TCU/Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) Program
TCUs with TCU/VISTAs in the field [ACTIVE]

* United Tribes Technical College
* College of Menominee Nation
* Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Community College
* Upper Lake Tribal College
* SIPI
* ILISAQVIK COLLEGE

Brian Kowlkowski
Amber Marlow
Annette Drewes
Erin Riley
(Dorothy Wester)
Diana Solenberger

Pat Aune
Panel Moderator

* Indicates that institution participated in 2012 or 2013 USDA Tribal Fellowship Program

TCU/VISTA starting Nov. 2014
COMING SOON!
United Tribes Technical College
TCU/VISTA assisted with hoop-house development.
United Tribes Technical College TCU/VISTA Jordan Katcher organized a post-Powwow clean-up for the Americorps 20th Anniversary and UTTC International Powwow.
TCU/VISTA Jordan at United Tribes’ corn research station.
Planting seeds at UTTC during the Spring. TCU/VISTA helped with garden coordination.
TCU/VISTA representing the UTTC Nutrition and Food Service department
Corn field at UTTC. TCU/VISTA assisted with the Maize Research Study.
College of Menominee Nation
TCU/VISTA Sarah Tuori and another CMN VISTA developed gardens at the college.
College of Menominee Nations vendors and organizers at the new Kehtekaewak Farmers’ Market. TCU/VISTA worked closely with the community to develop the market.
KEHTEKAEWK FARMERS’ MARKET

EVERY FRIDAY
10am-4pm

WHERE:
Menominee Indian Boxing Club - former Reiter’s gas station
N711 HWY 47/55, Keshena, WI

FEATURING • Native Crafts • Fresh Vegetables • Food Vendors

EVEN MORE WELCOME!

WANTED: CRAFTERS & GARDENERS
No setup charge.

SPONSORS:
College of Menominee Nation
Sustainable Development Institute
First Nations Development Institute

CONTACT:
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Sarah Tuori (715)799-6226 x3154
stuori@menominee.edu
Rebecca Edler (715)799-6226 x3043
redler@menominee.edu

Elizabeth “Liz” and Drew Pyskaikowit sell some baked goods and some farm goods.

Christopher Anderson
Menominee Nation News

For the past several years, Menominee Indian Reservation has been lacking dead meat in a lot of statewide health surveys. Although there are various factors for this, one recommendation for the prevention and alleviation of health problems is for people to make better and more nutritious choices when they eat, notably to try and eat more fruits and vegetables, and more specifically to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables. However, this was easier said than done.

For starters, Menominee Reservation didn’t have a place of selling food, and once one of these businesses did start arriving a lot of them sold goods that tended to use a lot of less-than-healthy artificial preservatives that made the foods transport farther and last longer (though in the meantime, some of those did also sell fresh produce to their stock for as long as it would last). For your many people suggesting taking a cue from several surrounding communities and starting a farmer’s market in this would serve two purposes: providing healthier foods to the community and also allowing some local businesses and artisans to make money.

However, this was also easier said than done as a lot of farmers’ market requires space and operational costs, and Menominee County/Reservation tend to be the poorest county in the state.

Nonetheless many people were looking to establish an urban Farmer’s Market once the opportunity became available.

One of the places looking at the possibility of establishing a Farmer’s Market was the College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute (CMV SDI), which also has several offices throughout the CNM campus and Menominee Reservation community.

Eventually a farmer’s market came together as a collaboration between SDI, the Department of Continuing Education and another CNM student group focused on environment and local food business called SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology, Education, Development and Sustainability).

John Teller, CMN Associate Dean of Continuing Education community services as market manager.

“In April we received a small grant from the First Nations Developmental Institute. The Lee family from Waushausen (from left: Zonz, Xieng and Katie) grow and sell a lot of vegetables in their Lee Garden business.

The ‘FARMERS’ MARKET’ will eventually function as a consignment market for gardeners. We’d like to be able to purchase the excess produce from gardeners and sell it for them. That way even if you don’t have a truck load of vegetables you can still participate in the market. However, this is still in the works.’

Although there was a lagging issue of farmers markets working better on paper than in real life, the college and the community really put themselves into the project.

“We have a team of well-organized people who know the ins and outs of event planning and who know how to build relationships within the community so that was crucial in getting this started,’ Tuori said.

Finding a location for Kehtekawk was a bit of a challenge, as the preferred location was to have something visible from Highway 47/55.

Locations such as Veterans Park and the CMN campus were considered but ruled out; but eventually Jason Komazzink a student worker at SDI who was part of the farmer’s market planning process found the parking lot of the new Menominee Indian Boxing Club (MIBC) location at the Old See MARKET next page
Carrots at the Kehtekaewak Farmers’ Market.
College of Menominee Nation
TCU/VISTA testing seed saving methods.
College of Menominee Nation seed storage.
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College seed storage space.
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College participants of the Beginner Producer Program.
TCU/VISTA helps build capacity for the program.
Lac Courte Oreilles
Community

Beginner Producer Program
Evaluation Survey

This survey is sponsored by the LCO College Extension Dept. Participation is voluntary but much appreciated. If you have questions please contact Amber Marlow at 715-634-4790 Ext 156 or email marlowa@leo.edu.

1. Have you found the classes helpful?

2. Were the classes held at convenient times?

3. What topics did you find most useful to growing your garden?

4. Have you had all the supplies you need?

5. Do you feel you have had adequate support to plan and grow a garden?

6. What have your biggest challenges been?

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College TCU/VISTA, Bridge McKye, helps track the effectiveness of the Beginner Producer Program with evaluations.
TCU/VISTA supervisor Amber Marlow works with the children of Beginner Producer participants.
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College hosts a Family Day at the farm.
Leech Lake Tribal College TCU/VISTA
Emily Davis (on right) gives UTTC
TCU/VISTA Jordan Katcher a tour of LLTC
Leech Lake Tribal College TCU/VISTA attended the Revitalizing Traditional Anishinaabeg Connections Project. She will help with campus outreach and student involvement for the project.
Leech Lake Tribal College TCU/VISTA organized a partnership to co-host a lecture series featuring Dr. Sonia Davila Pobleta.
TCU/VISTA Emily Davis at Leech Lake Tribal College developed a partnership with the Mahnomen Boys and Girls Club. Here they are husking Bear Island Flint Corn.
VISTAs can assist in many areas of capacity building, such as planning, programming, fundraising, and volunteerism. Leech Lake Tribal College TCU/VISTA participates in a Strategic Planning event.
Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute
TCU/VISTA Tiffany Hoang meets with Supervisor Dorothy Wester.
Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute Volunteers at the Shade Structure building day coordinated by TCU/VISTA.
Farm fields at Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute. TCU/VISTA assists in many food related projects.
Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute TCU/VISTA developed the Food and Gardening Series.
Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute
TCU/VISTA at the Food and Gardening Series she coordinated.
Attendees of the Inaugural TCU/VISTA Program training for members & supervisors in Santa Fe, NM, August, 2014.
TCU/VISTA members gather during the TCU/VISTA Program training.
TCU/VISTA Program supervisors at the inaugural TCU/VISTA Program training.
Panelist Questions

1. What reservations if any did you have of participating in the TCU/VISTA Program?

2. How does sponsoring a TCU/VISTA impact your local budget?

3. Have there been any unexpected outcomes that that have happened as a result of having a TCU/VISTA? Or in Pat Aune’s words – “What are some of the spontaneous projects that have come out of having a VISTA?”

4. To date, how would you describe your overall experience with the TCU/VISTA Program?
Apply to Host a TCU/VISTA!

- **Eligible Applicants:** Must be a faculty or staff member at a 1994 Land-Grant Tribal College or University.
- **Project & VISTA terms:** Projects are for a period of 3 years, however, a VISTA term of service is for 1-year.
- **Pre-proposal:** Write a proposed description of the project you want a TCU/VISTA to work on for a period of three years—not to exceed 1-page. (*Funding permitting, accepted projects will be invited to submit a full application.*)

Projects must fall under **ONE** of these program areas:

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<th>Economic Development</th>
<th>Healthy Futures <em>with an economic development component</em></th>
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<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Development</td>
<td><em>with an economic development component</em></td>
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Projects must accomplish **ALL** of the following:

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<th>Build Capacity</th>
<th>-Engage the Community</th>
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<td>Be Sustainable beyond the term of the VISTA</td>
<td>Serve a high poverty community</td>
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**Direct questions and/or submissions to** Lavinia Panizo  
USDA TCU/VISTA Program Manager, 202-657-9989 or lavinia.panizo@osec.usda.gov
Apply to become a TCU/VISTA!

TCU/VISTA Eligibility: Minimum requirements include a bachelor’s degree and a car. A car is required due to the distances inherent in working in rural communities. Candidates with education and/or demonstrated experience in project areas are preferred.

How to Apply to be a TCU/VISTA: TCU/VISTA projects are for a period of 3-years, however, a VISTA term of service is for 1-year and can be extended for a second year with full benefits. Recruitment is done on a rolling basis. Contact Lavinia Panizo to learn about future opportunities or if you have questions.

Questions and Submissions to Lavinia Panizo
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