

**Tribal College Grants  
Report to the Budget Section Committee  
September 24, 2014**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Budget Section Committee, I am Wayde Sick, Director of the Workforce Development Division of the North Dakota Department of Commerce. I'm here today to provide an update on the Tribal College Grants established in 2013 Senate Bill 2218:

SB 2218 appropriated \$5 million to the state's five tribal colleges for creation or enhancement of programs and courses of study to prepare students for the state's high demand job opportunities.

Eligible colleges are:

- Cankdeska Cikana Community College in Fort Totten
- Fort Berthold Community College in New Town
- Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates
- Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt
- United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck

Guidance for grant applications, awards, and administration was developed with significant opportunity for input by Tribal College representatives. Three rounds of grant applications were established to ensure full utilization of funds. A maximum grant amount was set at \$2 million per institution for the biennium. We used the following calendar of grant application deadlines and awards for this biennium:

- Round 1: Applications due on July 1, 2013; awards announced August 1, 2013
- Round 2: Applications due on November 1, 2013; awards announced December 1, 2013
- Round 3: Applications due on May 1, 2014; awards announced June 1, 2014

The entire \$5 million of the Tribal College Grant program has been obligated. Funds were disbursed in the following manner. Upon the approval of a grant application and a grant agreement was completed, Commerce dispersed 50% of the approved grant total. Once 75% of those funds were expended, Commerce would release the remaining 50%. As of September 2014, \$2,562,501 has been dispersed. \$1,002,396 has been spent.

The following contains overview and progress of the projects that were approved. Please note that we have not been provided reports on any 3<sup>rd</sup> round projects due to the lack of time since the projects were approved.

## **Cankdeska Cikana Community College in Fort Totten**

- Round 1
  - Creation of a one-year certificate in Business
  - Development of an associates program in Construction Management
  - Intensive job readiness and job placement assistance
- Round 2
  - Building renovation and related equipment, supplies and teacher development for an entrepreneurial center
- Round 3
  - Enhancement to the existing Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program

Curriculum has been developed for Bookkeeping, Entrepreneurship, and Construction Management. The college also provided a small business workshop in November 2013. Architectural plans are complete and work is underway on the renovation for the Entrepreneurial Center. It is expected to be operational in the fall of 2014. 23 students have been involved in the different programs.

## **Fort Berthold Community College in New Town**

- Round 3
  - Enhancement to the existing welding program

Fort Berthold applied for and was awarded in the third grant round. No reports have been submitted to date due to the recent grant award.

## **Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates**

- Round 1
  - Leveraged current Training for Regional Energy in North Dakota (TREND) grant dollars by providing a cohort model of support services and offered intensive placement and employment assistance
  - Creation of an Energy Technician Program
  - Renovation to the Trade Center to house a new welding lab, update electrical and concrete programs.

All planned programs have been developed as planned except concrete and welding. This is due to difficulty finding faculty. It has been reported that the concrete program now does have an instructor and the program is in the development stage. A total of 67 students have been enrolled in the various programs. 25 completed training with 5 employed in the field, 8 employed outside the field and 9 are continuing education.

## **Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt**

- Round 1

- Leveraged the Federal TREND grant by funding staff for various TREND funded programs
- Expanded capacity of CDL and Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) programs
- Creation of an Oil Field Operations certificate program
- Creation of a one year certificate option for electrical program
- Provided for Reading proficiency and adjunct entrepreneurship instructors
- Round 2
  - Expanded capacity in welding program
- Round 3
  - Further expansion of the CDL/HEO program

All new and expanded programs accepted students starting in August 2013. A total of 80 students were enrolled in the various programs. The graduation rate of students assisted with the Tribal College Grant program was 68%.

#### **United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck**

- Round 1
  - Development of Medical Billing and Coding Program
- Round 3
  - Expansion of CDL/HEO Program

The Medical Coding and Billing program is operating, but was delayed due to difficulty finding faculty. 8 students are currently enrolled in the program which began in August 2014.

More detailed summaries of the grant awards are attached to this testimony.

Grantees have reported expenditures and implementation updates on a quarterly basis throughout the biennium. In addition, the legislation called for significant reporting, including data such as details on expenditures, numbers of students assisted, graduation rates, placement rates and jobs or businesses created to be reported on an annual basis.

Many of the programs are in the early planning and development stages. We anticipate the number of enrolled students will increase as programs continue to develop.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my update. I am happy to answer questions about progress to date or the summary of grant awards.