

Dr. Twyla Baker Testimony Workforce Grant

NDTCS advocates and advances culturally focused post-secondary opportunities for Indigenous students to empower students to facilitate change for Tribal Nations and communities.

The North Dakota Tribal College System acts collectively to align, develop, design strategies and advocate for projects that meet the goals of students and communities.

Chartered by federally recognized Tribal governments, North Dakota's Tribal colleges teach and preserve culture and language as a component of the academic curriculum. Tribal colleges are public, affordable, non-profit post-secondary institutions accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, the same as state post-secondary institutions. Tribal colleges proactively collaborate with the North Dakota University System to enhance students' academic experience that allows for seamless transfers.

NDTCS strongly supports the passage of HB 1544 supporting the career and technical education work we do on our campuses. Tribal colleges are a key provider of CTE for Native and non-Native populations in the state, allowing our students to enter the workforce directly with in demand skill sets, supporting our overall state economy. While we already are engaged in this work, development and redesign of CTE programs on our campuses is, like on any campus, needed for their success. Receipt of these dollars would allow for the TCUs in North Dakota to both improve existing programs and develop new based on needs in our communities. Plans at each campus are outlined in the proposal attached, and we welcome input or conversation regarding these initiatives. Many thanks go to our partners at the State for our long standing collaborations in the past, and we look forward to continuing those partnerships well into the future.