



**CANKDESKA CIKANA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
Spirit Lake Dakota Nation

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Tribal and State Relations Committee

North Dakota Legislature

The State-funded Tribal College Grant (TCG) program is landmark legislation that demonstrates the State's commitment and investment for North Dakota's Native citizens. TCG helps us to address poverty and unemployment on the reservations. This program is a workforce development initiative administered by the North Dakota Department of Commerce. TCG was authorized in 2013 at \$5 million for the State's five tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) and renewed in 2015 at \$3 million. The purpose of the program is to provide training, skills enhancement, and education opportunities toward employability for students attending TCUs.

Cankdeska Cikana Community College's (CCCCs) program is for certificates, credit and non-credit courses but also for business development. In the brief 3 years of implementation CCCC has accomplished the following:

- Established new courses/programs of study – Construction Management (AAS); Professional Driver (CDL); Small Business Courses (entrepreneurship); Training Seminars (CPR/First Aid/Computer Skills).
- Established a Community/CCCC Business Development Center – 3,200 square feet of space with business incubator offices (4); Transportation Simulator installed (computerized training); Semi-

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tractor/trailer for over-the-road training purchased (used); and staffed by 3 faculty, 1 placement coordinator and 1 coordinator (director).

- Provided training (certificates) or college credit for over 200 workers and students – 36 for Construction Trades; 28 for First Aid/CPR; 36 for Office Software; 39 for job skills (AutoCAD), 30 for small business development; and 80 for hospitality/service industry. Many of the trainings were at the request of employers and were required for workers to maintain employment.
- 20 students have completed CDL and are licensed and employed; 1 student completed AAS in Construction Management and is employed as a teacher (experience + CTE certification); 1 student completed AA and established Greywater Art, a small business for artwork and paper products. 4 students are in the process of establishing small businesses with the help of faculty and industry leaders (landscape, HVAC, CDL and food truck).

The intent of TCG is important – to improve job readiness, employability, and quality of life for a segment of the State’s population who lag behind in many ways. It is a good and working partnership between the State and the five North Dakota tribal colleges. It is a great and wise investment for our collective future.

