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# United Tribes News

*A Newsletter for United Tribes Technical College Employees and Friends*



Photo Credit: Frank White Bull, Official Powwow Photographer  
UTTC's Lone Star Veteran's Arena on the first day of the 49th Annual UTTC International Powwow

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## UTTC Events Week Raises more than \$65,000 in Student Scholarships

Kaley Schwab - Communications Specialist

Bismarck, N.D. - UTTC Events Week 2018 attracted thousands of visitors, participants, and sponsors who all contributed in United Tribes Technical College raising more than \$65,000 dollars for UTTC student scholarships.

UTTC Events Week, which kicks off with the UTTC Tribal Leaders Summit and includes the world renowned UTTC International Powwow, brought together students, staff, and the UTTC community for events with a higher purpose.

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UTTC Alumni Spotlight  
Melvin Miner - 4

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**"The UTTC community does not end at the entrance of our campus."**

Leander R. McDonald- UTTC President

"The UTTC community does not end at the entrance to our campus. The UTTC community is comprised of the thousands of people who continue to support our mission to provide quality education to all of our students," President Leander R. McDonald says.

UTTC Events Week is held annually the week following Labor Day and profits from the events go to supporting the students of United Tribes Technical College in continuing their education.

Thank you to everyone who planned, participated, attended, or sponsored UTTC Events Week. UTTC could not accomplish all it has over nearly 50 years without the support of our community.



Photo Credit: Kaley Schwab, UTTC communications specialist  
Chairman Mike Flute, Sisseton - Wahpeton Oyate, addresses the crowd at the 22nd Annual UTTC Tribal Leaders Summit.

## **UTTC Receives Federal Grant to Launch Intertribal Research and Resource Center**

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) is the recipient of a \$2.6 million dollar federal grant to establish an Intertribal Research and Resource Center (IRRC).

The grant will be used to address community needs and to improve the sustainability of natural resources and agricultural sustainability in Indian Country.

"United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) has a long history of serving as a resource for tribal nations throughout the Great Plains region. The Intertribal Research and Resource Center (IRRC) builds on a strong network of partnerships to enhance research activities to positively impact land management and the sustainability of natural resources," UTTC President Leander R. McDonald says.



Photo credit: Kaley Schwab, UTTC communications specialist  
Julie Stock-Porter, UTTC science instructor in the UTTC lab.

These federal funds will be made available through the National Science Foundation's Tribal Colleges and Universities Program.

"UTTC has a great team and infrastructure to manage and implement the grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to the benefit of the region," McDonald says.

The grant is expected to continue through 2023 with an additional \$900,000 in federal funds expected to be made available.

Jeremy Guinn, chair of the Environmental Science and Research Program at UTTC, says this funding is a way to reach beyond academic programs and serve the community directly.

"The research areas are food, energy, and water. It is a broad area but these are interconnected fields and we are looking to provide research, information, and resources to the tribes in those three areas," Guinn says.

The Intertribal Research and Resource Center will be in addition to the work already happening on the college campus through the Land Grant program and the Environmental Science and Research Program that focuses on cultivating sustainable food on campus as well as research into sustaining natural resources.



Photo credit: Kaley Schwab, UTTC communications specialist  
Trenton Chalmers, UTTC environmental science student.

## Faces of UTTC: Danielle Peltier

Kaley Schwab - Communications Specialist

With a stack of paper spread out in front of her, Danielle Peltier was typing in the last few numbers of a problem into her calculator.

As a pre-engineering student, Peltier came to UTTC expecting to learn to solve problems. What she didn't expect was the world of possibility she would find when she got here.

"I have a lot of opportunities that many Native kids don't have between the AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) program, we travel many places and get connections, and get to know people," Peltier says.

Peltier says one of her favorite places she has visited through AISES is San Diego inspiring Peltier to work towards being the next UTTC student to take part in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars program.



Photo credit: Kaley Schwab, UTTC communications specialist  
Danielle Peltier, UTTC pre-engineering student

"I know a lot of Natives don't get off the reservation so [I try to be] a role model and a mentor to try to prove that you can do it," Peltier says.

As a member of the UTTC Women's Basketball Team, Peltier is a leader on and off the court.

"I know that a lot of kids aren't as fortunate as I am to have a strong upbringing in my life so I just want to allow people to have the chance to lean on someone and to make sure they always have someone to listen to and talk to," Peltier says.

"It's opened up my eyes to understand more people and how I can actually help people and prove to them they can do whatever they want," Peltier says.

Leading by example, in the classroom, on the court, and in the UTTC community.



Photo Credit: Dennis Neumann, UTTC archivist  
Danielle Peltier playing for the UTTC Women's Basketball team.



Photo credit: Kaley Schwab, UTTC communications specialist  
Melvin Miner, UTTC facilities director

## Alumi Spotlight: Melvin Miner

Melvin Miner began his collegiate career at United Tribes Technical College receiving his associate's degree in business in 2005.

His experience as a student soon led to an opportunity to become a full time employee for UTTC but his journey to receive his education wasn't over.

Miner says he knew he always wanted to go back to school to earn his bachelor's degree but it was UTTC's commitment to covering the tuition of employees who receive degrees from the school that made him take the leap a lot sooner.

Now, with a bachelor's degree in business administration, he's taking the next step with UTTC as the college's new facilities director.

"It's the challenge. I'm always open to a new challenge," Miner says.

And his experience as a student is what drove him to take on his new role.

"I thought I could help by providing students with more opportunities, working to improve facilities ... my goal is to help others," Miner says.

Miner says he now hopes to help the institution where he himself grew into the person he is today.

"I couldn't think of a better place to work or help others," Miner says. "I grew up here; I became a man and a father here. I owe all of my success to my family, to UTTC, and to my culture."

### Want to keep up with UTTC?

Check out our website at [UTTC.edu](http://UTTC.edu) or follow us on social media

