

Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU): Supporting Students



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Goals for session...

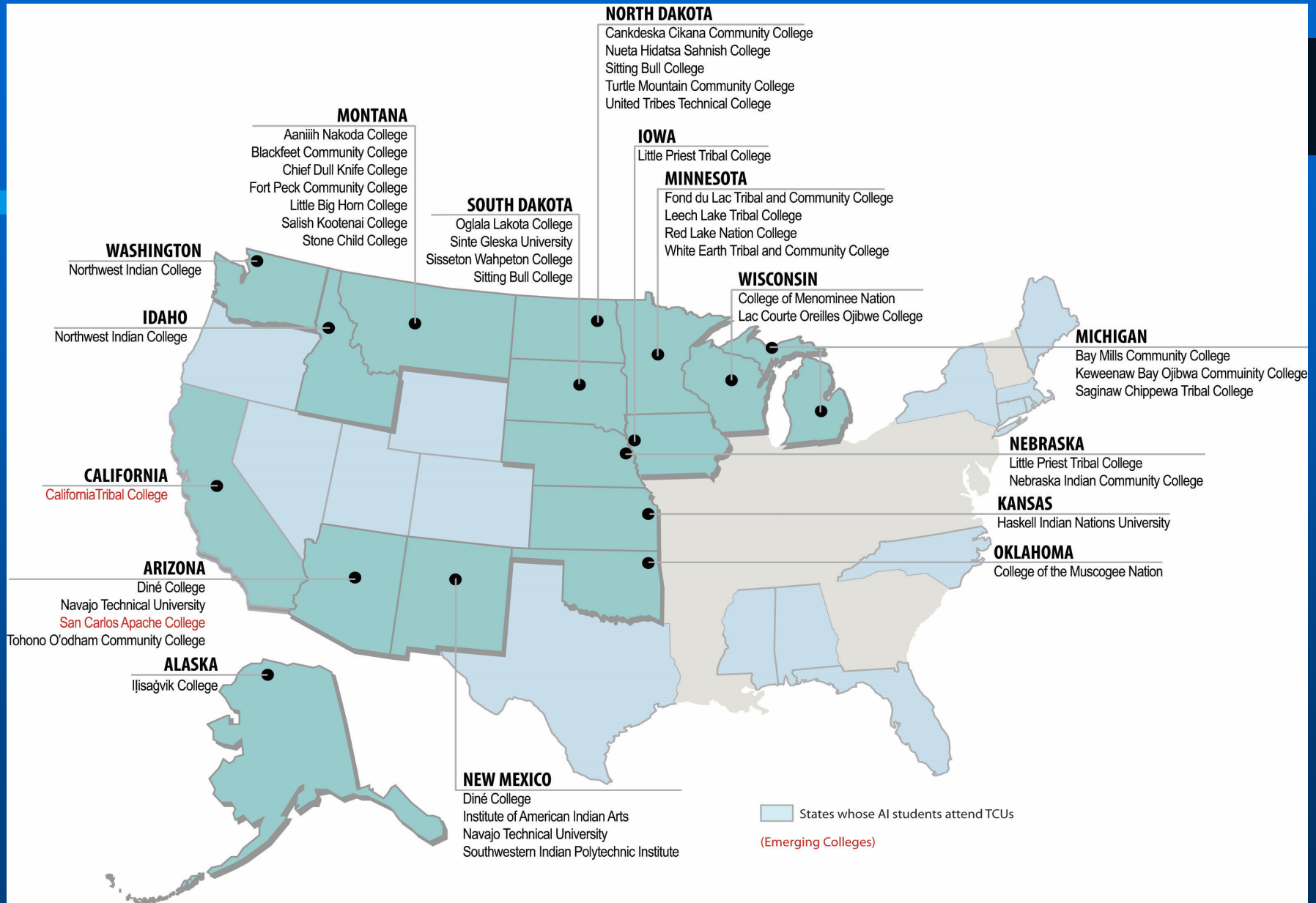
What's a tribal college?

Why are there tribal colleges?

Who attends a TCU?

Is cultural understanding important?

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)





Profile of a CCCC student

- CCCC serves the Spirit Lake Dakota reservation
- Single mother, 30 years old who works full-time, is PELL eligible, is most likely to be first-generation and under prepared for the college journey
- 7% of Spirit Lake tribal members have bachelor's degree, compared to 26% for North Dakota and 28% for U.S.



Assets of indigenous students

Resilient – understand that we are here because of the prayers of our ancestors

Hopeful, inspiring, want change for the Tribe, the community, their family

Carry forward the cultural values and knowledge of our ancestors



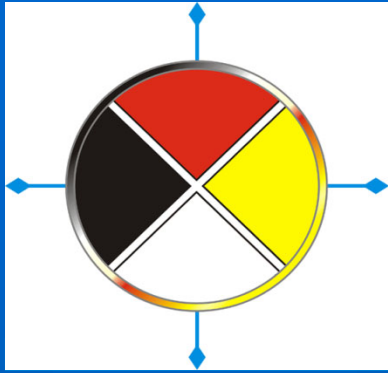
Improve student retention and outcomes by...

- **Creating a sense of belonging**
 - **Helping students to 'navigate the college system'**
 - **Promoting positive mindset about the learning journey**
- **Securing financial resources that 'follow' the student**
 - **Knowing your own institutional data and programming**
 - **Supporting and hiring more diverse faculty**



Recommended readings...

- ***The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee*, David Treuer (2018)**
- ***Indian Givers*, Jack Weatherford (1988)**
- ***Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence*, Greg Cajete (2000)**
- ***Ignite the Sparkle: An Indigenous Science Education Curriculum Model*, Greg Cajete (1999)**
- ***Ancient Wisdom, Modern Science*, Edited by Paul Boyer (2010)**



Dakota Perspective....

Dakota means friend or ally

Comes from word wodakota
which means to be in harmony

Mitakuye oyasin
All my relatives