

UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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For 43 years, United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) has provided postsecondary career and technical education, job training and family services to some of the most impoverished, high risk Indian students from throughout the nation. We are governed by the five tribes located wholly or in part in North Dakota. We are not part of the North Dakota state college system and do not have a tax base or state-appropriated funds on which to rely. We have consistently had excellent retention and placement rates and are a fully accredited institution. *Bureau of Indian Education funds represent about half of our operating budget and provide for our core instructional programs.* The requests of the UTTC Board for the FY 2013 Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)/Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) budgets are as follows:

- \$7 million in BIE funding for UTTC for our Indian Self-Determination Act contract, which is \$2.5 million over our FY 2012 level and the President's FY 2013 request. These funds, authorized under Title V of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Act, constitute our base funding. The funds are in the Tribal Technical Colleges account.
- One-time funding to forward fund United Tribes Technical College and Navajo Technical College who were inadvertently left out of the forward funding of the tribal colleges in FY 2010. This one time funding would be three quarters of the FY 2012 appropriation.
- Congressional support for a tribally-administered law enforcement training center, with focus on the vastly underserved Northern Plains area.
- \$73.5 million for our 27 sister tribal colleges funded under Titles I, II, and III of the TCU Act, to fund them at the FY 2010 per Indian student level. UTTC does not receive appropriations under these titles.

Base Funding. UTTC administers its BIE funding under an Indian Self-Determination Act agreement, and has done so for 35 years. Funds requested above the FY 2012 level are needed to: 1) maintain 100 year-old education buildings and 50 year-old housing stock for students; 2) upgrade technology capabilities; 3) provide adequate salaries for faculty and staff (who did not receive a cost of living increase this past year and who are in the bottom quartile of salary for comparable positions elsewhere); and 4) fund program and curriculum improvements.

Acquisition of additional base funding is critical as UTTC has more than tripled its number of students within the past eight years while actual base funding for educational services, including Carl Perkins Act funding, have not increased commensurately (increased from \$6 million to \$8 million for the two programs combined). Our BIE funding provides a base level of

support while allowing the college to compete for desperately needed discretionary contracts and grants leading to additional resources annually for the college's programs and support services.

Forward Funding. There was a *glitch in the FY 2010 appropriations process* which resulted in UTTC (and Navajo Technical College or NTC) not receiving BIE forward funding. There is authority for forward funding for tribal colleges under the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Act, 25 USC 1810(b)(1) and (2). This authority applies to all colleges funded under that Act, including UTTC and NTC. When the Administration requested \$50 million for forward funding its FY 2010 budget, they asked for it under the line item of "tribally controlled colleges and universities" – that line item includes 27 tribally controlled colleges. However, we are funded under a different line item which is "tribal technical colleges" and thus when Congress provided the requested \$50 million for forward funding, UTTC and NTC were left out.

Forward funding requires a *one-time* extra appropriation of three-quarters of a year's funding; hence, *we are requesting, in addition to our regular FY 2013 appropriation, \$3,397,485 to forward fund United Tribes Technical College (75% of \$4,529,981, the FY 2010 BIE appropriation for UTTC, is \$3,397,485). The total BIE FY 2012 appropriation for "tribal technical colleges" was \$6,761,165 (\$4,529,981 for UTTC and \$2,231,184 for NTC). To forward fund both institutions would require \$5,070,873 in addition to the regular FY 2013 funds.*

Northern Plains Indian Law Enforcement Academy. We ask that Congress seriously look at the problem of addressing crime in Indian Country with an eye toward establishment of a campus-based academy for training of law enforcement officers in the Northern Plains area of Indian Country. There are cultural and legal reasons why such training should be tribally directed in order to be appropriate for the realities of tribal communities. At the same time, we realize that state and national training resources have an important role in this new endeavor. We note that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held hearings on law enforcement needs in Indian Country in the 110th and 111th Congresses.

We are upfront in our interest to have UTTC be the site of such an endeavor. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the BIA and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to provide "supplemental" in-service training to BIA and tribal police. This agreement is working out modestly well, but we need this effort to be expanded.

At this point, the BIA is depending on the basic training provided by state academies to supplement what is provided at the BIA Police Academy in Artesia, New Mexico, with additional "bridge" training for BIA and Tribal police officers being provided at Artesia and soon, we hope, at UTTC. But we firmly believe that UTTC is also well positioned to be a site where both basic and supplemental training can be provided. Among other reasons, the BIA Academy at Artesia can train only 3 classes of 50 persons annually. An academy at UTTC would allow tribal people in the Great Plains and other nearby regions a more affordable choice of training locations, minimizing the distance and long separation of trainees from their families.

In short, the BIA should be utilizing and enhancing the resources of UTTC to make a real difference in the law enforcement capability in Indian Country. Of note is that we now offer a bachelor degree in Criminal Justice and can offer college credit to trainees. Our facilities include the use of a state-of-the-art crime scene simulator. Maintaining safe communities is a critical

component of economic development for our Tribal Nations, and local control of law enforcement training resources is a key part of that effort.

SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT UTTC: We have:

- A dedication to providing an educational setting that is geared to the full range of student needs – educational, cultural, and necessary life skills.
- Renewed unrestricted accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, for the period July 2011 through 2021, including authority to offer all of our full programs on-line.
- A wide array of services including a Child Development Center, family literacy program, wellness center, area transportation, K-8 elementary school, tutoring, counseling, family and single student housing, and campus security.
- A semester retention rate of 82%.
- A graduate placement rate of 83% (placement into jobs and higher education).
- A projected return on federal investment of 20-1 (2005 study).
- Over 30% of our graduates move on to four-year or advanced degree institutions.
- A current student body from 63 tribes who come mostly from high-poverty, high unemployment tribal nations in the Great Plains; many students have children and dependents.
- An unduplicated count of undergraduate degree-seeking students and continuing education students of 1200.
- 76% of our undergraduate students receive Pell Grants.
- 21 two-year degree programs, twelve certificate and three accredited bachelor degree programs (Elementary Education; Business Administration; and Criminal Justice).
- An expanding curricula to meet job-training needs for growing fields including law enforcement and health information technology. We have new short-term workforce training programs for welding technology (in particular demand in ND due to the oil boom), electrical, energy auditing, and Geographic Information System technology.
- A dual-enrollment program targeting junior and senior high school students, providing them an introduction to college life and offering high school and college credits.
- A critical role in the regional economy. Our presence brings at least \$34 million annually to the economy of the Bismarck region.

- A workforce of 360 people.
- An award-winning annual powwow which last year had participants from 60+ tribes and international indigenous dance groups, drawing over 10,000 spectators.

The Duplication or Overlapping Issue. The Government Accountability Office in March of 2011 issued two reports regarding federal programs which may have similar or overlapping services or objectives (GAO-11-474R and GAO-11-318SP). Funding from the BIE and the Department of Education's Carl Perkins Act for Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Career and Technical Education were among the programs listed in the reports. *The full GAO report did not recommend defunding these programs; rather, it posed the possibility of consolidation of these programs to save administrative costs.* We are not in disagreement about possible consolidation of our funding sources, so long as program funds are not cut.

BIE funds represent about 54% of UTTC's core operating budget. The Perkins funds supplement, but do not duplicate, the BIE funds. *It takes both sources of funding to frugally maintain the institution.* In fact, even these combined sources do not provide the resources necessary to operate and maintain the college. We actively seek alternative funding to assist with academic programming, deferred maintenance, and scholarship assistance, among other things.

We reiterate that UTTC and other tribally-chartered colleges are not part of state educational systems and do not receive state-appropriated general operational funds for their Indian students. The need for postsecondary career and technical education in Indian Country is so great and the funding so small, that there is little chance for duplicative funding.

There are only two institutions targeting American Indian/Alaska Native career and technical education and training at the postsecondary level—UTTC and NTC. Combined, these institutions received less than \$15 million in FY 2012 federal operational funds (\$8 million from Perkins; \$6.7 million from the BIE). That is not an excessive amount for two campus-based institutions who offer a broad (and expanding) array of programs geared toward the educational and cultural needs of their students and who teach job-producing skills.

UTTC offers services that are catered to the needs of our students, many of whom are first generation college attendees and many of whom come to us needing remedial education. We also provide services for the children and dependents of our students. Although BIE and Section 117 funds do not pay for remedial education services, we make this investment through other sources of funding to help ensure that our students succeed at the postsecondary level.

Our Bureau of Indian Education and Perkins funds are central to the viability of our core postsecondary educational programs. Very little of the other funds we receive may be used for core career and technical educational program; they are competitive, often one-time supplemental funds which help us provide support services but cannot replace core operational funding.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.