforming Native Communities!**



Leech Lake  
Tribal College  
lltc.edu



Red Lake  
Nation College  
rlnc.edu



White Earth Tribal  
& Community College  
wetcc.edu



LLTC, RLNC, and WETCC Graduates

