Higher Education at Tribal Colleges in Life, Food, Veterinary, Natural Resource, and Agricultural Sciences

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Promoting Tribal Colleges Through Research

- This study can be used by the USDA in responding to Congressional inquiries to support higher education.

- Offers national agencies a current snapshot of student enrollment, program areas, and faculty information for the contributing tribal colleges.

- This information promotes the unique educational niche provided by tribal colleges to federal funding agencies.
Community colleges provide a unique avenue for higher education and career attainment (Adelman, 2005)

- They often respond quicker to student interests compared to other higher education institutions.
- More learner-centered rather than institutionally-centered.
- Exploring trends in community college enrollment and growth in programs can offer a good “snap shot” of student interests. (MDRC, 2010)
This study focused on programs in the agricultural and life sciences of FAEIS partnering institutions.

- Included program areas such as early childhood education, natural resource management, cultural studies.

Research Questions

1. Which program areas have the highest student enrollment?
2. Which program areas have the highest number of degrees awarded?
Data Collection

• Data comes from the following institutions:

  • Bay Mills Community College
  • Blackfeet Community College
  • Cankdeska Cikana Community College
  • Chief Dull Knife College
  • Diné College
  • Fort Belknap College
  • Fort Berthold Community College
  • Fort Peck Community College
  • Haskell Indian Nations University
  • Institute of American Indian Arts
  • Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College
  • Leech Lake Tribal College
  • Little Big Horn College
  • Navajo Technical College
  • Northwest Indian College
  • Oglala Lakota University
  • Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
  • Salish Kootenai College
  • Sinte Gleska University
  • Sisseton Wahpeton College
  • Sitting Bull College
  • Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
  • Stone Child College
  • Turtle Mountain Community College
  • United Tribal Technical College
Results

- Total student enrollment = 629 students

- RQ 1: Program areas with highest enrollment
  - Early Childhood Education and Teaching (n = 188)
  - American Indian/Native American Studies (n = 175)
  - Environmental Science (n = 82)
Results

- Total degrees awarded = 337 degrees awarded

- RQ 2: Program areas with the highest number of degrees awarded
  - American Indian/Native American Studies (n = 106)
  - Elementary Education and Teaching (n = 89)
  - Early Childhood Education (n = 41)
Conclusion

- Students are interested in programs that focus on education and First American/Native American studies

- Future studies could include:
  - Compare most popular programs areas from tribal colleges by region (Midwest vs. West vs. Southwest)
  - Comparing the most popular program areas from 1994 institutions with 1890 and 1862 institutions
  - Compare teacher numbers and salaries from 1994 institutions with those from 1890 and 1862 institutions
References


Thank you for your attention.

Any questions?