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NUETA HIDATSA SAHNISH COLLEGE

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MANDAN HIDATSA ARIKARA NATION

Twyla Baker, Ph.D  
President

P.O. Box 490, 220<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.  
New Town, ND 58763-0490  
P: 1(701)627-8095  
F: 1(701)627-3609  
[www.nhsc.edu](http://www.nhsc.edu)

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Greetings Esteemed Legislators and colleagues,

I am thankful for the opportunity to share with you all the work of Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College, and the North Dakota Tribal College System (NDTCS). I am Dr. Twyla Baker, and I am the President of NHS College and an enrolled citizen of the Mandan Hidatsa & Arikara Nation. I currently serve as Chair of the NDTCS. I was born and raised in North Dakota and grew up on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

We as individual institutions, and united as NDTCS, are keenly aware of the valuable work that Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) across our state do for both Native and non-Native students. We provide avenues towards social and financial mobility that many of the students we serve might not have access to if it were not for our campuses. As public institutions of higher education, we are proud to serve all students who enter our doors and take their academic journey with us. We pride ourselves on our levels of service and academic rigor, and our alumni make an impact across the state and region, as well as on our Tribal lands.

#### **Institutional Overview and Mission**

Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College is a proud member of the North Dakota Tribal College System, serving the Three Affiliated Tribes (MHA Nation) in northwest North Dakota. Our mission is to provide a unique educational community founded in culture and spirituality that nurtures holistic student success. For over 50 years we have been working to empower and educate our Tribal members and citizens of our state in ways that allow them to support their families, our communities, and themselves. Built into our mission is the work to preserve three distinct cultures of North Dakota - the Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara – which includes revitalizing languages, cultural lifeways, food sovereignty, traditional technologies and philosophies, and bringing all of these to our modern contexts, providing all students with a broad understanding of the world around us, and our roles as citizens of global societies.

#### **Programs and Impact**

Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College is proud to be the only Tribal College in the nation to offer an Equine Studies degree program. We also offer four-year degrees in Business, Teacher Education, Native American Studies, and Environmental Science. Our graduates work for Tribal entities, and in public and private sectors across the state. Our certificate and workforce training provides opportunities for those seeking to get back into the workforce right away, or start another career, whether that is in Commercial truck driving or welding, teaching recertification, CNA, or

other avenues. We are grateful to partner with both businesses and other higher education institutions in state to make these avenues possible and further expand our reach and impact together.

#### **Funding and Budget**

The non-beneficiary (non-Native) funding we receive from the state allows us to continue to deliver quality levels of services throughout the year to our students, funding initiatives and supports that assist them in successfully completing programs. State dollars support everything from supplies and equipment to tuition, technology, software, and beyond. An increase in state funding from \$1.4 to \$1.6 million would align our funding with that of the state's funding of other colleges in state and broaden our capacity to support instruction and programs on our campuses.

#### **Challenges and Needs**

Each of the Tribal colleges has unique needs in the realm of facilities, and NHS College is no exception. We do the best that we can with our small campus, and plan meticulously to support the upkeep and repair of our buildings. We look to as many resources as we can to address the various needs our campus has, though that has at times, resulted in years long deferred maintenance. The increase in state dollars would allow us to free up dollars that could be put towards academic needs for the success of our students. This is but one example of the impact the state dollars could have.

In closing, I welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these points further with the committee members and welcome questions. Our campus is open to all, and I invite all our esteemed legislators for a visit to New Town and our Main Campus should the opportunity arise. We are proud of all the work we have done over the years, and look forward to further good works, in partnership with our state, yet to come.

Respectfully,



Twyla Baker, Ph.D.  
President  
Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College