

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



JOLENE HAMM

USDA'S FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
INFORMATION SYSTEM (FAEIS) AT VIRGINIA TECH

FAEIS Research Team



- **Jolene Hamm**
 - Graduate Research Assistant & FAEIS Help Desk Manager
- **Lisa S. Hightower**
 - Graduate Research Assistant
- **William W. Richardson**
 - FAEIS Project Manager
- **Dr. Mary A. Marchant**
 - FAEIS Co-Principal Investigator
- **Dr. Timothy P. Mack**
 - FAEIS Co-Principal Investigator
- **Dr. Eric Smith**
 - FAEIS Co-Principal Investigator
- **Dr. Eric Vance**
 - FAEIS Statistical Consultant



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



Background



- 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)

Methodology



- 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?***



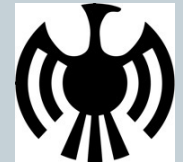
Data Collection



- 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)

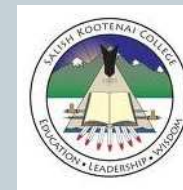




Results



- 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)

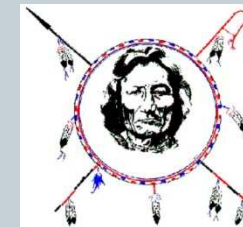




Conclusion



- 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



- MDRC. 2010. How much is a college degree worth? *Fast Fact*. Retrieved from [http:// http://www.mdrc.org/area fact 33.html](http://www.mdrc.org/area_fact_33.html)
- Adelman, C. 2005. Moving into town-and moving on: The community college in the lives of traditional-age students. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education
- USDA's Food and Agricultural Education Information System web site, [http:// faeis.usda.gov](http://faeis.usda.gov)



Thank you for your attention.



Any questions?