

UNITED TRIBES NEWS

SPECIAL ISSUE

Student Edition

www.uttc.edu

Special Edition

UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE • BISMARCK, ND

February 23, 2006

Largest UTTC class honored

Graduates have economic earning power

BISMARCK (UTN)

- The largest graduating class in school history was honored during a commencement ceremony at United Tribes Technical College. Friends, relatives and college officials gathered May 6, 2005 on the campus in Bismarck to congratulate 114 students who earned degrees and certificates in 16 different academic and vocational programs.

"Because of you, we can wipe out poverty in Indian Country in 10 years," said keynote speaker Cecilia Fire Thunder, Oglala Sioux Tribal Chair. "As graduates you're going to contribute to wiping out poverty with your skills and knowledge. You'll be of service to your community and you'll take care of yourself and your family. So, for every graduate in Indian Country we're beginning the journey to ending poverty."

According to a study prepared by the college, UTTC's 2005 American Indian graduates will earn a projected \$184.5



OVERCOME WITH EMOTION: Nursing graduate Sheila Crow Ghost receives her diploma and words of encouragement from UTTC President, David M. Gipp.

million over their working lifetimes.

The study identified the economic benefit of having American Indian students train for employment and graduate from college rather than drawing upon forms of assistance from the government. With reservation unemployment rates in the region hovering around 75 percent, job prospects are limited and earning power restricted for untrained workers.

"Earning this degree opens a pathway

of accomplishment," said David M. Gipp, UTTC President. "In the lives of these graduates, American Indians are contributing to the revitalization of Indian Coun-

Continued page 3

EXPLORE INSIDE:

Funding Hurdle	p. 2
Playing Tag	p. 5
Mentors Honored	p. 5
Recent Grad Advice	p. 7

College growing despite funding hurdle

BISMARCK (UTN) – It came as no surprise when funding for the tribal college here was sliced from the federal budget. For the fifth consecutive year, when the budget was released in early February there was nothing in it for United Tribes Technical College (UTTC).

“It’s happened again,” said David M. Gipp, UTTC president. “The administration left us out of their budget request to Congress.”



UTTC President, David M. Gipp

Founded in 1969 as one of the first tribal colleges in the nation, UTTC relies on the approximate \$3.5 million annual appropriation for its core operations. Prior to the current administration, the funding had been included in the budget of the U. S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Indian Affairs. It had been a line item since 1981.

“This is one of the top tribal colleges in

the country,” said North Dakota U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan. “To continually offer zero funding is to fail to recognize the important role it plays.”

For the past four years Congress has rejected the administration’s proposed cut and restored UTTC’s funding. Dorgan has promised to lead the fight for the school again this year, expressing his reassurances to the college president this week.

Although the funding tussle in Washington is time consuming for Gipp and the college board of directors, and upsetting to the colleges many supporters and alumni, it has had little affect on college growth.

On the contrary, during the last three years student enrollment has grown dramatically. In the past year alone, it surged 25 percent above the previous year to reach 1,118 students, ranking UTTC in the upper third of the nation’s tribal colleges and universities in size of enrollment.

“We’ve made the point again and again, there’s a very strong need for the educational services we provide,” said Gipp. “Our model is, perhaps, unique in the country, in that we serve the entire family.”

As one of the few tribal colleges not located on a reservation, UTTC is seen as a safe and supportive learning environment away from home – one that offers the attractive benefits of daycare and housing.

Two childhood development centers for the infants and toddlers of college students, and a K-to-8 elementary school, all located on the college campus, are at maximum enrollment.

During the current academic year, the UTTC housing department easily filled the 76 family residences on campus and worked with local housing bureaus to place over 100 more families in apartments in the community.

“We hope to convince the administration and those in Washington who will listen that we are in the business of restoring family values,” said Gipp. “If anything, we need more funding for campus housing, classroom space and support services.”

Although support for tribal colleges has not been a federal spending priority, UTTC

has managed to build momentum for a campus improvement and expansion plan calling for new facilities to serve as many as 2,000 students. Construction is set to start later this year on two apartment style housing complexes to meet some of the demand for family housing. Contractors are currently busy on a \$2.7 million campus wellness center, scheduled for completion in summer.

“Our formula relies on more than just the BIA appropriation,” said Twila Martin Kekahbah, UTTC’s director of research and development.



Senator Byron Dorgan


Martin Kekahbah oversees a student scholarship fundraising campaign, which is off to a strong start on raising \$5 million in private sector support.

“The core funding is very important, but other federal agencies and philanthropic organizations have taken the time to review our outcomes. They’ve seen the numerous strengths of our institution,” said Martin Kekahbah. “We’re happy to say that the BIA is only one contributor to the progress we’re making.”

In 2005 the college honored its largest graduating class, 114, and expects an even greater number for this year’s commencement ceremony in May.

“It’s a misperception that the college will close next year because some funding wasn’t proposed,” said Gipp. “The need for our work is tied to the growing numbers of younger American Indians in the population seeking higher education. We know that our services are critical to their success in life and the rebuilding of tribal communities. When it comes to something as important as that, it doesn’t end on the basis of a misinformed budget recommendation.”

United Tribes News
Published by



Printing Department
United Tribes Technical
College
3315 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701) 255-3285 Ext. 1386
Andi Gladson
Graphic Designer
agladson@uttc.edu
Dennis J. Neumann
Writer/Photographer/Editor
opi@uttc.edu
J. Louise Benson
Circulation/Distribution
jbenson@uttc.edu



2005 APEX AWARDS FOR PUBLICATION EXCELLENCE

Deadline for next issue - 5 p.m. February 27, 2006



Printed on Acid-Free 30% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper

UTTC Class of 2005 honored... Continued from page 1

try and the economic growth of the nation.”

UTTC's commencement ceremony marked the entry of students into new areas of academic achievement. Bachelors' Degrees were conferred for the first time on five students who completed a teacher-training curriculum in Elementary Education, offered in cooperation with Sinte Gleska University.

Sinte Gleska President Lionel Bordeaux, a pioneer in the tribal college movement, told how early efforts to establish tribal colleges were met with stereotypical suggestions that Indians should “stick with arts and crafts.”

“UTTC has made tremendous strides in developing Indian education,” said Bordeaux. “Our calling is to redefine and restructure tribal education according to who we are and what we want to become...you [graduates] are evidence right here of what took a long time.”

For the last four years, UTTC's long-time federal funding has been deleted from the Department Of Interior budget. Gipp told the crowd of over 400 assembled at the school's powwow arena that Congress was already in the process of restoring the school's funding for 2006. The Interior Appropriations subcommittee reported the D-O-I budget out of committee May 4 with funding for UTTC, he said.

“The value of a higher education cannot be overstated,” said Gipp. “What we, as a nation, invest to provide an education has the effect of launching a lifetime of benefits. We know we're making a great contribution to society through the students we educate.”

Other honors during the ceremony included the first student to graduate in a newly created program, Elementary Education. The first crop of high-tech students graduated who earned their degrees by taking classes entirely on-line.

The graduates represented 28 different tribal nations; some had completed their course of study at the end of the Fall 2004 term.

The event concluded the 2004-05 academic year, the college's 36th year serving American Indian students and their families. College officials have anticipated a growing demand in tribal areas for higher education by planning for the renovation and expansion of campus facilities. The college plans to grow student enrollment from the present 855 to 2,000 in the next five years.



UTN Photos Dennis J. Neumann

Science fair marks 25 years

BISMARCK (UTN) - Two days before Thanksgiving 2005 the United Tribes gymnasium was filled with eager competitors. But there wasn't a basketball anywhere.

The 25th annual Theodore Jamerson Elementary School (TJES) Science Fair brought together students and teachers who thrill to the science of things.

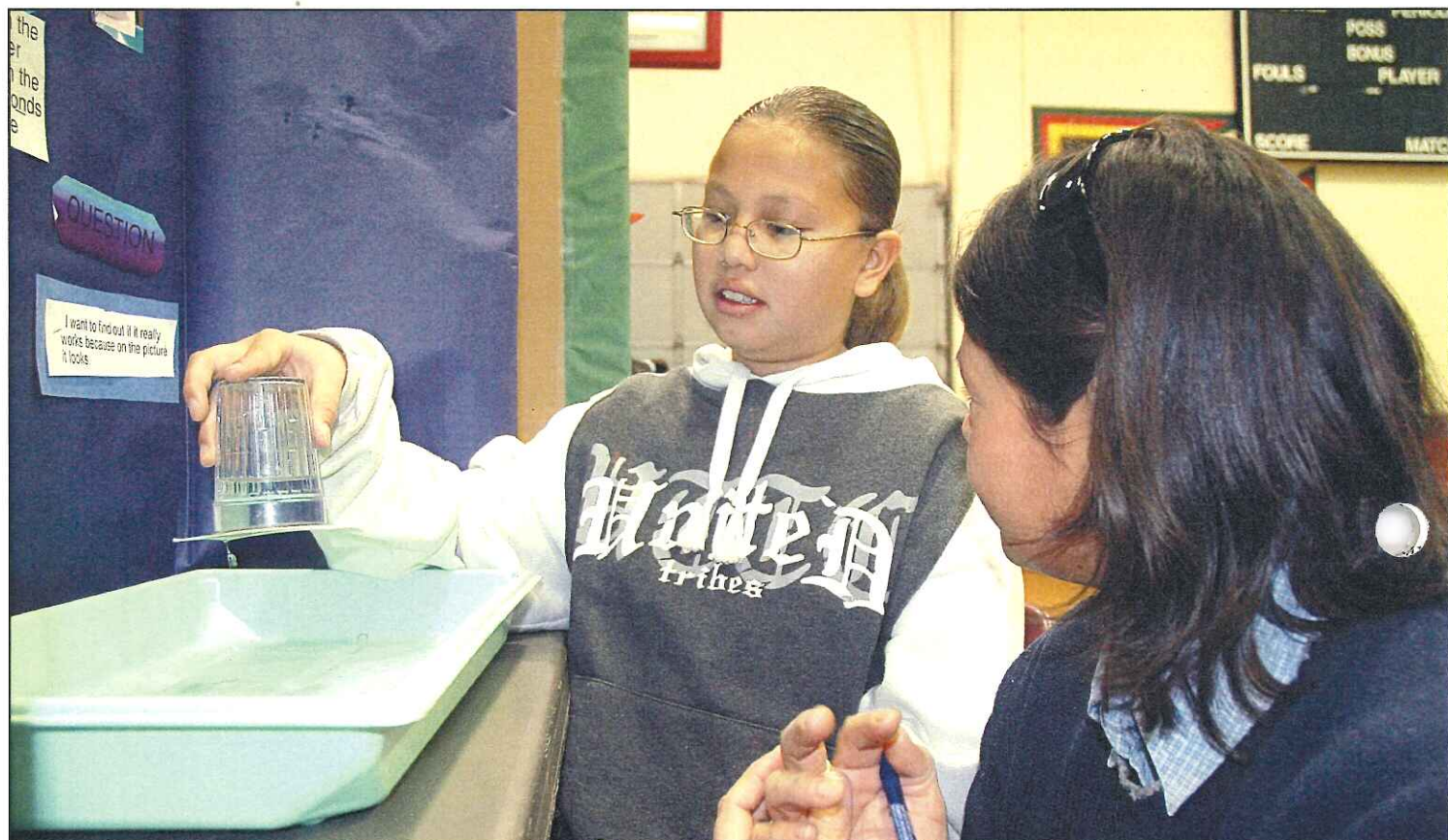
was the brainchild of, now UTTC Office Technology Instructor Dorvin Froseth. In his capacity then as a 7th and 8th grade TJES teacher, Froseth started the event as a way to fill a void.

"There were very few American Indians in the science and engineering fields then," said Froseth. "The idea was to have the stu-

of the science fair participants are the children of students attending the college.

All students in grades 4-8 completed one. Students in grades K-3 had the option of doing a group or class project.

"The projects typically include the development of a hypothesis," said LaBore. "Then comes an experiment or activity to



CARD ON THE GLASS: "I learned that the card will stick to the glass because it sucks up the water," said the fifth grade student Amy LeBlanc to judge Lisa Colombe at the 25th annual TJES Science Fair. UTN Photo Dennis J. Neumann

"The purpose, of course, is to gain a greater understanding of the scientific method and a greater appreciation of science in our lives," said Hank LaBore, science fair coordinator and TJES instructor.

Judges conversed quietly with some eager and some nervous young scientists seated by rows of displays on tables running the length of the gym. It was more a journey of discovery than competition.

"It's all about exposing students to the basic skills, procedures, and tenants of scientific inquiry," said LaBore.

Students prepared for the fair by choosing a topic of interest and doing some research, which eventually led to designing the project.

The first TJES science fair, held in 1980,

students choose the project themselves. Something that interested them, and apply a scientific method to it."

Tapping into a student's interest proved so successful that other schools became interested. Froseth went on to help create the North Dakota Native American State Science Fair and one at the national level now operated by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

"Although I haven't done a scientific study, I'm convinced that these fairs have helped increase the number of Native Americans in the science and engineering fields," said Froseth.

The 25th annual event, like all the others, was sponsored by TJES and hosted by United Tribes Technical College. Almost all

test the hypothesis and an analysis of the final results. Students then create the display and prepare an oral presentation, which they give to the judges."

Students who placed first to third in grades 4-8 advance to the North Dakota Native American Science Fair scheduled for January 16 at the Ramkota Inn, Bismarck. Projects awarded first place at the state fair advance to the National American Indian Science Fair in Albuquerque, New Mexico during the third week of March.

In addition to being the place where the American Indian student science was born, TJES holds the distinction of having a good number of student projects that have placed first at both the state and national science fairs over the past 25 years

Playing tag for the health of it

ESCAPE IS RELEASE: Second grader Darci Ortley narrowly eludes the sweeping reach of her classmate Kieran Lindeman during a game of tag. PE/Gifted and Talented Instructor Hank LaBore involves students at Theodore Jamerson Elementary School in active games that burn energy, build endurance, and promote fitness. Tagged earlier and seated at rear, at left Gavin Fleury and Quinn Red Bird. The grade-schoolers are the children of college students and staff at United Tribes Technical College.



UTN Photo Dennis J. Neumann

Mentors honored

BISMARCK (UTN) - Two mentoring relationships at Theodore Jamerson Elementary School (TJES) were recognized January 25 as part of a mentor recognition ceremony at the State Capitol in Bismarck.

TJES students Cleveland Good Shield, grade eight, and Byron Everette, grade five, along with their mentors, were among 50 people honored during North Dakota's observance of "Thank Your Mentor" Day.

"A mentor is a wise and trusted guide," said North Dakota first lady Mikey Hoeven, in a speech thanking mentors for their contributions. "Mentors are good listeners who care and help others draw on their strengths...they build a solid, one-on-one relationship based on trust."

Those recognized were teen leaders, elder Native Americans from tribal and rural communities around the state involved in the North Dakota Tribal-Rural Mentoring Partnership.

Continued page 8

UTTC student elected to national board



Waylon Oldman

BISMARCK - A student at United Tribes Technical College is among three North Dakota Progressive Coalition leaders recently elected to the board of directors of USAction.

Waylon Oldman (Northern Arapahoe), South Sioux City, NE, was elected to the board from the Native American/Alaskan Native Action Council at a delegate assembly October 11 - 13, 2005.

Oldman is a second year student studying Tribal management. He is the secretary of the United Tribes Student Senate.

USAction is a national non-profit organization with affiliates in 24 states. The North Dakota Progressive Coalition is a statewide advocacy organization working for economic and social justice.

Also elected to the board was Aruna Seth, president of the Bismarck school board, from the Asian/Pacific Islander Action Council. And Vinod Seth, a Bismarck-area doctor, was re-elected by delegates as one of four Vice Presidents.

Art prompts public discussion



UTN Photo Dennis J. Neumann

GATHERING OF EAGLES: UTTC student Brandon McDonald (Washoe Tribe of Nevada/California) is interviewed for the TV news following a dedication program November 18, 2005 in Bismarck. The subject was how he and five other students created a group of four, life-sized Eagle sculptures on a 40 foot diameter Medicine Wheel. The Art-Art Marketing students worked for two months in public installing them in a city park, causing many interesting conversations with passers-by.

Veterans awarded VFW scholarships



STUDENT VETERANS HONORED: Representatives of the Bismarck VFW Post 1326 awarded scholarships November 10 to three United Tribes students who are veterans of military service: from left Nikolaus Black Elk (Oglala Sioux Tribe) Computer Information Technology, Post 1326 Past Commander Robert Bird, Terry Medicine Crow (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe) Tribal Management, Post 1326 Commander Shirley J. Olgeirson, and Angel Ironstar (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe) Nursing. The UTTC Scholarship Committee and Financial Aid Director Bobbi Jo Zueger helped facilitate the awards.

Advice from recent grads: start your job search early

By Jason Pretty Boy, Student and Campus Services

You should start searching for a job even before you graduate. That's the advice of two recent United Tribes Technical College graduates.

Tamara and Louie Hayes were guest speakers November 30, 2005 on campus.

The couple made the trip back from Keshena, Wisconsin, located on their home reservation, the Menomonee Nation. Both graduated from UTTC in May: Tamara in Criminal Justice and Louie in Automotive Technology.



Tamara and Louie Hayes

Louie supervises the tribe's vehicle maintenance department. Tamara is currently enrolled in a police academy and will go to work for the tribal police department when she finishes early in the New Year. They have one daughter, Sienna who is eight years old.

While here as students from 2003-2005, they found the family atmosphere and campus support services to their liking.

Tamara took part in Student Senate and

attended the AIHEC conference, placing second as a member of the Critical Inquiry team. They excelled in their individual pursuits and graduated after two years.

That's when their real world experience began.

After graduation they returned home to Wisconsin, without any real idea of what they would do. When nothing developed, they put in for odd jobs. It took them longer than expected to land something substantial.

They believe that starting a job search before graduation would have shortened the time before they put their education to work.

Both saw their return to United Tribes as a way to "give back to the community" that supported them in accomplishing their goals.

The visit was made possible at the urging of Russell Swagger, dean of Student and Campus Services.

While here they spoke to Criminal Justice and Automotive Service Technology students about accomplishing goals and preparing for what comes when you graduate.

The trip to Bismarck and visiting with friends at the college was a fond reminder for Tamara and Louie of the community they called home.

Successful right out of the box



Richard L. White Jr. (Oglala Sioux Tribe), Kyle, South Dakota, has the certificate to show his mastery of a handful of automotive subjects. White was recognized by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation for passing a series of assessment exams with flying colors. "He just blew away these tests," said Marcel Gierszewski, Automotive Technology Program director. "His testing was very good for someone right out of the box." Passing scores on five of eight automotive core exams earned him the coveted Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) patch worn by top auto technicians around the country. "He was an exceptionally good student. His attendance was very good," said Gierszewski. White graduated in Automotive Technology with an Associate of Applied Science degree in May and plans to go on for further education.

Fire victim relocated, still learning and grateful



During summer 2005, Autumn Elm (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin) had the shock of her life. She and her infant daughter, Audris Cleveland, narrowly escaped through a window when an arson fire swept rapidly through their apartment, destroying the building and leaving one other tenant dead. She lost everything – no baby formula or diapers, no clothing, not even her purse was saved. Friends on campus and in the local community came to her aid with a fund, cloth-

ing and furniture drive. Recovering from the shock, Autumn and Audris now live in a house and she went back to class for the new school term. She wants everyone to know how grateful and appreciative she is for the generosity. If it wasn't for the encouragement and help she received, especially from Suzanne Shields, who organized the campus drive, she probably would have returned home to Wisconsin instead of staying to finish her degree in Small Business Management.

Determination displayed on porch project



UTN Photo Dennis J. Neumann

FOCUSED ON THE CHORE AT HAND: Construction Technology student Richard Finley (MHA Nation), New Town, ND, helps reconstruct the porch on the UTTC administration building October 1, 2005. A crew of students and former students earned praise for their determined and professional work on this building and Sitting Bull Hall. "The porches add new life to our campus while maintaining the historical integrity of the facilities," wrote Russell Swagger, Dean of Student and Campus Services, in a memo authorizing incentive pay for the workers. The use of new construction materials will make the porches maintenance free and will lead to other, major projects on campus for Construction Technology, wrote Swagger.

Mentors honored...

Continued from page 5

Good Shield is mentored by Aaron Chalmers, a medical student who participates in a mentoring program of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine's Bismarck branch.

Everette's mentor is Tom Yellow Bird, a paraprofessional aide at his grade school on the United Tribes Technical College campus. The TJES mentoring program is coordinated by school counselor Barb Danks.



Tom Yellow Bird, a TJES paraprofessional aide mentors Byron Everette, a fifth grade student. Both were recognized with certificates at the state level during North Dakota's observance of "Thank Your Mentor" Day.

Five-hundred mentor relationships are underway in the state, according to Mark LoMurray, director of the partnership project. Many of the programs measure their success against the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program founded over 100 years ago, he said.

"Our goal is to have ten-thousand mentor relationships underway by the year 2010," said LoMurray. "Mentoring has a tremendous impact on young people in the healthy relationships that are created."

"The power of a kind word is immeasurable and everlasting," said Hoeven, who presented certificates of appreciation.

January was national Mentor Recognition Month.

For more information about mentoring: Mark LoMurray 701-471-7186, Project Director, ND Tribal-Rural Mentoring Partnership.

For more information about United Tribes Technical College and it's students: www.uttc.edu
UTTC President: David M. Gipp • 3315 University Drive • Bismarck, ND 58504 • 701-255-3285 Ext. 1208