

UNITED TRIBES®  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# 50 Year Chronology



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*Building on a Legacy of Success*

# 50 Year Chronology



**United Tribes Employment Training Center (UTETC)**  
**United Tribes Educational Technical Center (UTETC)**  
**United Tribes Technical College (UTTC)**  
**Edited by Dennis J. Neumann**

## **FORWARD (March 2019)**

This chronology of United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) was compiled for the college's 50th Anniversary in 2019. It was researched by Phil Baird, former UTTC Vice President of Academic, Career and Technical Education and former Interim UTTC President, and Dennis J. Neumann, former UTTC Public Information Director and UTTC Archive Consultant.

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This document provides starting points for learning more about activities, events, accomplishments and people associated with UTTC. Each entry is a brief summary that begins with a date in the Year/Month/Day sequence. Entries conclude with references to documents and resource materials containing more detailed information. A name and subject index appears at the end.

Research for this version concluded in early 2019. For those who may wish to contribute information, to correct or add entries, or update this document, please contact United Tribes Technical College. Your input is invited and appreciated.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2019, United Tribes Technical College reached 50 years as a tribal college. The start of job training classes in 1969 was an outcome of tribal resistance to government policies aimed at diminishing tribes and terminating their existence.

During the early 1960s, leaders from four North Dakota tribes joined forces specifically to address the possibility that state authorities might assume criminal and civil jurisdiction over Indian reservations. The tribes were: Devils Lake Sioux Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

Since the 1953 enactment of Public Law 280 (PL 280), state officials had discussed and debated the merits and consequences of greater state jurisdictional control over the affairs of Indian people. North Dakota voters weighed-in during the June 1958 Primary Election authorizing the legislature to have the state assume jurisdiction as provided by PL 280.

Tribal leaders in North Dakota took exception to the prospect of losing authority on their sovereign lands. During sporadic meetings beginning in 1963, they established a united front opposed to several pieces of state legislation. Ultimately they succeeded in making North Dakota a PL

280 "option state." Partial jurisdiction could be assumed by the state only with tribal consent. None of North Dakota's tribes have concurred.

Aided by the state Indian Affairs Commission, they pursued other mutual concerns. Interactions with representatives of federal and state economic development agencies highlighted the opportunity and need for an organization to coordinate a statewide tribal planning grant. The result was formation of United Tribes of North Dakota. In 1968, the group incorporated as a non-profit under the title United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation. This became the coordinating entity of federally-funded inter-tribal programs.

When Bismarck's Ft. Lincoln became available, the tribes worked to secure the 105-acre former military post as a training center for Indian families. The facility they established became United Tribes Employment Training Center, later named United Tribes Technical College.  
*Austin Engel, Frank Morin and Robert Fox in UTNDDC Workshop Meeting Minutes, Feb. 22, 1972, p.1-8; Austin Engel interviewed by David M. Gipp, June 7, 2004, UTTC Archive; North Dakota Indian Affairs, 1949-1999, 50 Years of Tribal/State Relations, Anniversary Report, July 26, 1999, p.20-22; United Tribes News, Vol.1 No.1, Oct-Dec. 1970, p.1; The Rights of Indians and Tribes, ACLU Guide, 1992, p.117*



## 1963

**1963-09-11 & 12:** The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the oldest and most respected Indian advocacy organization in the U.S., held its 20th annual convention in Bismarck, attracting upwards of 2,000 delegates from tribes throughout the nation. Talks by tribal leaders and issue discussions were on the agenda, along with a keynote address from the Attorney General of the United States, Robert F. Kennedy, brother of the President. Adding socially and culturally were a rodeo, Indian dancing, a barbeque feed and a parade showcasing Native culture through downtown Bismarck attended by thousands of local residents.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 11&12, 1963*

## 1964

**1964:** The United Tribes of North Dakota organization was taking shape in the fall of 1964. An informal set of by-laws was written and an executive committee elected. Members traveled to each reservation to “get acquainted with each other’s problems and see what can be done through a unified effort.” Executive committee members were Robert Fox (Ft. Berthold) Chairman; Lewis Goodhouse (Devils Lake) Vice Chairman; Reginald Brien (Turtle Mountain) Secretary; and Aljoe Agard (Standing Rock) Treasurer. David Garcia served as legal counsel.

*United Tribes News, Vol.1 No.1, Dec. 1965, p.10*

## 1965

**1965-01-16:** A *Bismarck Tribune* editorial endorsed a then-emerging idea to locate a federal Job Corps Training Center at Bismarck’s Fort Lincoln, no longer needed by the military. Advocates for a permanent vocational training center in western North Dakota felt it would benefit local people and Indians. It was estimated that a Job Corps facility would bring into the community over \$1-million-per-year in federal funding. “It is difficult to contemplate a use which could bring a better return,” wrote the *Tribune*. It could give Bismarck what amounts to a vocational or trade school “without the considerable local cost [that] local sponsorship might entail.” The *Tribune* anticipated the site would need substantial renovation for education and training uses. Should it be established and later abandoned, foretold the editorial, “one

result might be a physical plant much better than the one that exists now.”

*Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 16, 1965*



United Tribes Technical College Archive

Construction on Bismarck’s Fort Lincoln began in 1899.

**1965-11:** A year-long community discussion about the Job Corps Center at Fort Lincoln revealed sharp divisions in the Capitol City. Public opinion differed over inviting in 200 young men from around the country who had not finished high school, some of whom would be “Negros.” Both the Bismarck City Commission and Bismarck Park Board initially went on record in opposition. “I’ve had pro and con but the comments have been overwhelmingly opposed to the center here,” said the mayor trying to reflect the feelings of local citizens. City residents, members of the clergy and public officials had weighed-in, creating an unusual amount of public interest that exposed feelings of caution and racial insularity. A petition drive opposed to the Job Corps Center gathered over 1,000 signatures, attracting national attention and prompting the head of the nation’s anti-poverty programs to call the state governor.

*Bismarck Tribune, Nov. 29, 1965; Bismarck Tribune, Nov. 30, 1965; Bismarck Tribune, Dec. 6, 1965*

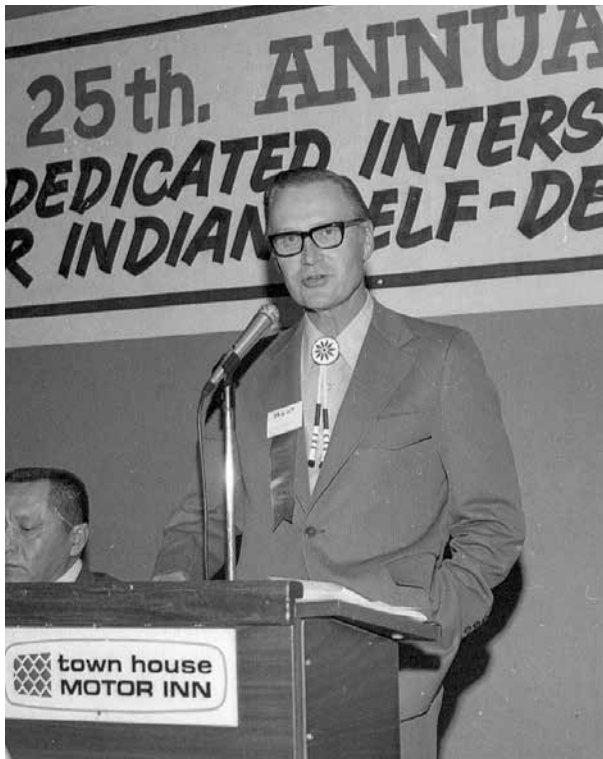
**1965-12:** North Dakota Governor William L. Guy signed a contract with the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity to establish a Job Corps Training Center on the site of Bismarck’s Fort Lincoln. The move overrode the objections of local officials and ended the controversy about training a diverse group of young men ages 16 to 21. Guy pointed out that nearly 300 North Dakota boys were enrolled in the Job Corps and 180 had already left for training assignments. “I don’t think we non-Negros need to worry,” said the Governor about racial overtones in the public discussion. “These boys will have had 16 to 17 years experience being a Negro.” Noting that they have already been exposed to society,



# United Tribes Employment TRAINING CENTER

Guy said, "I'm sure they'll find conditions here much better." Bismarck community leaders subsequently pledged their full cooperation. Guy said, "We are Americans. America's problems are our problems. North Dakota has an obligation to help solve the nations' aching socio-economic struggles."

*Bismarck Tribune, Dec. 3, 1965; Bismarck Tribune, Dec. 11, 1965*



United Tribes Technical College Archive

North Dakota Governor William L. Guy

Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission and co-edited by Theodore "Tiny Bud" Jamerson, Standing Rock Tribal Councilman. The first issue contained reports from the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, along with briefs about the United Tribes organization, labor recruitment and economic development projects, and Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) projects underway on North Dakota reservations.

*United Tribes News, Vol.1 No.1, Dec. 1965*

## 1966

**1966-01:** Turtle Mountain hosted one of the round-robin meetings of the fledgling United Tribes of North Dakota organization, thereby acquainting other tribes' representatives with conditions in Chippewa country.

*United Tribes News, Vol.1, No.1, Dec. 1965, p.10*

**1966:** Help came from the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission to formalize the United Tribes of North Dakota meetings. NDIAC Executive Director Austin Engel offered his services as secretary to provide meeting minutes. His work became a record of discussions and actions, providing continuity to the deliberations. UTNDDC Workshop Meeting Minutes, Feb. 22, 1972, p.3; Austin Engel oral history interview, June 7, 2004, UTTC, Bismarck, ND; North Dakota.

*Indian Affairs, 1949-1999, 50 Years of Tribal/State Relations, Anniversary Report, July 26, 1999, p.20*

## 1967

**1967-09-01:** A planner from the North Dakota Economic Development Commission met with United Tribes leaders to set up a "statewide Indian planning district" patterned after one in Arizona. A federal agency representative from



Washington, DC, explained that a grant would require a 25-percent match from the tribes. A consensus emerged in favor of applying for the “tribal planner grant” from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce Economic Development Administration. The grant was written by the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission.

*UTNDDC Workshop Meeting Minutes, Feb. 22, 1972, p.3; North Dakota Indian Affairs, 1949-1999, 50 Years of Tribal/State Relations, Anniversary Report, July 26, 1999, p.22*

## 1968

**1968-01-19:** North Dakota tribal leaders adopted Articles of Incorporation to establish the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation (UTNDDC). Those who signed the articles creating the non-profit charitable/educational organization were: Aljoe Agard (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe); Lewis Goodhouse (Devils Lake Sioux Tribe); Reginald Brien (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians); and August Little Soldier (Fort Berthold Indian Reservation). Also a signatory was Austin Engel, (non-Indian) executive director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission. The officers also signed an application with the U.S. Economic Development Administration for a tribal planning grant. The corporation became the governing body and policy-making board for the soon to be established United Tribes Employment Training Center.

*UTNDDC Articles of Incorporation; UTNDDC Workshop Meeting Minutes, Feb. 22, 1972, p.4; David M. Gipp interviewed by Phil Baird, Dec. 29, 2007*



Theodore “Tiny Bud” Jamerson

**1968-01-29:** When news came in late January that the Job Corps would close at Fort Lincoln, tribal leaders immediately started planning

to take over the fort. Standing Rock Tribal Councilman Theodore “Tiny Bud” Jamerson and other tribal leaders began lobbying state and local officials, North Dakota’s Congressional delegation and church leaders to secure the decommissioned military post at Bismarck as an Indian training facility. Bismarck.

*Tribune, Jan. 29, 1968; UTNDDC Workshop Meeting Minutes, Feb. 22, 1972, p.4; Austin Engel oral history interview, June 7, 2004, UTTC, Bismarck, ND; North Dakota Indian Affairs, 1949-1999, 50 Years of Tribal/State Relations, Anniversary Report, July 26, 1999, p.22; August Little Soldier interviewed by Dennis J. Neumann, Oct. 23, 2006, Zap, ND, transcript p.5-6*

**1968-04:** United Tribes of North Dakota received funding to open an office to promote economic development on the state’s Indian reservations. The five-year planning grant was launched with a \$90-thousand federal grant from the EDA. It provided for economic development specialists (tribal planners) on the state’s four Indian reservations and a director and staff in Bismarck.

*April 24, 1968 handwritten correspondence from Theodore “Tiny Bud” Jamerson to Mr. Nessel at Blackfeet Agency, Browning, MT*

**1968-07-12 to 1968-10-04:** Bismarck’s Fort Lincoln became a training location for the Peace Corps. The organization Volunteer Training Specialists, Inc. conducted a 12-week program for volunteers from urban areas around the country. The “Kenya Peace Corps Training Program in Agriculture and Land Settlement” included on-site training in practical skills and the Swahili language. Field visits for trainees were arranged with families on Standing Rock for cultural awareness and rural work experience. President of the organization, Thomas M. Katus, was a former Peace Corps volunteer who served in Tanzania. For many years thereafter, Katus was a friend to United Tribes and consultant on multi-cultural, economic development and fundraising projects.

*Kenya Peace Corps Training Program syllabus, June 1968*

**1968-10-09:** The U.S. Senate Appropriations committee approved an appropriation of \$1.7 million to establish an Indian vocational training center at Bismarck’s Fort Lincoln. North Dakota U.S. Senator Milton R. Young said a vocational education facility would help Indians “who suffered from great poverty but had a great deal of talent.” The final appropriation





United Tribes Technical College Archive

Entertainment during the United Tribes dedication program featured the Harmonettes, a group of singing nuns from Watertown, SD.

approved by Congress was \$700,000.  
*Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 9, 1968; Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 16, 1969*

## 1969

**1969-05-22:** United Tribes selected the Bendix Field Engineering Corp., a subsidiary of the Bendix Corp. of Owings Mills, Maryland, to operate the Indian family training center at Bismarck. Senator Milton R. Young made the announcement at the U.S. Dept. of Interior in Washington, DC. The event was attended by Asst. Interior Sec. Harrison Loesch and representatives of United Tribes. A resolution passed by the tribes said Young's efforts were the "primary motivating force in establishment of the center."

*Bismarck Tribune, May 22, 1969*

**1969-06-24:** United Tribes and Bendix signed contracts for managing the Indian family training center. Meeting at Bismarck's Fort Lincoln, site of the center, were Francis E. Briscoe, BIA assistant area director, Aljoe Agard, United Tribes chairman and Leister F. Graffis, president of the Bendix Field Engineering Corp. Bendix selected Arvin B. Ellingson to manage the center. Bendix operated similar centers for the BIA in Madera, CA, and Roswell NM. Because of the involvement of the tribes, this was the first center directed by those it served.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 25, 1969*

**1969-07-01:** On the site of the former Fort Lincoln military post south of the Bismarck airport, United Tribes Employment Training Center (UTETC) commenced operations with funding from the B-I-A and U.S. Department of Labor. The Bendix Field Engineering Corp. provided operations and training. UTNDDC handled maintenance and support. Under the executive directorship of Theodore "Tiny Bud" Jamerson (Standing Rock). United Tribes also determined the overall policy direction and governance. Initial efforts focused on hiring staff, developing policies and procedures, and establishing a program philosophy and training materials, along with support systems and activities for trainees and their families. A considerable amount of work was done to prepare and renovate campus facilities. Trainees from tribes in the region began arriving later in the summer.

*Bendix First Quarterly Report, Jan. 15, 1970*

**1969-08-25:** The first group of trainees arrived at the Indian Family Training Center on the former site of Bismarck's Fort Lincoln military post. The initial group included two solo parents and their children, and three families from the Turtle Mountain, Fort Berthold, Standing Rock and Sisseton-Wahpeton reservations. A welcoming picnic greeted them. Family houses were under construction on Center by Viking Homes, a private contractor.

*Bismarck Tribune, Aug. 25, 1969*



**1969-09-06:** United Tribes Employment Training Center was formally dedicated during a public program on the front porch of Bldg. 30. An estimated 200 local residents attended along with Native People from the Center's governing tribes. Officials represented the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, United States Congress, State of North Dakota and the Bendix Field Engineering Corporation. Nathan Little Soldier (Three Affiliated) was master of ceremonies. Guest speakers included N.D. Governor William L. Guy, U.S. Senator Quentin Burdick, a staff member from the office of N.D. Congressman Tom Kleppe, UTND Executive Director Theodore "Tiny Bud" Jamerson, and Bismarck Mayor Ed Lahr. The Harmonettes, a group of singing nuns from Watertown, SD., provided musical entertainment including such folk songs as "We Shall Overcome" and "This Land is My Land." The Center's job training programs began classroom instruction within days for the first cohort of student/trainees.

*Bendix First Quarterly Report, Jan. 15, 1970; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 8, 1969*

**1969-09:** UTETC initiated planning for a statewide Indian newspaper. The publication eventually took the name of the newsletter that preceded it, *United Tribes News*. Publication began in the fall of 1970 with a grant from the North Dakota Council of Churches.

*United Tribes News, October-December 1970, p.1*

**1969-12-04:** Interior Secretary Harrison Loesch and Commissioner of Indian Affairs Lewis R. Bruce toured United Tribes. It was the first of many similar visits to the campus over the years by federal officials. The United Tribes Board and other dignitaries who welcomed them included Standing Rock Employment Assistance Officer Shirley Plume, UTETC Coordinator Theodore Jamerson, UTETC Board Member Peter Marcellais and UTETC.

*Bendix Manager Arvin B. Ellingson. The tour included facilities, buildings and a trainee home. Bendix First Quarterly Report, Jan. 15, 1970*

## 1970

**1970-01:** The Dakota Association of Native Americans (DANA) was founded by Indian advocacy groups in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot and Williston. The mission was to assist Native People in making the transition to off-reservation life. Bryan Baldwin, a non-

Native, served as chair of the business advisory council.

*Bismarck Tribune, January 20, 1976, p.3*

**1970-04-11:** The earliest powwow at United Tribes took place in the spring of 1970. A reference to a powwow appears in the Third Quarterly Report of the Bendix Field Engineering Corporation. An entry under Special Events lists a "Powwow" on April 11, 1970, a Saturday, that included "trainees, staff and public." The entry simply says Bismarck, North Dakota. Because it does not mention an off-Center location, it was likely held at UTETC and not somewhere else in the city. This may have been the very first powwow held at United Tribes that involved students and members of the staff. Probably it was an informal event with minimal planning, no notice or invitation in the popular press and only a passing reference in the Bendix report. A larger event, clearly planned for the public, came with "United Tribes Days" over three months later.

*Bendix Third Quarterly Report, July 15, 1970, p.24*

**1970-06:** The North Dakota Council of Churches donated \$1,150 to help fund the publication of *United Tribes News*.

*United Tribes News, Vol.1, No.1, Oct.-Dec., 1970, p.1*



Lee Fox Sr. in service uniform

**1970-07-24:** The first powwow on the UTETC campus to which the public was invited took place ten months after the center opened. The powwow was promoted and advertised as the highlight of "United Tribes Days," set for July





24-26, 1970. United Tribes Days was an open-house for the local community to tour the new "Indian School" and see the transformation underway at the former military installation that had been in the community for 70 years. By all accounts it was a huge public relations success. Over 1,200 people turned-out for a free buffalo barbeque. The idea to display Native culture on the campus was conceived and promoted by Lee Fox Sr. (Three Affiliated), a student in the Building Trades program. Staff members joined with the 100 student-trainees to plan and conduct the events, including a rodeo in Mandan. Prize money for over two-dozen dancing and singing contestants totaled \$4,900, a considerable sum for a start-up event. The *Bismarck Tribune* reported that a "white dance," with a rock band, was scheduled for Saturday night at the Center. Sharon Fox, a senior at Bismarck High School, became the first Native royalty to preside at a United Tribes powwow. The 17 year-old daughter of Lee Fox, was named "Miss United Tribes." The *Tribune* called her "a real live Indian princess," like those in "legends of the West."

*Bismarck Tribune, July 25, 1970; Bendix Fourth Quarterly Report, Oct. 20, 1970*

**1970-08:** The National Indian Education (NIEA) was chartered in the state of Minnesota. The non-profit organization was founded in 1969 during a convocation aimed at improving the status of Indian education. The first national conference drew over 500 people. By 1977, the conference was attended by more than 5,000.

*United Tribes News, April 1981, p.11*

**1970-09-25:** The UTNDDC Board adopted a uniform set of "Administrative Operating Procedures" for the organization and employees. The move positioned the Board to assume responsibility functions of the training center that were previously performed by Bendix.

*United Tribes News, October-December 1970, p.3*

**1970-10:** UTETC chairperson Lewis Goodhouse (Spirit Lake/Dakota) signed a new prime contract with the BIA to operate the training center. <> Former Standing Rock Tribal Chairman Douglas Skye, 64, passed away at Fort Yates, N.D. on October 9. <> U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills, 32, came to the UTETC campus and attended a banquet at Bismarck's Grand Pacific Hotel.

*United Tribes News, October-December 1970, p.5&7; Selfridge Journal, October 15, 1970, p.1*

**1970-11-09:** Following an offer by the BIA, the UTETC board took action to administer the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program for Fiscal Year 1971. UTETC thus began channeling \$450,000 in JOM funds to 15 North Dakota school districts that served Indian students. UTETC Adult Education instructor Dennis Huber was selected to direct the program.

*United Tribes News, October-December 1970, p.3, United Tribes News, Jan-Feb-Mar. 1971, p.1*

**1970-12-18:** Dallas A. Brien resigned from his post as Planning Staff Director of UTNDDC. David M. Gipp, Standing Rock economic development specialist for the corporation, was named Acting Planning Director.

*United Tribes News, Jan-Feb-Mar. 1971, p.2*

## 1971

**1971-04-05:** David M. Gipp of Standing Rock (who later became United Tribes president) was among the delegates sworn-in to serve in the 1971 North Dakota Constitutional Convention. At age 24, Gipp was the youngest delegate and only Indian among 98 citizens serving in the second such gathering in state history. Gipp was assigned to the Judicial Functions and Political Subdivisions Committee. He was then employed by Standing Rock as the tribe's development planner. Only two years earlier he had graduated from UND with a degree in Political Science.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May-June 1971, p.1; AP, April 6, 1971; Bismarck Tribune, April 6, 1971, p.1; Minot Daily News, April 7, 1971, p.1*



UTETC entrance sign during the Bendix era

United Tribes Technical College Archive





**1971-04-30:** Dale Little Soldier assumed duties as the new Executive Director of United Tribes Employment Training Center. The 39-year-old Fort Berthold enrolled member was educated at Bismarck High School, Rocky Mountain College in Billings, MT and Brigham Young University, Provo, UT. Prior to becoming executive director, he served UTETC as Program Assurance Analyst, Personnel Development Supervisor and Community Life Manager. He also worked at Fort Yates High School, was principal of Cannon Ball Public School and OEO Community Education Director.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May-June 1971, p.4*

**1971-05:** Two staff members and three students organized an Alcoholics Anonymous group at United Tribes Employment Training Center. Meeting weekly in campus Bldg. 2, participation grew rapidly and attendance ranged from five to 50. The national organization, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., headquartered in New York, provided the name "Thunderbird Group" for UTETC. Students and staff were the primary members, although some individuals from the local area also attended. A formal alcoholism program was instituted on center in March 1972, supervised by counselor Patrick Poitra.

*1972 UTETC Annual Report, p.41*

**1971-06:** The seeds of a United Tribes Indian curricula project were sown under the auspices of the Johnson O'Malley program. Directed by Dennis Huber, work was underway to research and develop materials in print and audio-visual format for school instruction in the 1972-73 academic year.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May-June 1971, p.5*

**1971-06:** UTETC hosted a 45-day training program for new staff members of the Four Bears Recreational Complex at New Town, ND, on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. 1972.

*UTETC Annual Report, p.4*

**1971-07-01:** Having planned to end the start-up contract of the Bendix Corporation, United Tribes assumed full control and governance of all training and education programs, operations, maintenance and support at United Tribes Employment Training Center. The orientation under Bendix to "instill middle class values of non-Indian society" gave way to a different philosophy. Executive Director

Dale Little Soldier guided the transition, leading to a reorganization that resulted in staff realignments and some resignations. The ratio of Indian staff changed from 40 percent Indian employees to 63 percent Indian as the character of the organization became more "Indian oriented."

*1972 UTETC Annual Report, p.2*

**1971-08:** Theodore "Tiny Bud" Jamerson, former Standing Rock Tribal Chairman and council member, was named Special Assistant to the Bureau of Indian Affairs area office director. The prime organizer of United Tribes left his position as UTETC's first executive director to work with tribes and state and federal agencies throughout the BIA Aberdeen Area.

*United Tribes News, July-Aug-Sept. 1971, p.1; Selfridge Journal, August 26, 1971, p.1*

**1971-08-04:** Austin Engel resigned as executive director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, a position he held for over six years. He was the only non-Indian member of the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation Board. NDIAC members thanked him for his "exceptionally fine service" and appointed Earl Azure (Turtle Mountain) as interim director, later becoming director. Engel became Executive Director of the North Dakota Democratic NPL Party.

*United Tribes News, July-Aug-Sept. 1971, p.1*

**1971-08-04:** The North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission began operating under revised statutory authority adopted during the 1971 State Legislature. Changes in the make-up of the commission accompanied a shift in policy away from termination and assimilation toward developing Indian communities and tribal governments.

*United Tribes News, July-Aug-Sept. 1971, p.1; North Dakota Indian Affairs, 1949-1999, 50 Years of Tribal/State Relations, Anniversary Report, July 26, 1999, NDIAC*

**1971-09-13:** A workshop was conducted in Bismarck for the New Careers program, funded by the U.S. Dept. of Labor. Headquartered at United Tribes, the law enforcement program trained 40 individuals from the center's governing tribes to become community service officers. Ted Ankle was the UTETC director. He was assisted by project coordinator Donald Bruce, counselor Jerry Keller, job developer

*"exceptionally fine service."*



Tom Wallner, and secretary Sandra Dravland.  
*United Tribes News, July-Aug-Sept 1971, p.2*

**1971-11-06:** U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy and his wife Joan visited United Tribes, accompanied by North Dakota U.S. Senator Quentin Burdick. A standing-room-only audience packed into the cafeteria to welcome the Kennedy-clan brother and supporter of Native causes. Only two years earlier, he and his brother Robert had spearheaded the so-called "Kennedy Report," a study about Indian Education by a special Senate subcommittee. The report detailed the failures in Indian education and made 60 specific recommendations for improvement, the most important of which was to "increase Indian participation in and control over their own education programs in schools." Impressed with his brief glimpse of the training center, Kennedy remarked that UTETC demonstrates "Indians can run programs and run them effectively, and run them well...They have the authority and the responsibility and I think they are doing a good job."

*The Kennedy Report, How Far We Have Come, John Echohawk, Jan. 2010, NIEA News, p.161; 1972 UTETC Annual Report, p.2; Bismarck Tribune, Nov. 6, 1971.*

## 1972



Dennis J. Neumann KFYR-TV

Warren W. Means

**1972-02:** Two leaders from Standing Rock, who helped form United Tribes, recruited a new executive director for the center. Theodore Jamerson and Aljoe Agard persuaded Warren W. Means to leave law school in Montana

and come to UTETC. In February 1972, Means (Oglala Lakota) Pine Ridge, SD, began four-and-one-half-years of active and productive leadership. His academic, administrative and legal background bolstered confidence in the new organization among federal funding agencies. Means initially concentrated his leadership on the technical training and education programs. His first steps were to streamline the organizational structure and develop support for Indian vocational programs.

*Warren Means interviewed by David M. Gipp, Apr. 10, 2008, UTTC Archive; UTNDDC Newsletter, Spring 1974, p.1*

**1972-03:** The United Tribes Office of Public Information (OPI) was officially started to improve and expand public relations. A definite need was identified to better inform the public about the training center. Information was delivered via radio, TV and newspapers. Special efforts were made to schedule personal appearances at civic and service clubs locally and throughout the state.

*1972 UTETC Annual Report, p.50*

**1972-03-24:** Playing in the opening round of the annual North Dakota Amateur Basketball Tournament, United Tribes torched the nets, setting a new single-game scoring record. As the No. 3 team in the Class A division, Tribes ripped the Valley City Merchants 162-80. Russ Henegar had 32, Randy Plume and John Thunder Hawk Sr. each 30. The previous single-game high was 137, set by a team from Hettinger in 1968.

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 24, 1972, p.12*

**1972-03:** UTETC hired Robert Cartwright as Senior Vocational Instructor; he later served as Director of Vocational Programs. Thelma Stiffarm was employed as Personnel Director. University Year in ACTION volunteers arrived March 29 on the campus.

*1972 UTETC Annual Report, p.4; United Tribes News, December 17, 1974, p.3; Ann Kraft interviewed by Phil Baird, February 20, 2007, Bismarck; Warren Means interviewed by phone by Phil Baird, February 21, 2007*

**1972-04-02:** Approximately 110 people attended Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at United Chapel on center. Chaplin Lester Kills Crow, an ordained clergyman of the Episcopal Church and UTETC counselor, officiated and delivered the sermon. "An excellent breakfast followed" in the dining center, served by staff members from various departments. United Chapel was organized in







the fall of 1970 under the leadership of Delano Aungie, a student, who conducted All Faith Services. Chaplin Kills Crow became involved in 1971, and was joined by students Clifford and Myrna Zephier in 1972. A campus survey found half the student body belonged to the Roman Catholic Church and the other half to ten different faiths. A program of visiting clergy attracted Indian clergy from area reservations and priests from the local diocese.

*1972 UTETC Annual Report, p.40*

**1972-04:** North Dakota Governor William L. Guy proclaimed “Indian Awareness Week” in the state. The gesture recognized the contributions of Indians and the heritage that makes them American. The formal proclamation noted that dire health, education and economic conditions prevented Indian residents from achieving their full potential. An answer, said Guy’s proclamation, would be a new awareness and dedication to recognizing the “dignity of our fellowman.”

*Bismarck Tribune, April 11, 1972, p.3*

**1972-05-03:** A curricula project underway at United Tribes aimed to publish newly developed Indian Studies materials for state schools that were prepared by Indian educators rather than non-Indians. When fully implemented, the American Indian Curricula Development Program (AICDP) provided Indian and non-Indian students with educational teachings from tribal sources that reflected a Native worldview. The goal was to improve understanding about the culture, counteract stereotypes and reinforce Indian heritage and self-pride. The program co-coordinators were Carl Whitman of Fort Berthold and Jim Davis of Turtle Mountain.

*Bismarck Tribune, May 3, 1972, p.28*



United Tribes Technical College Archive

The United Tribes powwow dance arena was built in 1972

**1972:** The UTETC Buildings and Grounds

Maintenance Dept. reported handling 1,914 maintenance requests on center facilities over the year. In addition to routine maintenance, the department moved the center’s administrative offices from Bldg. 32 to Bldg. 9, where renovations allowed more space for added personnel.

*1972 UTETC Annual Report, p.60*

**1972-06-15:** During the year, the UTETC Medical Dispensary reported visits by 11,298 persons. The clients obtained needed medical services, appointments and referrals from the center’s two Registered Nurses. Patients included students and their family members, youngsters in daycare and members of the staff. Most of the visits involved medical appointments with off-campus providers along with eye and dental appointments. The Center contracted with Wirtz Dental Clinic of Mandan for a dental care program for children on center. A representative of the USPHS Aberdeen, SD office visited the campus to discuss student health. And an instructor from Mary College began discussions about placing Mary College Nursing Students at UTETC as part of their training.

*1972 UTETC Annual Report, p.37*

**1972-07-01:** The United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation moved their offices to a new location. The reason was lack of parking for employees and board members on the congested streets of downtown Bismarck. The new place was a metal building in the Carufel Addition in the northeast part of the city. Sharing the space was the Manpower Training Program, directed by Donald G. Bruce (Turtle Mountain) and the new Prisoner Parole Program directed by Maxine McCaslin from Fort Totten.

*United Tribes News, Summer 1972, p. 6*

**1972-07-28:** Four-thousand-dollars in prize money was offered during the weekend powwow July 28-30. A powwow committee, appointed weeks earlier, prepared for the summer event, held in conjunction with Bismarck’s Centennial celebration. Shirley Barrows (Turtle Mountain) Belcourt, ND, reigned as Miss UTETC. A “white dance” featured the UTETC student group “The Tribesman.” At the vendor booths, “Billy Jack” hats were the hot item.

*Bismarck Tribune, July 28, 1972, p.20; Devils Lake Journal, July 28, 1972, Supplement, p.1; 1972 UTETC Annual Report, p.50*



**1972-08-21:** The Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe of the Lake Traverse Reservation requested permission to join United Tribes. At a United Tribes board meeting, Chairman Moses Gill presented a resolution from Sisseton-Wahpeton asking to be admitted as an official member of the corporation.

*UTNDDC Board Meeting Minutes, Aug. 21, 1972*

**1972-09-16:** 1964 Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota/Pine Ridge) was the special guest at "United Tribes Days." Mills was then director of Recreation, Fitness and Athletics with the U.S. Dept. of Interior. In 1971 he was named by the U.S. Jaycees as one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Men in America."

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 14, 1972, p.32*

**1972-09-19:** The *Bismarck Tribune* reported that Indians from North Dakota and neighboring states sang, played drums and danced until the wee hours of Monday morning to complete the "Third Annual United Tribes Days Powwow" over the weekend. Eleven singing groups took part and 400 dancers. Prize money totaled \$5,000.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 19, 1972, p.11*



United Tribes Technical College Archive

Julie Nixon-Eisenhower at UTETC in 1972

**1972-09-21:** Julie Nixon Eisenhower visited the UTETC campus during a campaign swing through North Dakota on behalf of her father, President Richard M. Nixon. With media and Secret Service agents in tow, she met instructor Jeanine Steckler and students in the center's Business Clerical program, where she took an interest in the IBM Executive typewriters in use. She was treated to an exhibition of traditional powwow music and dancing, visited the daycare and classes in ceramics and personal development, and received gifts from the Center's director and board members, including a beaded necklace.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 22, 1972, p.16; Mandan Morning Pioneer, Sept. 21, 1972, p.1; Mandan Morning*

*Pioneer, Sept. 22, 1972, p.1-2; KEYAPI, Sept. 1972, No.31, p.1*

**1972-09-20:** John "Buzz" Fredericks (Three Affiliated) Halliday, ND, was appointed chairman of the Economic Development Board of the National Congress of American Indians. Fredericks was a member of the UTNDDC Board.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 20, 1972, p.19*

**1972-09-26:** UTETC and the State of North Dakota hosted delegates from 25 states for a four-day conference of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council. UTETC Business Clerical students who helped staff the event were: Vickie Walette, Martha Frederick, Nora Dogskin, Helen White, Shirley Barrows, Carol Isaac, Cynthia Red Dog, Benita Cook, Anna Martinez, Elaine Smith, Roxanne Wilkie and Carolyn McCauley. Keynote speaker was Webster Two Hawk (Rosebud), chair of the National Tribal Chairman's Association.

*KEYAPI, Sept. 1972, No.31, p.2*

**1972-10:** Representatives of all existing Indian post-secondary institutions met in Washington, DC to begin forming the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). Leaders of the fledgling tribal college movement sought to unify tribally controlled colleges and improve higher education opportunities for Indian people. Within a year, AIHEC was chartered and the first permanent professional staff members began work from offices in Denver, CO under the direction of David M. Gipp (Standing Rock), who later became executive director and president of United Tribes.

*Tribal College Journal, May 15, 1990, Vol.2 No.1, Summer 1990; United Tribes News, Mar. 1981, p.7*

**1972-10-25:** United Tribes constructed a powwow dance arena in the summer of 1972. UTETC Support Services Manager James Eslinger reported to the board about recent changes in work in the support services area. One example he gave was "construction of a powwow bowery." A staff labor force, supplemented by personnel from a manpower development project, built the arena at the center of campus, on what was formerly the Fort Lincoln military parade ground. The dance area measured 150 feet in diameter. Later, in 1989, it was enlarged to 190 feet in diameter.

*UTNDDC Board Meeting Managerial Presentations, Oct. 25, 1972, p.1; Bud Anderson notes by Dennis J. Neumann, May 7, 2014*





**1972-12:** An administrative controversy at United Tribes spilled into public view when several program directors filed lawsuits in Burleigh County District Court. The actions were against Carl Whitman Jr., former corporation executive director and Georgette Seifert, his administrative assistant. Both had resigned their positions in October. The suits alleged interference in the work of the program directors and activities damaging to their reputations.

*Bismarck Tribune, Dec. 20, 1972, p.29; David M. Gipp interviewed by Phil Baird, Dec. 29, 2006*

## 1973

**1973-02-21:** Newly-elected officers of the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation board of directors included Claude Red Hail Longie, Devils Lake Sioux Tribe (president); James Henry, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (vice president); and Melvin White Eagle, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (secretary).

*Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 21, 1973, p.12*

**1973-02-16:** United Tribes was honored with a visit from U.S. Senator Milton R. Young. The senior Senator from North Dakota was influential in acquiring Bismarck's Fort Lincoln for the training facility and providing federal funding. On a tour he saw the new elementary school and met with the staff, the Board of Directors and Center Director Warren W. Means. He received gifts from the board and the student body, represented by LaVern Golus.

*KEYAPI, Feb. 1973, p.1*

**1973-02-23:** The new elementary school at UTETC was dedicated and named for former director Theodore "Tiny Bud" Jamerson (Standing Rock). Special guest speaker was North Dakota Governor Arthur A. Link, who congratulated UTETC on the new achievement. The first principal of Theodore Jamerson Elementary School (TJES) was A. Gay Kingman-Robertson of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. TJES was established to serve the children of students attending the training center.

*Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 24, 1974, p.5; KEYAPI, Mar. 1973, No.36, p.2*

**1973-02:** The UTETC team captured the title among 16 teams at the first annual Standing Rock Alumni Association Independent Basketball Tournament at Fort Yates Community School. UTETC players selected for

the all-tourney team were John Thunder Hawk Sr., Virgil Tiokasin and Billy Kuntz. Bob Eaglestaff was named tourney MVP.

*Standing Rock Star, Mar. 5, 1973, p.1*

**1973-03-10:** The Fort Yates "Warriors" won the North Dakota State High School Class A Basketball Championship in a thrilling, triple overtime victory at the Bismarck Civic Center. It was the school's third state basketball title, the first in Class A ranks. Several team members later played on teams at United Tribes.

*KX-Television Network telecast recording, Mar. 10, 1973, UTTC Archive*

**1973-04-11:** One-hundred-fifty trainees were reported to be enrolled at UTETC, according to Dennis LeBeau, new job development director.

*Bismarck Tribune, Apr. 11, 1973, p.29*



At left, Warren Means and James Henry witness the ownership transfer of the United Tribes property.

United Tribes Technical College Archive

**1973-05-24:** The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) transferred ownership of Bismarck's Fort Lincoln to UTETC. Valued at \$3.4 million, the former military post was declared surplus government property in 1964. The formal transfer took place during a ceremony at the powwow dance arbor. UTETC Acting Board President James Henry (Turtle Mountain) and UTETC Executive Director Warren Means accepted a deed to the 105



acre site and 87 buildings from HEW Regional Director Dr. Rulon R. Garfield. The title transfer opened the door to new capital construction projects on the campus.

*Bismarck Tribune, May 24, 1973, p.2; UTNDDC Newsletter, Spring 1974, p.1*

**1973-06-18:** Within 10 years, Bismarck might become the “Indian Capital” of the mountain plains states. United Tribes Executive Director Warren Means made that eyebrow-raising prediction in a speech to the Bismarck Lions Club. Means said having a four-year Indian university in the community would make that possible. He said UTETC was already recognized as the Indian vocational training center of the United States. “Of five or six Indian training centers, we are about the only one that survived, because we are the only one controlled by Indian people,” he said, describing the self-determination philosophy of the organization.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 19, 1973, p.1*

**1973-06-29:** Theodore “Tiny Bud” Jamerson passed into the Spirit World at the Fort Yates hospital at the age of 54. He was a former Standing Rock tribal council member and tribal chair. At the time of his death, he was serving as special assistant to the Aberdeen Area BIA director. Jamerson was credited with bringing the tribes of North Dakota together and organizing the intertribal group, United Tribes of North Dakota. He was born at Fort Yates, educated in local schools and at Mayville State College. He served in the Navy during WWII and Korea. The UTETC elementary school was named in his honor.

*Bismarck Tribune, July 2, 1973; Selfridge Journal, July 12, 1973, p.1; Standing Rock Star, July 1973, p.6*

**1973-06-29:** The reigning queen of the United Tribes summer powwow was Wanda (Edmo) Black Cloud, 20, Fort Hall, ID. <> At a new rodeo arena on campus, the center hosted a free rodeo clinic for Indian youth, followed by a student finals rodeo. Other events included open team roping and barrel racing jackpot competitions.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 23, 1973, p.10; Bismarck Tribune, June 27, 1973, p.21; Bismarck Tribune, June 28, 1973, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, July 5, 1973, p.22; New Town News, June 28, 1973, p.5; Dickinson Press, June 30, 1973, p.7*

**“spectacular  
rodeo at the new  
United Tribes  
rodeo arena.”**

**1973-09-07:** Prize money totaling \$6,780 was offered by UTETC during the fourth annual United Tribes Days “Indian Championship Dancing Contest.” Accompanying the powwow was a “spectacular rodeo at the new United Tribes rodeo arena.” The 1973 Indian Activities Association Rodeo Finals offered a purse of over \$2,000 to contestants in saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling and barrel racing.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 1, 1973, Home-Farm Week Preview, pg. 1; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 7, 1973, p.9&20*

**1973-08:** Melvin White Eagle, Standing Rock tribal councilman, was elected chair of the United Tribes Board. In October, he was elected chair of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

*UTNDDC Newsletter, Spring 1974, p.2; Selfridge Journal, Oct. 4, 1973, p.1*

**1973-11:** Mrs. C. Warner Litten of Fargo, President of Church Women United of North Dakota, presented a check representing the first installment of a \$16,500 grant to United Tribes. The donation was the largest ever made by the group. It was earmarked for a female student recreation program.

*Bismarck Tribune, Nov. 5, 1973*

**1973-12:** UTETC received the loan of a 1974 Plymouth from Corwin-Churchill Motors of Bismarck to serve in the center’s Driver Education classes. “Many of our students know how to drive but have never taken the time and training to receive a North Dakota license,” explained Personal Development Instructor Jane O’Leary. Accepting the car keys was James Eslinger, UTTC Support Services Manager.

*Bismarck Tribune, Dec. 26, 1973, pg.3A; UTNDDC Newsletter, Spring 1974, p.5*

## 1974

**1974-01:** UTETC unveiled an innovative, circular design by architect Denby Deegan (Three Affiliated) for a new vocational instruction and training center on the campus that became known as the “Skills Center.”

*Bismarck Tribune, May 4, 1973, p.2; Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 2, 1974, p.10; UTNDDC Newsletter, Spring 1974, p.1*

**1974-02:** The UTNDDC Board renewed the contract of UTETC Executive Director Warren W. Means.

*Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 23, 1974, p.9*





**1974-05-10:** UTETC Executive Director Warren W. Means expressed his strongly held views about the need for Indian education during a talk at Mary College. Means said United Tribes is doing more than ushering Indians into the mainstream. "Indian People need education, we want education and we will get education," he asserted. "We want to become something other than the poorest people living here." Without education, there is no one to protect Indian rights; Indian lands are often exploited, treaties ignored and sovereignty compromised. "Through education, we are finding ways to combat extermination," he said.

*UTNDDC Newsletter, June 1974, p.2*

**1974-05-16:** Ruth Morgan (Sac and Fox) from Iowa, was crowned Miss United Tribes. Miss Morgan, a student in the Center's Human Services vocation, was selected by a vote of students. Participants in the contest were required "to be of Indian descent, have the ability to speak an Indian language, wear a Native dress in the contest, and be able to Indian dance."

*UTNDDC Newsletter, June 1974, p.1*

**1974-05-18:** The newly formed UTETC Stock Car Club entered its first races at Central States Racetrack near Bismarck, finishing with third place honors. Students built the car as a class project. Automotive Instructor Ray Patneaud promised that each student would have the "excitement and fascination" of driving in a race.

*UTNDDC Newsletter, June 1974, p.5*

**1974-06-08:** The United Tribes provided support for an International Treaty Conference at Standing Rock organized by the American Indian Movement. More than 1,000 people registered by noon of the first day. An estimated 3,500 attended over eight days. Included were traditional tribal leaders and elders from around the country and some international delegates. The gathering was headquartered at the Chief Gall Inn near Wakpala, SD. Under a big top, canvas tent, presentations and discussions covered treaty rights and a "Declaration of Continuing Independence."

*UTNDDC Newsletter, July 1974, p.1 (reprint of a Standing Rock Star article); Warren Means interviewed by David M. Gipp, Apr. 10, 2008, UTTC Archive*

**1974-06-28:** The third annual UTETC summer powwow attracted 200 dancers from 15 different states and over 3,400 spectators. Powwow announcers were Elmer White and Cornelius Kills Small. In the audience was American Indian Movement leader Russell Means and members of the National Federation of Press Women. Winners of the team-roping contest were Fort Berthold Indian cowboys Billy Hall and Matt Foolish Bear.

*UTNDDC Newsletter, July 1974, p.4; Standing Rock Star, July 1974, p.11*

**1974-07-18:** The largest class of graduates in UTETC history (to that date) was honored during a ceremony on center. A photo showed most of the 18 graduates seated for a meal at picnic tables near the cafeteria. At the time, the center observed an open-entry, open completion system for its training programs, resulting in monthly graduation ceremonies.

*KEYAPI, July 1974, No.51, p.3*

**1974-07:** A graduate of United Tribes was recognized as the state's first woman parole officer. The center's newsletter featured Joan Standing Bear (Standing Rock) in her position as probation officer at Fort Yates, ND. She received Police Science training at UTETC and training at the North Dakota State Penitentiary Parole Office. "UTETC offers many advantages if a person wants to take advantage of them," said Mrs. Standing Bear of her experience. "But you have to really make up your mind to do something in life...a year at UTETC will help prepare you."

*UTNDDC Newsletter, July 1974, p.6*

**1974-08-18:** It was a first-time event when a wedding was held on campus for two United Tribes students. Effie Fighting Bear, Crow Agency, MT, and Joe Benson, Twin Buttes, ND, were married at the United Tribes Chapel, the Rev. Lester Kills Crow officiating. A reception was held in Bldg. 71 and photos were taken by W.L. "Bill" Miller, photography instructor.

*KEYAPI, August 1974, No.52, p.4, United Tribes News, Sept. 1974, p.4*

**1974-08:** Harriet Skye (Standing Rock) became UTETC Public Information Director. The former editor of the *Standing Rock Star* newspaper at Fort Yates directed the center's public

communications by editing and publishing *United Tribes News* as a monthly newspaper and hosting "Indian Country Today," a semi-monthly TV interview program on the Meyer Television Network in western North Dakota. To the public she was, perhaps, the most recognizable Native figure in the region. To Native People she became a role model for Indian advocacy in journalism and mass media communications.

*United Tribes News*, Sept. 1974, p.2; Harriett Skye interviewed by Phil Baird, Feb. 20, 2007, Bismarck, ND



United Tribes Technical College Archive

Harriett Skye, United Tribes Public Information Director

**1974-09:** UTETC's assistant director for special projects put United Tribes in the national sports spotlight. Dennis Burr (Three Affiliated), 34, won the first "All-Indian Open Golf Championship" at the San Juan Golf Course in Monticello, UT. Played over Labor Day weekend, he narrowly defeated a Seminole golf pro in an exciting come-from-behind finish that included an ace on the 15th hole tying the match and a birdie on 18 for the championship. Burr picked-up golf at age 22 and learned by watching golf instructional shows on TV. "I drove nearly 2,000 miles from North Dakota to play in this tournament because I believe in the concept of an All-Indian Open," he told a reporter. "This is absolutely the greatest thrill of my life," he said, accepting the trophy. Later in the fall he won the First Annual National Indian Golf Tournament in San Diego, CA.

*United Tribes News*, October 8, 1974, p.8; *United Tribes News*, Oct. 31, 1974, p.1

**1974-09-06:** Record attendance was estimated for the fifth annual "United Tribes Days" at

UTETC. BIA Commissioner Morris Thompson was a featured guest. Entrance fee was \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for high school students. \$7,250 in dance contest prize money was offered and 3,100 people attended the free meal on Sunday.

*KEYAPI*, July 1974, No.51, p.13; *KEYAPI*, Sept. 1974, No.53, p.6; *United Tribes News*, October 8, 1974, p.1; *United Tribes News*, Oct. 31, 1974, p.5

**1974-09-28:** United Tribes hosted the rodeo finals of the Great Plains Indian Rodeo Association at the center's rodeo grounds. GPIRA later hosted a banquet for all the winners.

*United Tribes News*, Oct. 31, 1974, p.5

**1974-10-14:** Governor Arthur A. Link welcomed delegates to the first North Dakota Indian Education Association conference. A working group was established during a planning meeting in April 1974 in Grand Forks; incorporation had followed in June. Elected during the conference to the NDIEA board were: Gene McGowen, president; Vance Gillette, vice president; Jim Shanley, secretary; and Ron Lavadure, treasurer.

*United Tribes News*, Oct. 31, 1974, p.1

**1974-11-01:** A picture of a smiling Marlon Brando appeared on the front page of *United Tribes News*. The actor and long-time supporter of Indian rights stood with members of the American Indian Movement and tribal supporters on the steps of the South Dakota State Capitol building in Pierre. AIM demonstrated to release Sarah Bad Heart Bull, then serving a one-year prison sentence in connection with a 1973 riot at South Dakota's Custer County Courthouse. United Tribes of North Dakota supported her release, seeking justice following the sentencing of a non-Indian who killed Mrs. Bad Heart Bull's son, Wesley. She was released soon after the protest.

*United Tribes News*, Nov. 26, 1974, p.1

**1974-11-05:** UTETC Security Supervisor Frederick H. "Bob" Harvey was elected Burleigh County Sheriff in the General Election. He said he was proud to win but felt bad about leaving UTETC, where he also taught Police Science. Asked what he intended to do as Sheriff about the question of jurisdiction on the UTETC campus, he said he would leave that to the courts.

*United Tribes News*, Oct. 8, 1974, p.3; *United Tribes News*, Nov. 26, 1974, p.8







**1974-12:** Municipal discussions and plans in Bismarck presented a threat to the future of United Tribes. Plans to expand the Bismarck Airport called for relocation of the UTETC campus at a time when the training center also planned to expand. UTETC countered the city plan by lodging formal objections that threatened to end Federal Aviation Administration funding for the airport. Resolving the local controversy took more than a year.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 17, 1974, p.1; United Tribes News, June 1, 1975, p.1*

## 1975

**1975-01:** UTETC transferred its accounts to the American Indian Bank, established in 1973 in Washington, D.C.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 21, 1975, p.4*

**1975-01-04:** The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (Public Law 93-638) was signed into law by President Gerald Ford, making tribal self-determination the government policy. The act authorized government agencies to contract with tribes directly for the administration of programs and services, thereby reversing 30-years of policy aimed at terminating treaty relationships and obligations to Indian tribes.

*PUBLIC LAW 93-638-JAN. 4, 1975*

**1975-01-19:** United Tribes filed a counter-lawsuit against the school district of the bedroom community of Lincoln, near Bismarck, over state tuition-aid payments. The suit aimed to clarify where state funding should be applied for the children of UTETC students and staff from Lincoln who attended Theodore Jamerson Elementary School on center. It also sought to recover funding for per-pupil payments made to the Lincoln District instead of TJES.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 6, 1975, p.6*



TJES Parents Council ca. 1974

**1975-01-21:** Photos of Canadian singer/songwriter Buffy St. Marie (Plains Cree First Nation), actor Marlon Brando and members of the American Indian Movement appeared in a full-page story in *United Tribes News*. The notable figures were on hand to show support for a lawsuit argued in Lincoln, NB over the validity of the 1968 Fort Laramie Treaty. UTETC VISTA volunteer Pat Travnicek covered the story, fulfilling the publication's commitment to covering Indian issues throughout the region under the editorship of Harriett Skye.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 21, 1975, p.8*

**1975-02-06:** The North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission selected Juanita Helpfrey (Hidatsa) as the state's new Commissioner of Indian Affairs. An enrolled citizen of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Ft. Berthold Reservation, she was the first woman to direct the state's Indian commission since its inception in 1949. Helpfrey was the administrative assistant of the Council for American Indian Ministry in Bismarck and had formerly served the United Tribes Planning Office in a similar capacity. Her appointment was announced by Governor Arthur A. Link, chair of the commission. Helpfrey said one important goal was to create "more involvement between the state and the tribes, who really consider themselves with more of a relationship to the federal government than the state."

*United Tribes News, Feb. 6, 1975, p.3*

**1975-02-06:** UTETC Attorney Jim Krogsrud explained the details of the center's newly published "Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook." A student/staff committee prepared the publication over the course of several months, following guidelines established by the BIA. The agency's "Bill of Student Rights" was said to be a first in the BIA's 114-year history in Indian education. It applied to 193 BIA-administered schools and 13 schools funding by the BIA, including UTETC.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 6, 1975, p.4*

**1975-02-20:** Chairman Jerry Flute of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe was the keynoter at UTETC's commencement ceremony. He urged graduates to take the skills they've learned "back to the reservations." Flute was the UTNDDC board secretary.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 25, 1975, p.6*

**1975-04:** In the first week in April, United Tribes opened a halfway house in one of the brick



officer's buildings on campus. The purpose was to assist people in maintaining sobriety, according to UTETC counselor G. Russell Gillette Jr., house manager. "Students entering the halfway house will be those who have returned from treatment centers and want to maintain sobriety," said Gillette. Space was available for up to 16 men, with plans in the works for women's and couples facilities. The program included UTETC students and area Indians, and involved individual and group counseling, AA meetings and cultural activities. Support came from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 1, 1975, p.1*

**1975-04-12:** The number one women's table tennis player in the country, Angelita Rosal (Devils Lake Sioux) played an exhibition match at Bismarck's Mary College. The 19-year-old Miss Rosal appeared between games on championship night of the National Indian Basketball Tournament, sponsored by UTETC. UTN reported that Miss Rosal was half Sioux and half Pilipino and lived with her parents in San Diego, CA.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 1, 1975, p.1; United Tribes News, May 1, 1975, p.8*

**1975-05:** In May 1975, Dace Means coordinated a program at United Tribes that helped Native inmates transition back into society from time in prison. As prison parole coordinator for the Indian Offender Program, Means worked with the North Dakota Pardon and Parole Board and the State Penitentiary to help make transitions successful. There are problems for an offender in adjusting to the community when released, Means said. Unless he has a place to go, he will end up back doing what he was doing. The program offered short-term leave, work release, a connection with Indian culture, and an outlet for doing volunteer work to show that inmates honor their People and have not lost their Indian ways while in prison. The program originated at UTETC in 1972 and was supported in 1975 with funds from the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA).

*United Tribes News, May 1, 1975, p.4*

**1975-05-22:** UTETC chose a successful North Dakota state employee as guest speaker for graduation. Adrian Crow Feather (Standing Rock) was the civil rights officer for the State

Employment Security Bureau in Bismarck. He handled discrimination complaints under the 1964 Civil Rights Act and facilitated affirmative action programs in state agencies. He provided direct assistance on workplace situations and was considered a resource and role model for gaining equitable employment. "I want to congratulate you for the example you have set for all Indians," he told the graduates. Crow

Feather said he believe that perseverance is the key factor in attaining success. "Hang in there until you arrive at a goal," he urged. "Then continue to set new goals until you achieve your full potential."

*United Tribes News, June 1, 1975, p.4; United Tribes News, Nov. 25,*

*1975, p.2*

**1975-05-23:** The United Tribes Board of Directors voted at a special meeting to withdraw objections to the 20-year expansion plan for the Bismarck Municipal Airport. The action came on the deadline day for city officials and UTETC to work out an agreement to avert the loss of federal funding for the airport. The decision to withdraw involved a city promise to help the campus move by donating land and identifying an option to buy additional land. A preliminary study by the Federal Aviation Administration concluded that expanding both the airport and the training center were not compatible.

*United Tribes News, June 1, 1975, p.1*

**1975-06-06:** North Dakota U.S. Senator Quentin Burdick announced that UTETC would receive \$1.4 million in basic operational funds from the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 6, 1975, p.22*

**1975-06-11:** Activist New York City lawyer William Kunstler and UTETC staff attorney Ralph LePera teamed-up to protect and defend Russell Means following a shooting that landed the American Indian Movement leader in a Bismarck hospital. Means was wounded in an altercation involving Standing Rock Tribal Police on Hwy. 1806 near the Cannon Ball River Bridge. "I regard this as an assassination attempt," said Kunstler. Law officers maintained a security guard at the hospital after Means received threatening phone calls there.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 12, 1975, p.1; United Tribes News, July 24, 1975, p.4*





United Tribes Technical College Archive

United Tribes rodeo competition

**1975-06-21:** The *Bismarck Tribune* previewed an upcoming meeting in Bismarck of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. Topping the agenda was the future of Indian education. NACIE was established by Congress to assist the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare on federal education programs that affect American Indians.

*Bismarck Tribune*, June 21, 1975

**1975-06-29:** Over 3,000 people attended the annual United Tribes summer powwow. \$3,060 in prize money was earned by the winners and special presentations were made to members of the UTETC Board of Directors. Delores Good Eagle, Cherry Creek, SD, a student in the center's Nurses Aid vocation, reigned as Miss United Tribes.

*Bismarck Tribune*, June 28, 1975, p.6; *United Tribes News*, July 24, 1975, pg. 3

**1975-07-24:** UTETC OPI Director Harriett Skye displayed a newly redesigned official United Tribes symbol that featured five diamonds instead of four. The extra diamond signified the addition of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe of the Lake Traverse Reservation to the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation governing board. AICDP artist/graphic designer Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk Jr. designed the image on a buckskin hide

attached to a "Sacred Hoop" wrapped with otter fur and trimmed with eagle feathers. The hoop was unveiled during the spring dancing contest in the center's powwow arena.

*United Tribes News*, July 24, 1975, p.2; Warren Means interviewed by phone by Phil Baird, Feb. 21, 2007

**1975-08-23:** *United Tribes News* published the names, ages and hometowns of 16 volunteers from around the country on one-year work assignments at UTETC. The young men and women were participants in the VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America), ACV (ACTION Cooperative Volunteers) and UYA (University Year for ACTION) programs. One with legal expertise was Tom Disselhorst, 27, of Berkley, CA, who later became the center's long-serving in-house legal counsel. Others brought administrative, research and writing skills that were put to good use in departments throughout the organization.

*United Tribes News*, Aug. 23, 1975, p.4

**1975-08-23:** A long-running series of cultural features began appearing in *United Tribes News*. Excerpted from the American Indian Curricula Development Program, the first installment was titled "Be Silent and Learn." Stories and cultural teachings gleaned from elders of the United Tribes governing tribes were highlighted and accompanied by artwork





from AICDP graphic artist Wallace “Butch” Thunder Hawk Jr. At the outset, the series was called “Your Lore.” Later it was titled “Our Lore.”

*United Tribes News, Aug. 23, 1975, p.6*

**1975-09-05:** Rodeo finals of the North Dakota Rodeo Association and the Great Plains Indian Rodeo Association highlighted the 6th Annual United Tribes Days. In a “Champions Match,” the NDRA champions earned a narrow victory over the GPIRA champions, 36-34. <> One of the largest purses on the powwow circuit, \$7,780, was offered in the dancing and singing competition. <> The first UTETC “Indian Art Show” made its debut Sept. 4-6 at Bismarck’s Kirkwood Mall.

*Standing Rock Star, July 7, 1975, p.6; Standing Rock Star, Aug. 1, 1975, p.3; Standing Rock Star, Aug. 22, 1975, p.12; Standing Rock Star, Sept. 12, 1975, p.12; United Tribes News, July 24, 1975, p.1 & 8; United Tribes News, Aug. 23, 1975; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 4, 1975, p.5 & 22; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 6, 1975, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 9, 1975, p.14; NDRA Newsletter, Oct. 1975, p.4-5*

**1975-09-25:** A study about poverty on North Dakota Indian reservations was reported in *United Tribes News*. University of North Dakota Economics professor Dr. James J. Harris concluded that “income for Indians in North Dakota was among the lowest recorded for states with large Indian populations.” His report, titled *The North Dakota Indian Reservation Economy: A Descriptive Study*, concluded the difference was extreme between Indian income and non-Indians. Many Indian families depended on welfare payments to provide most of their means of existence and Indian unemployment was higher than that for non-Indians, the highest for any state with a large Indian population.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 25, 1975, p.1*

**1975-10-04:** Affidavits from local residents, obtained by the National Jury Project, alleged there was community prejudice against Indians in Bismarck. The statements were filed in support of a change-of-venue motion in the trial of AIM activist Russell Means. Bismarck Mayor Robert Heskin allowed there was prejudice in every community but denied his city was racist toward Indians. North Dakota did not have a state human rights commission and was one of the few states without a state advisory commission to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. The mayor said he preferred

the less formal “human relations advisory committee,” composed of private citizens serving voluntarily. “[This] might be a good thing,” said Heskin. Meanwhile, United Tribes maintenance employees tried unsuccessfully to remove all traces of three painted letters on the center’s front entrance columns. In large white strokes, an anonymous messenger had brushed the letters KKK. Signifying the white supremacist organization Ku Klux Klan, the letters remain faintly visible on the stone columns.

*United Tribes News, Oct., 31, 1975, p.1; Thomas M. Disselhorst correspondence, Oct. 5, 2018*

**1975-10-17:** Thomas Kleppe was sworn-in by President Gerald Ford as Secretary of Interior, head of the agency that included the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The new agency head was something of an unknown to North Dakota tribal leaders. The UTND Board of Directors decided they did not have enough information about the North Dakota native to pass a resolution for or against his nomination. Kleppe was raised in Kintyre, ND, and became president of Harold Schafer’s Gold Seal Co. He served as mayor of Bismarck (1950-54) and North Dakota Congressman (1967-70). His service in elective office apparently left “little impression” on North Dakota tribal leaders. But his current government appointment, as head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), offered some familiarity. Representatives of his agency told *United Tribes News* that the SBA provided loans to Indian businesses throughout the state, hired Indians as minority representatives, and worked vigorously to help establish the Devils Lake Sioux Manufacturing Corp. UTN concluded that if Kleppe continued to “develop the sensitivity he exhibited in the SBA,” there were reasons to be hopeful he might be someone Indians could trust.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 25, 1975, p.1; United Tribes News, Oct. 31, 1975, p.2*

**1975-09-10:** The United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation (UTNDDC) and its United Tribes Employment Training Center merged into one organization with a new name. The UTNDDC charter was amended by Resolution 75-53-UT and the name became “United Tribes Educational Technical Center.” Executive Director Warren W. Means said the board felt the new name more accurately represented the non-profit’s current activities.





The corporation was established in 1968 to promote economic development on the state's Indian reservations. Now, "educational training and manpower programs have become most important to the total concept of United Tribes," said Means. Changing realities prompted the board to redefine UTETC as an "educational, technical center." The aim was to broaden the scope of service and create two-year associate degree programs. "The new name is more reflective of what we are doing and what we are going to do," he said. The move was accompanied by a partial restructuring of the organization.

*Corporate Name Change Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, ND Secretary of State, Oct. 1975; Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 23, 1975, p.15*

**1975-10-09:** Mike Ward, 30, Eureka, CA, began work at UTETC as the new dean of education. He replaced Bob Cartwright who had been acting education manager for more than two years. That title was discontinued in favor of "dean" under an organizational change approved by the board of directors. Cartwright became vocational supervisor. Ward had served as federal programs coordinator at Pine Ridge, SD for three years. The change also resulted in hiring Felix White Jr., 42, as assistant dean of education, a position that was formerly titled social services manager. White previously served as counselor and coach in the Winnebago, NB school system where he was born and raised.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 31, 1975, p.9*

**1975-10:** The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), headquartered in Denver, CO, released an assessment report about the status and future needs of Indian colleges. Following site visits around the country, AIHEC reported there were 13 Indian colleges offering classes and coursework and 20 other tribal reservations that planned to start a college. The assessment was intended to help inform the BIA about future needs in tribal higher education.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 25, 1975, p.2*

**1975-10-25:** North Dakota Governor Arthur A. Link endorsed the need for students throughout the state to learn more about Indians. Interviewed by UTETC Public Information Director Harriett Skye, Link said the lack of understanding is a big problem. "We need an Indian curriculum studies program for all of our schools," he said. "All of us should

know about Indian heritage and values." The Governor's comments were made on the TV program "Indian Country Today," hosted by Skye. He also discussed criminal justice education, jurisdiction, trust responsibility and improving understanding through the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 25, 1975, p.2*

**1975-10-31:** Actor Jay Silverheels (Mohawk/Six Nations Grand River, Canada), famous for his role as Tonto in the TV series "The Lone Ranger," signed autographs as the honored guest during a dedication ceremony for tribal radio station KEYA at Belcourt, ND. Staff writer Jim Remsen described the launch of North Dakota's newest radio station in United Tribes News. With a 60 mile broadcast radius, the FM station reached listeners throughout the Turtle Mountain Reservation, one of the UTETC governing tribes. The station's general manager was Dallas Brien. The call letters KEYA meant "You," in Metis, the language of Chippewa People at Turtle Mountain.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 25, 1975, p.7*

**1975-11:** Following his appointment in 1974 to the National Advisory Council on Vocation Education, Warren W. Means pursued legislation at the national level for Indian vocational programs. Means told the council there was "very little, if anything, that had been done" about applying vocational programs and resources in Indian Country. He pointed out that 90 percent of jobs in Indian Country required some training or vocational skills. Although the council had initiated a study, it focused on state efforts, which were "not sufficient," he said. Means formed connections with Congressional leaders and public hearings were held around the country. The outcome was groundbreaking legislation to fund tribal college "manpower" and workforce development programs.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 1974, p.3; United Tribes News, Dec. 19, 1975, p.7; Warren Means interviewed by David M. Gipp, Apr. 10, 2008, UTTC Archive*

**1975-11-23:** Over 500 people attended an open house at the newly re-named United Tribes Educational Technical Center. On display were classrooms and instructional areas for 10 vocational programs, support facilities and student housing. A reception included refreshments and Indian singing and dancing. Special guests were North Dakota Governor Arthur A. Link, Federal District Court Judge

Bruce Van Sickle and North Dakota Supreme Court Justice Ralph Erickstad.

*United Tribes News*, Nov. 25, 1975, p.4

## 1976

**1976-01:** Native Americans were divided in their opinions about how to mark the nation's Bicentennial. Some chose not to participate in events or accept grant funding from the Bicentennial's Office of Native American Programs. AIM activist Dennis Banks said the past 200 years represent nothing but misery and murder to the Indian community. "I have nothing to celebrate," said Art Raymond, director of UND's Indian Studies program. "I'm not taking any part." ND Indian Affairs Commission Director Juanita Helphrey said Indians view it as a celebration by non-Indian ethnic groups only. Those Indians who do participate are using the money to better themselves or their organizations. UTETC received a \$25,000 grant to restore and beautify campus facilities and create a "national Indian rodeo." Guided by Executive Director Warren W. Means, the center assisted in drafting by-laws for the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) Commission, formed to produce

the rodeo. The event was held November 3-6, 1976 in Salt Lake City, UT.

*United Tribes News*, Jan. 30, 1976, p.5; *Bismarck Tribune*, Jan. 31, 1976, p.8; Warren Means interviewed by phone by Phil Baird, Feb. 21, 2007

**1976-01:** The administration gave the green light and renovations were underway to establish an Indian Culture Center at United Tribes. Under the direction of Mike Kaquatah, the mission was to develop pride in being Indian. "We need to cultivate our heritage," he said. "We need to retain our culture to survive."

*United Tribes News*, Jan. 30, 1976, p.18

**1976-02:** Congressman Al Quie (R-MN) visited the UTETC campus to tour the facility and meet with Executive Director Warren W. Means to advance federal legislation for Indian vocational education programs. He also appeared on the TV show "Indian Country Today" with Means and host Harriett Skye.

*United Tribes News*, Feb. 27, 1976, p.5; Warren Means interviewed by David M. Gipp, Apr. 10, 2008, UTTC Archive

**1976-02:** North Dakota tribal leaders had mixed reactions about participating in the state's Regional Environmental Assessment Program. Authorized by the 1975 State Legislature,



United Tribes Technical College Archive

United Tribes students in the late 1970s





the program intended to help communities improve development forecasting and set environmental quality standards. *United Tribes News* reported that tribal leaders and planners at Standing Rock expressed skepticism about having contract specialists gather data on the reservation. UTETC Executive Director Warren Means said REAP would not be a threat, if tribes monitored the data gathering.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 27, 1976, p.1*

**1976-02:** Theodore Jamerson Elementary School on the UTETC campus was introduced to British education practices by a couple from England. From February to May, Richard and Agnus Vines imparted training and education in the structure and practices of the English education system. To enhance their training, several TJES instructors and UTETC staffers traveled to England for a three-week seminar at the University of Sussex.

*United Tribes News, May-June 1976, p.4*

**1976-03:** UTETC hosted a three-day training workshop for its American Indian Curricula Development Program (AICDP). Sixty educators attended from schools in North and South Dakota. Training sessions included an "Indian IQ test" and simulated games, along with lesson plans and instructions for using AICDP materials. The materials contained teaching kits for kindergarten, elementary and junior high levels. A senior high kit was in preparation.

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 20, 1976, p.8; Bismarck Tribune, May 20, 1976, p.10; United Tribes News, Apr. 2, 1976*

**1976-04:** UTETC and the City of Bismarck resolved differences over controversial local plans to have the campus moved to make way for expansion of the municipal airport. UTETC cited its restricted federal land status and an estimated \$40 million cost to relocate. Negotiations settled the matter by allowing airport expansion without moving the UTETC campus. An agreement ended a restrictive zoning requirement and provided the campus access to city water and sewer service. By June, the Bismarck Planning and Zoning Commission approved the zoning change from agriculture to planned unit development.

*Bismarck Tribune, February 11, 1976, p.1-2; Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 31, 1976, p.1-2; Bismarck Tribune, June 18, 1976, p.20; United Tribes News, Apr. 2, 1976, p.15; Warren Means interviewed by phone by Phil Baird, Feb. 21, 2007*

**1976-04-14:** Bureau of Indian Affairs

Commissioner Morris Thompson visited Bismarck to attend a joint meeting of the United Tribes of North Dakota and United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota. Thompson was on a four-day trip to the Dakotas visiting tribes and tribal leaders.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 2, 1976, p.3*

**1976-04-27:** The American Indian Policy Review Commission (AIPRC) conducted a day-long hearing at the State Capitol in Bismarck. Twenty-two Indian educators and administrators from the Dakotas testified about problems that plague Indian education. Congress launched the AIPRC to study major issues in Indian affairs and submit recommendations for corrective legislation.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 2, 1976, p.5*

**1976-04:** Federal legislation was introduced by South Dakota's Congressional Delegation to provide support to tribal college higher education institutions. U.S. Senator James Abourezk sponsored S 2634. Congressman James Abdnor sponsored HB 11220. Opposition came from the Ford Administration, BIA Indian Affairs Commissioner Morris Thompson and HEW Executive Deputy Commissioner Duane Mattheis.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 29, 1976, p.3*

**1976-05:** A new study said unemployment was 37 percent among Indian laborers on North Dakota and eastern Montana reservations. Another 18 percent were underemployed, according to the "Lignite Manpower Survey." It was the initial step of a larger effort to help Native workers participate in energy development jobs in the Northern Great Plains. UTETC sponsored and housed the project, with support from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce-Economic Development Administration. The director was Doug Myers.

*United Tribes News, May-June 1976, p.1; United Tribes News, Oct. 1976, p.4*

**1976-05-20:** State lawmakers heard about an idea to have North Dakota public schools teach about Indians. United Tribes Executive Director Warren W. Means urged a legislative interim committee to adopt a measure allowing school districts to implement an Indian curriculum. He said it was important that relations between Indians and non-Indians "be based on fact and not John Wayne movies." Means said it should be a regular part of the curriculum at all levels. He recommended the Indian curriculum developed by UTETC as the basis for a public



school curriculum.

*Bismarck Tribune, May 20, 1976, p.10*

**1976-06-01:** Chief Engineer Robert E. Bradley of the North Dakota State Highway Dept. signed-off on engineering plans that would lead to a new street name for the location of United Tribes. The plans laid-out a change in the route of Bismarck's Airport Road. The street was terminated near the northwest end of the airport's main runway. The change previewed the establishment of University Drive as the primary north-south thoroughfare (and state highway) through the south part of the city past United Tribes.

*North Dakota State Highway Dept. Plan M-1-981 (12) 003, June 1, 1976*

**1976-06:** United Tribes gained an additional 4.5 acres and nine buildings for educational use. The U.S. Dept. of Health Education and Welfare transferred the motor pool maintenance facility, formerly used by the General Services Administration. The property was valued at \$110,000 and was located in the southeast area of the former Fort Lincoln.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 19, 1976, p.10*

**1976-06-25:** UTETC's 5th annual mid-summer powwow was expected to draw a big crowd. "All Nations Days" offered \$7,480 in prize money. Human resources student Cheryl Spider, 21, Pine Ridge, SD, presided as Miss United Tribes. The Center hosted an All-Indian Rodeo June 12-13 at the UTETC arena.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 29, 1974, p. 14; United Tribes News, May-June 1976, p. 7; Bismarck Tribune, June 11, 1976, p. 3; Bismarck Tribune, June 24, 1976, p. 1&10; Bismarck Tribune, June 25, 1976, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, June 28, 1976, p.19*

**1976-07:** UTETC's American Indian Curricula Development Program completed work on an Indian curricula kit for the senior high school level. The materials were available for distribution in the fall, according to Angelita Dickens, AICDP director. The kit focused on contemporary Native Americans and contemporary Native American issues.

*United Tribes News, July 1976, p.4*

**1976-07:** UTETC was awarded a \$130-thousand grant from the U.S. Dept. of Labor to fund a jobs training program for Indians. The Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) funding supported classroom education, work experience and on-the-job training, according to Kathy Fricke, UTETC's

CETA director. Although a total of \$1-million in CETA funding was received by four Indian organizations in the state, Fricke said the level was "too small" to have a significant impact on the services Indian workers needed.

*United Tribes News, July 1976, p.5*

**1976-09-10:** For the first time, private food vendors were allowed to set up stands on the powwow grounds during the 7th Annual United Tribes Days. Over \$8,200 in prize money was offered in the singing and dancing competitions. A total purse of \$4,350 awaited cowboys in the Great Plains Indian Rodeo. Other activities were the 2nd Annual Plains Indians Art Show, held at the Kirkwood Plaza mall, and an array of traditional games including foot races, long hair, spear throwing, tug-of-war and best star quilt.

*United Tribes News, July 1976, p. 1,5&14; Bismarck Tribune, September 11, 1976, p.2; Bismarck Tribune, September 18, 1976, p.28; United Tribes News, Oct. 1976, p.6-7*

**1976-09-09:** No misconduct was alleged but "personality conflicts" were apparently involved when the UTETC Board suspended Executive Director Warren Means from his duties on September 9. Toby Moran, of the BIA Aberdeen Area Office, stepped in as acting director. Means later responded with a lawsuit against the board for breach of contract and defamation of character.

*Bismarck Tribune, October 11, 1976, p.1*

**1976-10:** Ralph LePera, UTETC's chief legal counsel, became president of the newly formed group, Legal Assistance of North Dakota (LAND). The statewide organization of lawyers and legal personnel offered free legal assistance to North Dakotans in most civil matters. LAND consolidated three previously existing legal services programs, with support from the National Legal Services Corp.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 1976, p.1*

**1976-10:** With a federal HEW grant, UTETC started a Women's Leadership Development Training Program under the direction of Dr. Eddy Tyree. It was the first program of its kind in the nation directed toward serving Indian women. "We're not a woman's lib group," said Tyree. "We address basic and important needs of women in making their lives more valuable, satisfying and successful."

*United Tribes News, Oct. 1976, p.1*

**1976-10:** Theodore Jamerson Elementary





School instructors Glenna Mueller and Marvia Boettcher were named to the 1976 edition of “Outstanding Leaders in Elementary and Secondary Education.” The two were cited in the national handbook for their teaching skills and dedication, serving the 85 TJES youngsters who were children of students attending UTETC.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 1976, p.10*

**1976-12-02:** The third annual North Dakota Indian Education Association conference was held in Bismarck. Participants learned of impending cuts in Johnson-O’Malley funding for North Dakota schools. Elected president of the organization was Randy Plume of Standing Rock Community College, a former principal of Theodore Jamerson Elementary School at UTETC.

*The Action News, Three Affiliated Community Action Program, Dec. 3, 1976, p.3; United Tribes News, Nov-Dec. 1976, p.3*

**1976-12:** Bismarck was the location of a one-day public hearing about the treatment of American Indians in North Dakota’s criminal justice system. Chaired by UTETC’s Harriett Skye, the North Dakota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission took testimony from 18 witnesses about the treatment and trials of Indian defendants. Comments came from attorneys, judges, law enforcement officials and Indian group representatives. Nearly two years later in 1978, a follow-up report concluded that Indians are at a “severe disadvantage” in the state’s criminal justice system. The 26-page report, “Native American Justice Issues in North Dakota,” included interviews with 85 sources in the justice system. It contained 14 recommendations for improvement that were forwarded to law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. Skye said Indian people were reluctant to testify because of fear of law enforcement. She said North Dakota needs a Human Rights Commission, “so Indian people won’t be afraid to bring forth their complaints of discrimination or abuse.”

*United Tribes News, Nov-Dec. 1976, p.1; United Tribes News, Sept. 1978, p.6.*

**1976-12:** At the close of 1976, United Tribes was operating a halfway house on campus for American Indian ex-offenders on release from incarceration. The United Tribes Indian

Offenders Program, under the direction of Joe LaFromboise, provided space for 15 in two pre-fabricated housing units near the south gate. The program aimed to help offenders make a successful transition by using education, job training, close supervision and alcohol awareness training. It helps them “gain time they need to adjust to life outside prison walls,” said LaFromboise.

*United Tribes News, Nov-Dec. 1976, p.3*

## 1977

**1977-01:** For the second consecutive state legislative session, the North Dakota Legislature was asked to enact a measure (SB 2024) to integrate American Indian curricula into all North Dakota public schools. The bill called for printing and distributing materials developed by UTETC in its K-12 American Indian Curricula Development Program. Fort Berthold educator Dr. Angelita Felix Dickens, AICDP executive director, provided legislative testimony. The measure encountered opposition but a “crippled” version was eventually passed and signed into law containing no appropriation.  
*United Tribes News, Jan. 1977, p.1; United Tribes News, Mar-Apr. 1977, p.5*

**1977-01-25:** Fire destroyed the building housing UTETC’s welding shop. An alternative shop was quickly set up and instruction resumed for the popular training program.  
*United Tribes News, Jan. 1977, p.4; United Tribes News, Mar-Apr. 1977, p.3*

**1977-03:** In early 1977, United Tribes was operating a special program for gifted youngsters. Conducted at Theodore Jamerson Elementary School, the program was called “Indian Children - Gifted Children.” Federal funding supported efforts to supplement traditional classroom lessons. Exercises aimed at correcting the negative self-image prevalent among Indian children and discovering special talents and skills. In March 1977, TJES sponsored a two-day training workshop about the program. Thirty-five Indian teachers from North and South Dakota attended.  
*United Tribes News, March-April 1977, p.7*

**1977-04:** Several new staff members settled-in at United Tribes in the early spring. Fort Berthold educator Mary Baker was named director of the American Indian Curricula Development

*“be based on fact and not John Wayne movies.”*





Program. She replaced Angelita Dickens who went to Penn State and became the first North Dakota Indian woman to earn a doctorate. Janet Whiteside (Turtle Mountain) began as a counselor in the Center's student counseling dept. And Sherman A. Brunelle (Turtle Mountain) was appointed director of the CETA program, replacing Kathy Fricke Johner who married and moved to Alaska.

*United Tribes News, Mar-Apr. 1977, p.11; United Tribes News, Sept. 1979, p.11*

**1977-05-02:** Standing Rock educator David M. Gipp, 30, took over as UTETC's new executive director. Originally from Fort Yates, Gipp was a 1969 UND graduate in Political Science and a military veteran. He had served as an economic development specialist and tribal planner at Standing Rock and was executive director of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium in Denver, CO. The new leader of the \$1.8-million-a-year operation said he would try to improve Indian services and go after a higher budget for the center.

*Bismarck Tribune, May 3, 1977*



David M. Gipp

**1977-05-31:** Two prominent American Indian leaders, Vine Deloria, Jr. and Ernie Stevens, Sr., participated in a public forum on the UTETC campus billed as a debate about the findings of the 1977 American Indian Policy Review Commission.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 1, 1978, p.36*

**1977-06-15:** To gather data on the effectiveness of UTETC's training programs, the center mailed a survey questionnaire to 700 former students living in 15 states. The instrument polled for effectiveness of the programs, success in the job market and reasons for stopping-out. More than 60 percent of the 183 respondents said

that one year of training was sufficient, while 32 percent thought more than one year is needed. The average length of time spent in training was 7.1 months.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 1977, p.10*

**1977-06-25:** UTETC's annual summer powwow was scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 1977, the 101st anniversary of the Greasy Grass Fight on the Little Big Horn in Montana Territory.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 22, 1977, p.30*

**1977-07:** Dr. Jasjit Minhas of Bunjab, India, joined the UTETC staff as assistant academic dean, later serving as academic dean. <> Dr. Gerald Gipp (Standing Rock) was appointed deputy commissioner of Indian Education in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C.

*United Tribes News, July 1977, p.11&15*

**1977-08-03:** An exhibit of priceless articles of Native American clothing and accessories was on display at United Tribes sponsored by the National Park Service. "Indian Pride on the Move" contained 110 artifacts from plains and woodlands tribes dating from 1875 to 1925. The NPS coordinator said one of the benefits from the showings was that tribes became interested in setting up their own museums to preserve their heritage.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 1977 p.6*

**1977-08-25:** Three months into his new job as UTETC executive director, David M. Gipp was working with his staff and key personnel on improving the center's operations and educational standing. Using a systems approach, Gipp impaneled a two-day strategic planning workshop to develop institutional goals, evaluation procedures and management systems. His foremost objective was attaining accreditation and improving and upgrading training programs beyond the certificate level. Also a top priority was expanding the center's funding base to meet the need for organizational growth and expansion.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 1977, p.4&8*

**1977-09:** Summer breeze so soft and still, like a spider's web on a window sill. Summer breeze so warm and clean, mixed with sun shining on grass so green. Summer breeze was the feel of love, created by the Lord above. Summer breeze was just so right, one would find morning or night. Summer breeze so happy and free, caring about you and me. Summer breeze





I truly needed, was nature's way of saying I succeeded.

*SUMMER BREEZE, by UTETC student John Wynne, Grand Forks, ND; United Tribes News, Sept. 1977, p.5*

**1977-09-09:** Twelve journalists from six foreign countries attended the 8th Annual United Tribes International Powwow. Their reporting reached audiences in Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Canada and Mexico. For the first time in its history, the powwow registered financial success with a \$5,000 profit. An estimated 8,000 visitors attended. Carlene White Bull, Poplar, MT, was crowned Miss United Tribes by the center's new executive director.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 1977*

**1977-10:** Efforts to place United Tribes trainees in good jobs received high marks from one of the center's 1971 graduates. Harvey Good Left said the placement department found him a very good position after his Business Clerical training. It took two-to-three months, he said, but getting placed with the State Employment Service of North Dakota started his career. He said the state job was good experience for the work he does now. Good Left was the BIA Vocational Development Specialist at Standing Rock. He was interviewed for United Tribes News by UTETC Placement Officer Melvin White Eagle.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 1977, p.7*

**1977-11:** *United Tribes News* reported on several recent campus tours and meetings with visitors from around the country and overseas. The Indian college and its staff and students made an impression on visitors from Asuncion, Paraguay; Shiprock, NM; Dakar, Senegal; Banjul, Gambia; and Lagos, Nigera.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 1977, p.18*

**1977-12-10:** Two well-recognized members of the UTETC staff left the center in Dec. 1977. Ralph LaPera resigned as head of the center's legal staff after 51 months of service to pursue his legal career. "Head Chef" George Kara departed after 99 months and one million meals. The two were honored at the annual Christmas party.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 1977, p.5*

**1977-12-20:** A groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new Child Day Care facility on the United Tribes campus. North Dakota Governor Arthur A. Link supported funding the facility and had it added to a list of state EDA public works projects. The \$300-thousand award provided for an approximate 6,500 sq. ft. building to serve the dependents of students at the center.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 1977, p.1*

## 1978

**1978-01:** The United Tribes board passed a resolution opposing all legislation seeking to terminate or harm federally recognized tribes. Members were concerned with a proposal in Congress called the "Omnibus Indian Jurisdiction Act of 1977." The measure was seen as a "warmed-over termination effort." UTETC Executive Director David M. Gipp said the bill was evidence of a strong anti-Indian movement that should be met with lobbying and communication.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 1978, p.4*

**1978-02-01:** Following three years of meetings and seminars, the North Dakota Minority Contractors Association was formed at a conference in Mandan, ND. With 40 minority



Members of the All Nations Band are, from left to right, Victor Sandoval, John Azure, Jim Left Hand Thunder, Ed Morin, and Roger Parisien.



contractors attending, UTETC's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) technician Jim Laducer (Turtle Mountain) was named acting chairman. "They want to show they can stand on their own two legs and hold their own," said Laducer, who became a guiding influence on the organization. Members of the association hoped to halt "rip-off" companies from falsely claiming Indian ownership or operation in order to receive federal EDA and Public Works contracts set aside for minorities. Cornelius Grant of the EDA was credited with supporting minority contractors and giving them the confidence to form their own organization.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 1978, p.1*

***"It was something I've always wanted to do."***

**1978-02-09:** UTETC Executive

Director David M. Gipp sounded the alarm about impending budget shortfalls throughout "Indian Country." In the first of a series of "Executive Director's Update" reports, Gipp called the shortages in "contract support services" a "national crisis." He urged conservation. Certain services and operations at the center were being "slowed down" until assurances of full funding were received from the BIA.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 1978, p.1*

**1978-02-15:** Representatives of the five tribally-controlled community colleges in North Dakota met at United Tribes to discuss a bill in the federal hopper to support Tribal Colleges. The "Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1977" was sponsored by Representatives Mike Blouin (D-IA) and Al Quie (R-MN) as HR 9158. The measure called for grants for tribal community college operations and construction. It was supported by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC).

*United Tribes News, Feb. 1978, p.3*

**1978-02:** UTETC researched and publicized the economic benefits of having a tribal college in the community. Funding was provided by CETA for an eight-month study of the impact United Tribes had on the Bismarck economy. A three-person team compiled financial information and compared it with data on other local businesses and educational concerns. When completed the following year, the survey concluded the center's direct impact was substantial in providing an economic boost to local stores, markets, medical facilities

and other service providers. The center's 175 employees and 150 students pumped almost \$2-million per year into the local economy and paid over a quarter-of-a-million dollars in taxes. The survey concluded that economic and social relationships bind United Tribes with the local community.

*United Tribes News, February 1978, p.4; United Tribes News, Jan-Feb. 1979, p.1*

**1978-02:** The United Tribes Cultural Center was the booking location for the "All Nations Band," a rock group of five student musicians. "It was something I've always wanted to do," said Jim Left Hand Thunder (Fort Totten), the group's organizer and manager. He bankrolled the troupe from his share of a per-capita

reimbursement for Devils Lake land. Joining him were Roger Parisien, Edward Morin and John Azure (all Deer Mountain), and Victor Sandoval (San Felipe Pueblo). They played songs by the Beatles, Creedence Clearwater, Moody Blues and Willie and Waylon for UTETC dances and at events on reservations in the Dakotas.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 1978, p.4*

**1978-03-16:** Former UTETC Police Science student Guy McLaughlin was named "Outstanding Policeman of the Year 1977" by the Bismarck Police Dept. The city's police chief presented the award to McLaughlin, who was the only Native American among the 51 members of the local force. McLaughlin was commissioned as a patrolman in 1971 after graduating from UTETC. In 1973 he graduated from the North Dakota Police Academy.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 1978, p.9*

**1978-04-01:** United Tribes basketball player Erin Shanley was named to the All-Tournament Team of the National Indian Athletic Association Women's Championships at Ft. Duchesne, UT. The UTETC team finished sixth in the finals but had a very successful regular season.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 1978, p.5*

**1978-05-18:** To emphasize the importance of Indians becoming involved in mass media and communications, UTETC sponsored a "Tribal Media" workshop for those involved in tribal news reporting and journalism. The guest speaker was Jeanette Henry, executive editor of *Wassaja*, San Francisco, CA. Her topic was "What's Good Journalism in Indian Country."

*United Tribes News, Apr. 1978, p.4*



UNITED TRIBES  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE





United Tribes Technical College Archive

First cohort of United Tribes Practical Nursing graduates

**1978-09-08:** Two new buildings were dedicated on the United Tribes campus, completing the first major expansion of training facilities since the center was established on the Fort Lincoln almost a decade earlier. The \$2.3-million Skill Center and \$300-thousand Child Development Center were both financed with grants from the Economic Development Administration. The combined public recognition program took place in the expansive construction bay of the 57,000 sq. ft. Skill Center. Dignitaries at the event included North Dakota Governor Arthur A. Link, EDA Planner Cornelius Grant and Three Affiliated Tribes Chairperson Rose Crow Flies High.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 1978, p.3; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 5, 1978, p.26; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 8, 1978, p.2*

**1978-09:** In September, United Tribes began offering seven new programs in addition to the 10 already in place. Added to the curriculum were diesel engine, heating-cooling, practical nursing, photojournalism, plumbing and printing press. Each was expected to take about 52 weeks to complete.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 1978, p.3*

**1978-09-08:** *United Tribes News* prefaced its winners list for the 9th Annual UTETC Powwow, with the poem "In You I Found Happiness." As you set your tent on Mother Earth, My mind

found our Old Ways. As you began to cook meat, my heart tasted your Happiness, and you began to dance Indian. I watched the glow of your cut beads bring a sparkle of my Past, and you sipped tears of joy. As the Celebration began, our past came back. I saw all the Tribes appear in Grand Entry. You danced not as different Tribes, but as a Whole, a Nation the Great Spirit brought to Mother Earth. Soon your tents were gone, all that was left were dust devils, dancing in your Footsteps. All I have is the remembrance of another year of celebration. And I wait for you till next year. Until then, my Heart shall hold Peace, as it recalls, I am Indian, and Proud as You.

*IN YOU I FOUND HAPPINESS, by Daneil Sky Hawk, Billings, MT, United Tribes News, Sept. 1978, p. 8-9; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 8, 1978, p.9; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 12, 1978, p.3; Dakota Sun, Sept. 7, 1978, p.4; Dakota Sun, Sept. 14, 1978, p.1&3*

**1978-09:** United Tribes announced that it had received official notice of its candidacy status for accreditation with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The accreditation level was for granting certificates. NCA accreditation was seen as a way to open up more educational options and opportunities for UTETC's Indian students.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 1978, p.3*



**1978-10-17:** President Jimmy Carter signed into law the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act (PL 95-471). It authorized funding for grants and technical assistance for the nation's tribally chartered community colleges. The groundbreaking legislation sustained the development of tribal colleges but the benefits were not universal. Because of UTETC's status as an intertribal college, governed by five tribes, the center was ineligible for federal funding under the measure.

*The Action News, Three Affiliated Community Action Program, July 21, 1978, p.3; United Tribes News, Jan-Feb. 1979, p.4*

**1978-10:** *United Tribes News* announced that UTETC's Dean of Education Jim Davis (Turtle Mountain) received a doctorate degree from Penn State. He was also elected to the North Dakota Indian Education Association board at their October meeting.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 1978, p.5*

## 1979

**1979-01:** UTETC retained the services of attorney Vance Gillette as legal consultant to represent the center on various committees. Gillette was from the Whiteshield Segment at Three Affiliated; he attended the University of Denver law school.

*United Tribes News, Jan-Feb. 1979, p.2*

**1979-01-25:** The United Tribes Board issued a strongly-worded resolution urging the State Legislature to support and expand the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission. Under discussion by lawmakers at the State Capitol was the idea of defunding the commission and thereby eliminating it as a state agency.

*United Tribes News Release, Jan. 25, 1979*

**1979-03:** Harriett Skye became executive director of the Dakota Association of Native Americans (DANA), a grant program of the Association of Native Americans. Shirley Bordeaux (Sicangu Lakota) succeeded her as OPI director and editor of *United Tribes News*.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 1979, p.2; Harriett Skye interviewed by Phil Baird, Apr. 5, 2007, Bismarck, ND*

**1979-04-20:** UTETC celebrated a capping ceremony for the Center's first cohort of

practical nursing students. Harlan Horned Eagle, Wagner, SD, was the only male among the first ten UTETC nursing grads.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 1979, p.1*

**1979-05-05:** UTETC head chef Al Stockert was presented a plaque of appreciation for cooking a tasty meal for the 9th Annual Prison Powwow sponsored by the North Dakota Penitentiary. The event was attended by over 500 people and brought a sense of pride to Indian inmates who took part. Retaining the Indian culture within the prison walls was the mission of the Prison Indian Culture Group. UTETC and its programs and personnel provided support.

*United Tribes News, May 1979, p.3*

**1979-06-09:** The highlight of the summer powwow at United Tribes was coronation of Wanda Moran as Miss UTETC. She was from the Cheyenne River Agency in South Dakota and a student in the Human Services vocation. The powwow was sponsored by the UTETC Cultural Center and OPI.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 1979, p.16*

**1979-06-18:** American Indians had a seat-at-the-table on an interim North Dakota State Legislative committee charged with examining the relationship between state and tribal governments. The number of Indian participants had been in doubt following passage of HCR 3035 during the 1979 Legislative Session. UTETC Executive Director David M. Gipp pushed for expanding Indian participation from the two initially appointed. Ultimately six took part in the study committee, four of whom were the chairs of each reservation in the state.

*United Tribes News, May 1979, p.1; United Tribes News, Sept. 1979, p.22*

**1979-09-07:** One of the students in UTETC's welding program stood out. Angeline 'Rose' Baker, 24, (Turtle Mountain) was the only woman in the program at the time and one of the very few to take up the training. "I was employed as a secretary before I came here," she

said. "But the challenge in welding, plus my desire to work outdoors, is the main factor in enrolling in this course." Ms. Baker was not a stranger to working with metal. Her father and seven brothers were all in the welding field. "I've helped my father with welding projects in our garage," she recalled. Her hobbies were

***"I've helped my father with welding projects in our garage."***





shooting pool, and playing basketball, softball and guitar.

*For Crying Out Loud, UTETC Student Newspaper, Sept. 7, 1979, p.1*



United Tribes Technical College Archive

UTETC welding student Angeline "Rose" Baker

**1979-09-07:** Ten-thousand was the magic number for the 10th anniversary United Tribes International Powwow. Over 10,000 powwow enthusiasts attended. Dancers and singers competed for \$10,000 in prize money. And Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills attended the 10,000 meter United Tribes Road Race. Honors were bestowed on UTETC's founding board members, including Lewis Goodhouse. After riding in a parade through downtown Bismarck and being honored with a plaque and a pipe, the former Devils Lake Sioux Tribal chairman told a friend, "I have never in my 79 years ever [been]...so honored."

*United Tribes News, Sept. 1979, p.18; MNI WAKAN OYATE, A History of the Sisuwan, Wahpeton, Pabaksa, and Other Dakota That Settled at Spirit Lake, North Dakota, Mark Diedrich, p.262*

**1979-09:** The UTETC Building Trades program completed construction on the first house made by students in the program. The structure was built in two sections indoors in the spacious construction bay of the new Skills Center Building. The sections were moved to the foundation site on campus where they were joined, becoming a student family home.

*For Crying Out Loud, UTETC Student Newspaper, Sept. 7, 1979, p.9*

**1979-09:** The Sept. 1979 *United Tribes News* carried the first of six consecutive articles about the history of United Tribes and Fort Lincoln. The series described the full sweep of history on the site beginning in the Civil War era with the 1862 Apple Creek fight that came across the property; to construction of the military fort in and around 1900; to the WWI time period and after; to the internment camp period of WWII and the post war; to the Jobs Corps era and Peace Corps encampment in the 1960s; and up to the formation of United Tribes and creation of the training center.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 1979, p.3*

## 1980

**1980:** The North Dakota Indian Education Association named William "Bill" Greybull as 1979 NDIEA Counselor of the Year. Greybull brought a world of practical experience to his job as UTETC Vocational Counselor. "I have no degree in counseling but I work with students from my own experience about our culture and beliefs," he told the NDIEA. "I learned from my grandparents, who lived up to their cultures, and learned from their hard experiences in life."

*United Tribes News, May 1980, p.11*

**1980-05-01:** North Dakota U.S. Senator Milton R. Young was honored by Standing Rock High School in Fort Yates and the United Tribes Board. A bronze bust of the Senator was unveiled, recognizing his work and success in obtaining federal funding for both schools. Young posed for a photo that appeared on the front page of *United Tribes News*. His wife Pat was on one side and sculptor Ida Prokup Lee on the other, along with UTETC board members August Little Soldier, Austin Gillette and Frank Lawrence.

*United Tribes News, May 1980, p.1*

## 1981

**1981-02:** Theodore Jamerson Elementary School on the UTETC campus was named by the BIA's Aberdeen Area Office as one of the region's Outstanding Title I projects. TJES was cited for sustained programs quality and student achievement for Fiscal years '78, '79 and





'80. Title I coordinator Glenna Mueller was recognized for outstanding services to the Supplemental Reading Program.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 1981, p.7*

**1981-02:** Former United Tribes Student Health Center nurse Bertha Gipp (Standing Rock) was named "Nurse of the Year" by the North Dakota Nurses Association. She was then a project director with the Maternal and Child Health Division of the North Dakota State Health Department. She became a Registered Nurse in 1975 studying at Mary College. Her work in state government involved the "Improved Child Health" project, an effort to reduce infant mortality rates at the Fort Totten and Fort Berthold Reservations. Gipp was a long-time volunteer for the March of Dimes. Before her career ended, she was recognized many times for outstanding service to infants, children and Indian families.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 1981, p.13; Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 7, 1996*

**1981-04-09:** UTETC hosted a reception to honor one of its own staff members who was singled-out for a special award by the City of Bismarck. Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk Jr. (Standing Rock) received the Bismarck "Gold Award" for March 1981. The director of UTETC's Four Winds Cultural Center was chosen for his commitment to bridging the cultural gap in the Capitol City through his artistic talents, involvement with area schools, preservation of Native history and culture, and his dedication as a foster parent. Showing appreciation for the honor and respect for traditional ways, Thunder Hawk held a giveaway at the reception.

*United Tribes News, May 1981, p.1*

**1981-06-20:** Despite drenching thundershowers, UTETC's summer powwow was held on the Summer Solstice. Two-thousand spectators attended, according to Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk Jr., powwow committee chair. Ten drums rendered songs throughout the weekend and upwards of 200 dancers participated. A family honoring took place for Tom Fredricks (Mandan/Hidatsa) who had served the Carter Administration in 1980 as Assistant Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs. The Three Affiliated member was a practicing attorney who had previously been OEO director at Standing Rock, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund, and an Indian Affairs solicitor in the Interior Dept. His mother Catherine was also honored at the powwow by her nine children.

*United Tribes News, July 1981, p.1&6; Dakota Sun, June 25, 1981, p.4 & 6-7*

**1981-07-23:** The Interior Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee included funding for United Tribes as part of the Interior Dept. appropriation for Fiscal Year 1982, starting Oct. 1, 1981. North Dakota's two U.S. Senators, Mark Andrews and Quentin Burdick, urged direct funding for UTETC at a time when Interior was preparing to initiate a nationwide tribal block grant program. The Senators called UTETC "unique" and not an appropriate responsibility for funding by separate tribes. North Dakota Congressman Byron Dorgan supported the effort along with North Dakota Governor Allen Olson. The level of funding was between \$1.3 and \$1.5-million.

*UTN, July 1981, p.1; UTN, Aug. 1981, p.1; UTN, Dec. 1981, p.1*



United Tribes Technical College Archive

United Tribes all staff photo 1980 in powwow arena





United Tribes Technical College Archive

From Left: Cornelius Grant, EDA representative; David Gipp, UTETC executive director; Joanne B. Long, UTETC recreation supervisor; and Don Jiran, architect for the project participated in ground breaking ceremonies on April 19, 1982 for what would become the James Henry Community Building.

**1981-08-27:** United Tribes Educational Technical Center adopted a new academic calendar, a major change in annual operations. Beginning with Fall Term 1981, the school moved from a 12 month continuous operation to a system of quarters. Since its inception in 1969, the center operated a year-round, open-entry, open-exit system. The new method featured three terms per year - fall, winter and spring - each 12 weeks in length. The move was made to improve overall instruction and the quality of vocational offerings. It was anticipated that UTETC would be able to serve more students. At the time, the center had a waiting list of 200 applicants.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 1981, p.1*

**1981-09-11:** An estimated 10,000 people attended the 12th annual powwow, making it one of the "most prestigious and largest in Indian Country" and certainly one of the finest in the region. Registered dancers number 563 with an estimated 200 more participating in intertribal dancing. Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk Jr. was powwow committee chair for the fourth consecutive year. UTETC extended its hospitality to approximately 5,200 guests who took in the free meal on Sunday. The men's team from Cass Lake, MN defeated Fort Yates for top honors at the fourth annual slow-pitch softball tourney.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 1981, p.3; Dakota Sun, Sept.*

*18, 1981, p. 1, 6-7&10; Bismarck Tribune, Sept.12, 1981, p.1*

**1981-09-29:** United Tribes accepted a \$421-thousand grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, launching the fundraising for a new community building and gymnasium. The 12,600 sq. ft. facility added to and renovated an existing small gym constructed at Fort Lincoln in 1939. Additional support came from the Bush and Otto Bremer Foundations, for a total cost of over \$500-thousand. Ground was broken April 19, 1982, and construction got underway in May. On Sept. 9, 1983, the new facility was named the James Henry Community Building. The late Mr. Henry had served five terms as Turtle Mountain tribal chairman and was active on the UTETC Board during the center's formative years. He had passed away Oct. 29, 1982 at the age of 53.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 1981, p.1; United Tribes News, May 1982, p.1; United Tribes News, June 1982, p.2; United Tribes News, Nov. 1982, p.7; United Tribes News, Nov. 1983, p.13*

## 1982

**1982-02:** UTETC's John Thunder Hawk Sr. was busy rebuilding the center's independent league basketball team in early 1982. After Ken Grey Cloud and Emmett Whiteman graduated, Thunder Hawk was coaching and playing when needed, as part of his activities director duties.



Other players included Ted Red Shirt, Jim Agard, Stan Fisher, Sam Moore, Henry Red Horn, Dale Good Luck, Rudy Two Bulls, Lou Nomee, Larry Black Eagle and Robert Red Horn. Thunder Hawk's student activities program also included intramural basketball, women's volleyball, coed volleyball and boxing.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 1982, p.10*

**1982-03-15:** The budget-cutting philosophy of the Reagan Administration began affecting programs and services throughout Indian Country, including at United Tribes. On Mar. 15, UTETC began limiting services due to a projected 30 percent loss in the center's base operating budget from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Services to 150 adult students and 100 children were reduced. To remain open, the center was forced to operate on a four-day work-week. Half of the staff members were later released and two of the 14 educational programs were discontinued in October. Partial funding was restored by the end of the year with support and assistance from the North Dakota Congressional delegation, the state governor, local officials and other supporters.

*United Tribes News, Mar-Apr. 1982; Dakota Sun, March 18, 1982, p.1; Dakota Sun, March 25, 1982, p. 4; Dakota Sun, November 4, 1982, p.2; Dakota Sun, November 24, 1982, p.2; United Tribes News, Dec. 1982, p.1*

**1982-03-25:** The UTETC board began to establish a college endowment to be administered by and through the North Dakota Community Foundation. They launched an endowment fund drive in response to federal budget cuts that ultimately resulted in a 47 percent reduction in BIA contract funding. The reductions had forced the layoff of 34 of the 68 employees. On Nov. 29, the chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, Austin Gillette, announced a \$5,000 contribution from the tribe. It was the first gift from one of the five governing tribes for long-term support of the school. A minimum of \$25-thousand was needed to establish the endowment. The overall goal was set at five-million dollars.

*Dakota Sun, Nov. 4, 1982, p.2; Dakota Sun, November 24, 1982, p.2; United Tribes News, Nov. 1982, p.11*

**1982-03:** In the spring of 1982, United Tribes opened the Office of Indian Child Services to provide training and assistance to Head Start programs. Directed by Nancy J. Keller (Rosebud), the UTETC office was a regional

center for 11 tribal Head Start programs in Nebraska and the Dakotas.

*United Tribes News, Sept-Oct., p.7*

**1982-04:** In April, UTETC was operating the newly established Title IV Resource and Evaluation Center II, serving grantees in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming. The Indian Education Act of 1972 (PL 92-318) provided support for Indian-controlled and tribal schools, as well as local education agencies with Indian students. The eight-state region contained an estimated 44,457 Indian students in grades one through 12 and over 2,500 preschoolers and adults being educated by Title IV. Directing the program at UTETC was Dr. Arthur Zimiga (Oglala), educated at Harvard University.

*United Tribes News, Mar-Apr. 1982, p.13*

**1982-04-19:** An evaluation team from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) made a site visit April 19-21 to United Tribes. Chaired by Dr. Robert Sorenson of Madison, WI, the group recommended "full accreditation" for UTETC at the certificate granting level. The NCA Executive Board of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education gave its formal approval Oct. 26. Meetings began at the center to revise and update the existing five-year plan, with an eye toward future evaluations. Called on for leadership was Dr. Robert Sullivan of the Center for Economic Development at NDSU.

*United Tribes News, May 1982, p.7; United Tribes News, Nov. 1982, p.11*

**1982-06:** After 12 years in operation, the Dakota Association of Native Americans (DANA) closed its doors in Bismarck at the end of June. Reagan-era funding cuts in the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services forced the closure of four Indian Service Centers in North Dakota. DANA Director Harriett Skye, former UTETC Public Information director, and 14 staff members were forced to end their off-reservation services to Indian people who moved to the Bismarck-Mandan area.

*United Tribes News, July 1982, p.5*

**1982-07:** Despite a depressed national economy and federal budget cuts, the UTETC Placement Office maintained a high success rate placing students in good jobs. During Fiscal Year 1981, the office registered an overall 94 percent placement rate. Of the 15 vocational offerings, nine registered 100 percent placement. In







Fiscal Year 1982, the overall rate declined to 72 percent, due to a slowdown in the labor market.

*United Tribes News, July 1982, p.7*

**1982-08-01:** UTETC Special Programs Director James K. Laducer began a two-year term on the Region Eight Advisory Board of the U.S. Small Business Administration. According to the SBA, Laducer was the first Indian to serve on the board. His selection was based on previous work with the agency and leadership of the North Dakota Minority Contractors Association. "He understands the problems faced by minority business owners," said a SBA spokesperson. "He's very knowledgeable about government policies and procedures, both state and national."

*United Tribes News, Sept-Oct. 1982, p.12*

**1982-09-10:** An estimated 10,000 spectators attended the 13th Annual United Tribes International Powwow. Dance competition attracted 750 competitors and 25 drums. Two "Trophy Dances" were featured on Friday evening as 144 contestants took part in the Women's Traditional and Fancy Shawl dance-offs, the first special events of their kind ever held at United Tribes.

*Dakota Sun, September 9, 1982, p.2; Dakota Sun, September 16, 1982, p.1, 6-7 & 12; United Tribes News, Sept-Oct. 1982, p.2*

**1982-09-26:** U.S. Interior Secretary James Watt was the featured speaker at the annual conference of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in Bismarck. The Capitol City had not hosted the annual meeting since 1963. Linda Baker (Southern Ute), Durango, CO, was selected Miss NCAI. While in Bismarck, NCAI Executive Director Ron Andrade rode on UTETC's float in Bismarck's Oktoberfest Parade with Jr. Miss UTETC Crystal Tremmel and Miss UTETC Mary Not Afraid.

*Dakota Sun, September 2, 1982, p.9; Dakota Sun, October 3, 1982, p.1 & 6; Dakota Sun, October 7, 1982, p.6; United Tribes News, Sept-Oct. 1982, p.22; Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 1, 1982*

**1982-10-22:** UTETC claimed its first victory in the sixth annual "Toilet Bowl" flag football contest. The 44-8 win in Bismarck ended an undefeated run in the series by Standing Rock Community College.

*Dakota Sun, October 21, 1982, p.4*



Bismarck Tribune Photo

Junior Lawrence on a running play in the 1982 "Toilet Bowl."

## 1983

**1983-01-08:** Legislation was being prepared for introduction in the North Dakota State Legislature seeking state support for non-Indian students that attended Indian community colleges in the state. It was the first time such a measure was introduced in North Dakota. Tribal college presidents explained that while non-Indian students pay tuition like Indian students, they cannot be included in Indian student counts that determine federal assistance payments.

*Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 8, 1983*

**1983-09-09:** Cool weather and occasional rain greeted an estimated crowd of 9,000 during the 14th Annual UTETC Powwow. Six-hundred dancers and singers competed for \$14,250 in prize money. Featured was the "Thunderbird Theatre" of Haskell Indian Junior College.

*Ahead of the Herd, Three Affiliated, Vol. 13, No. 8, Aug. 12, 1983, p.3; Ahead of the Herd, Three Affiliated, Vol. 13, No. 8, Aug. 12, 1983, p.6 & 9; Ahead of the Herd, Three Affiliated, Vol. 13, No 18, p.6 & 9; Dakota Sun, August 19, 1983, p.4; Dakota Sun, September 15, 1983, p.1 & 6-7; United Tribes News, Nov. 1983, p.7*

## 1984

**1984-03:** James K. Laducer (Turtle Mountain), director of UTETC's Minority Business Enterprises program, received the 1984 "Minority Advocate of the Year" award from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Laducer helped found the Minority Contractors' Association. UTETC sponsored a Title IV Education Brokers Forum, March 15-16 in Minneapolis.

*Dakota Sun, March 22, 1984, p.12*

# 1985



**1984-05-07:** A well-known private employer at Turtle Mountain was recognized as North Dakota's Small Business Person of the Year. Leon Poitra, 62, owner of Poitra Construction, Inc., a major business in Belcourt, was very successful with and without the SBA's 8A contracting program. He employed 238 workers during the previous construction season. Poitra planned to attend National Small Business Week activities in Washington, DC, and perhaps meet President Ronald Reagan.

*Grand Forks Herald, May 7, 1984, Section B*

**1984-10:** UTETC Athletic Director/Coach Dave Archambault, Sr. organized the second season of intercollegiate competition for cross country student athletes: Art Red Owl, Kyle, SD; Francis White Dress, Kyle, SD; Brad Bear Heart, Fort Yates; Cyrus Black Elk, Pine Ridge; Robert Carolin, Eagle Butte, SD; Cleveland Broken Rope, Kyle, SD; Brent McCollough, Fort Yates; and Oris Bear Stops, Red Scaffold, SD. The 1984 AIHEC National Cross Country Finals were scheduled for November 17 in Bismarck.

*Ahead of the Herd, Fort Berthold Press, October 12, 1984, p.6; United Tribes News, Sept. 1985, p.18*

**1985-01-10:** Russell Hawkins, Chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, talked about "mutual concerns between tribal and state governments" at the North Dakota State Legislature. His talks at the State Capitol in Bismarck were historic in the state and perhaps the nation. It was believed to be the first time a tribal leader spoke officially before a legislative branch of government in the 20th Century. The practice was repeated in subsequent legislative sessions, creating the unprecedented series known as the "State of the Tribal-State Relationship" speeches. The idea came about in 1983, the brainchild of Brian Palecek, then with the North Dakota Peace Coalition and later a noted instructor at United Tribes. Also involved were UTETC Executive Director David M. Gipp, attorney Thomas M. Disselhorst and North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission Director Juanita Helpfrey. Planning resulted in an invitation to UTETC's Board to present the first address during the 1985 Session. The opportunity opened a formal channel of communication between tribal and state leaders, highlighting and elevating the concerns of Native People. Remarkably, the speeches



United Tribes Technical College Archive

1984-85 UTETC "Thunderbirds"



remained part of North Dakota's legislative process for the following 30 years.

*Bismarck Tribune*, Jan. 11, 1985, p.13A; *The State of the Relationship: A Tribal Perspective*, 49th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota, by the Tribes of North Dakota, monograph, Jan. 10, 1985; *United Tribes News*, Spring 2015, p.8; Brian Palecek interviewed by Dennis J. Neumann, Dec. 3, 2018, UTTC Archive

**1985-03-15:** Wahpeton Indian School (now Circle of Nations School) hosted a monthly meeting of the UTETC Board of Directors at the school in Wahpeton, ND. Board members were: Chairwoman Alyce Spotted Bear and Dennis Huber (TAT); Chairman Charles Murphy and Elaine Brave Bull (SRST); Chairman Russell Hawkins and Felix Renville, Jr. (SWST); Chairman Elmer White, Sr. and Carl Walking Eagle (DLST); and Chairman Billy DeCoteau and Patrick LaFromboise (TMBC).

*Dakota Sun*, April 4, 1985, p.5

**1985-03-23:** The United Tribes Thunderbirds basketball team participated in their first season of intercollegiate play under Coach/Athletic Director Dave Archambault, Sr. The T-Birds won the AIHEC National Tournament, went 34 and 4 on the season and averaged 101 points-per-game, establishing them as a legitimate competitor in the college ranks. "Not many people expected us to do as well as we did," said Archambault reviewing the season. Two high-scoring guards from Fort Berthold, Val Finley and Perry White Owl, paced the team, scoring a combined 40 points-per-game.

*Dakota Sun*, April 4, 1985, p.12; *United Tribes News*, Sept. 1985, p.18-19

**1985-04:** The Miss Indian America Pageant Board of Directors terminated its agreement with the reigning Miss Indian America. The 20-member board presented the crown to runner-up Debbie Secakuku (Hopi). Started in the mid-1950s in Sheridan, WY, the pageant was relocated to Bismarck and UTETC in 1984. Its goals were to promote cross-cultural understanding and provide opportunities for higher education and travel for young American Indian women. Robert Penn, a Rosebud/Lakota artist, who studied under noted artist Oscar Howe, created the official Miss Indian America poster design.

*Dakota Sun*, April 18, 1985, p.1; *Ahead of the Herd*, Fort

*Berthold Press*, April 19, 1985, p.1; *Ahead of the Herd*, Fort Berthold Press, May 17, 1985, p.1; *United Tribes News*, Sept. 1985, p.3

**1985-09-04:** UTETC opened its doors to 310 returning and new students for the Fall Quarter, along with 170 children who attended two daycare centers and Theodore Jamerson Elementary School. Twenty tribal reservations were represented in the student body. The center's maintenance staff improved campus housing over the summer. Family homes received new paint while Sitting Bull Hall and Sakakawea Hall were remodeled for single men and single women respectively.

*United Tribes News*, Sept. 1985, p.1

**1985-09-06:** The exhibit, "HOMECOMINGS: Native American Artists," opened for a month-long showing in Bismarck. It was curated by Laurel Reuter of the North Dakota Museum of Art and co-sponsored by United Tribes. Works included paintings, sculptures and mixed media by artists with roots in the Dakotas, Montana, Minnesota and Nebraska.

*United Tribes News*, Sept. 1985, p.5

**1985-09-06:** Powwow eyahapas Henry Green Crow and Elmer White, Sr. announced the annual UTETC powwow. An estimated 10,000 people attended and the winners received \$18,300 in prize money. UTETC honored Tribal Arts Instructor Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk, Jr. for his leadership of the powwow committee. Jorja Frances Oberly, 23 (Comanche/Osage/Nez Perce) of Kooskia, ID, was selected the 30th Miss Indian America during the pageant held in conjunction with the powwow.

*Ahead of the Herd*, Fort Berthold Press, July 12, 1985, p.6; *Ahead of the Herd*, Fort Berthold Press, September 20, 1985, p.1&3; *United Tribes News*, Sept. 1985, p.10&14

**1985-10-10:** One of UTETC's early staff members, who brought valuable experience as an educator in public, private and bureau schools, passed away following an illness. Gernell Claymore Sr. served United Tribes as a counselor, counseling supervisor and program administrator. After serving in the Air Force, he had earned degrees in education from Valley City State Teacher's College and Northern State College in Aberdeen. The education calling was in the family, as his wife, Diane, and several children served at United Tribes and in other

**"Not many people expected us to do as well as we did."**





educational settings.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 1985, p.7*

**1985-10:** Following a program review, the United Tribes Licensed Practical Nursing program received continuing approval from the North Dakota State Board of Nursing for the 1985-86 academic year. The four-quarter program involved classroom instruction and clinical practice at Bismarck-Mandan health facilities. The instructors were: Glenda Reemts, coordinator/instructor; and instructors Charlene Laschkewitsch and Lorraine Stillwell. The LPN program's float took top honors during the center's Fall Festival Parade.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 1985, p.6&11*

**1985-11-19:** The Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History released a state-by-state listing of the numbers of human skeletal remains held by the agency. Ninety-six had come from North Dakota. The information contributed to a movement to repatriate and re-inter Indian remains. The Smithsonian invited tribes to forward their resolutions on the matter. The United Tribes Board obliged, recommending immediate action to return remains and Federal legislation to avoid future depredations. Pemina Yellow Bird (Three Affiliated) played a leading role in North Dakota. As a member of the North Dakota State Historical Society Board, she learned that perhaps 600 sets of remains were held in the North Dakota Heritage Center. She urged tribal people to take part in public hearings for a state re-interment policy, to ensure that Indian input would help decide "the fate of the old ones."

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 1986, p.6; United Tribes News, May 1989, p. 11; United Tribes News, June 1989, p.8; United Tribes News, July 1989, p.7*

**1985-11-27:** Forty-nine UTETC students were honored during fall quarter graduation at the James Henry Community Building. The keynote speaker was Phil Baird (Rosebud/Lakota), an educational consultant and former vice president of Sinte Gleska College. UTETC's All Nations Singers sang honor songs. The event was preceded by a student banquet the evening prior.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 1985, p.1&10-11*

## 1986

**1986-01-23:** The newly confirmed Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Ross Swimmer, visited United Tribes. On a tour he met board

members, staff and students, including Student Council President Don Medicine Horse. While in Bismarck, Swimmer attended the North Dakota Minority Contractors annual meeting and spoke at the 11th Annual Minority/Women Business Enterprise Conference. "Forget all the horror stories you've heard about it," he said of President Reagan's Commission on Reservation Economies Report. "Take it apart issue by issue...and you'll find every recommendation is supportive of tribal governments, Indian businesses and Indians who want to get into business."

*Lakota Times, reprinted in United Tribes News, Jan-Feb. 1986, p.9*



James K. Laducer, Special Programs Director

United Tribes Technical College Archive

**1986-02-21:** The *Bismarck Tribune* carried an enchanting feature story about a UTETC staff member. Ray Patneaud, a Belcourt native, had taught automotive technology at United Tribes but the *Tribune* was more interested in his Hollywood acting career. In the 1960s, he played a major role in the Disney movie "Run, Appaloosa, Run." The opportunity allowed him to join the Screen Actors and Screen Extras Guilds and find other work in movies and television. He met Jay Silverheels (TV's Tonto) and played a brief scene across from John Wayne during his "cup of coffee" in the entertainment business.

*Bismarck Tribune, Fanfare, Feb. 21, 1986, p.10-11*

**1986-02-25:** One of the first sporting contests that ignited the long-running, cross-town basketball rivalry between United Tribes and Bismarck Junior College occurred in the final game of the 1986 state junior college tournament. After upsetting the number one seed, the Thunderbirds met BJC in the





championship game. It was only UTETC's second season of intercollegiate play and the first full season playing in the junior college ranks. "BJC was just too tough in the middle for us," said Coach Dave Archambault Sr. about the 69/58 loss. Nonetheless, the second-place finish was a big accomplishment for a first-year team. Two Thunderbird players, Val Finley and Perry White Owl, were named to the All-State Team.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 1986, p.15*

**1986-03-21:** UTETC's Theodore Jamerson Elementary School held its 3rd Annual Science Fair in the center's gym. The projects and posters of students in grades 3 to 8 were reviewed by judges from Mary College, Bismarck Public Schools and White Shield School. Youngsters in K through grade 2 did group projects that were not judged competitively. First place winners advanced to the North Dakota Native American Science Fair held in Minot.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 1986, p.10-11*

**1986-09-04:** Audra Arviso (Dine) was selected as Miss Indian America during the 1986 UTETC powwow held September 4-7 in Bismarck.

*Ahead of the Herd, Fort Berthold Press, July 11, 1986, p.1; Ahead of the Herd, September 12, 1986, p.1; Ahead of the Herd, September 26, 1986, p.7*

**1986-05-18:** Edward Johnson (Turtle Mountain) became a permanent deacon in the Bismarck Diocese of the Catholic Church. He was the first Native American to earn the distinction in the diocese. The UTETC support services manager and his wife Mae renewed the center's "United Chapel" as an interdenominational place of worship for student families and staff. Bishop John Kinney and UTETC President David Gipp jointly named Johnson the chapel's "official chaplain."

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 1986, p.4*

**1986-09-04:** The 17th Annual United Tribes International Powwow offered \$27,000 in prize money and awards. An estimated 12,000 spectators attended, along with 750 registered dancers and another 250 participating in intertribal dancing. There were 29 registered drums.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 1986, p.8*

**1986-10:** The UTETC Indian Defense Procurement Outreach Center was providing technical

assistance services to a four-state region in 1986 with a staff of three. Director Vernon D. Anderson, Enterprise Development Specialist Cheryl M. Kulas and Project Secretary Marceila R. Marcellais worked to create new employment opportunities through manufacturing on reservations. The program began in 1985 as a pilot project funded by the Economic Development Administration.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 1986, p.19; United Tribes Office of Public Information News Release, May 21, 1985, UTTC Archive*

**1986-10-15:** Olympian Virgil "Quick Silver" Hill, 23, was moved by the warm welcome he received from students, youngsters and staff at

United Tribes. Clad in a white work-out suit, the boxing silver medalist from the 1984 Olympics exclaimed, "I remember this gym," recounting an experience in the UTETC small gym as a Native youth with the Del Seelye Boxing Club. "Those were good times. It's great to be back."

Hill was in Bismarck for a bout at the Bismarck Civic Center. He carried a two-year professional record of 13/0. United Tribes presented him with a war bonnet star quilt. He was invited by English teacher Mary Lemke.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 1986, p.1*

**1986-10-21:** National Indian Education Association President Anselm G. Davis visited United Tribes to plan for the NIEA's next annual conference to be held in Bismarck.

*United Tribes News Release, Oct. 21, 1986*

**1986-11:** The North Dakota Indian Athletic Association was formed at a meeting held on the UTETC campus. Organizers included UTETC Athletic Director/Coach Dave Archambault Sr., Pete Davis, Douglas Fountain, Sr., Gabe Kempeska, Gene LaFromboise and Don Yellow Bird.

*Ahead of the Herd, Fort Berthold Press, November 21, 1986, p.5*

## 1987

**1987-02:** Dr. Loretta DeLong (Turtle Mountain) became UTETC's Vice President of Student Affairs. She began focusing on improving community health services, counseling, dorm life, cultural opportunities and campus activities. She was a strong believer in community participation and physical activity. DeLong had previously been an education

specialist at UTETC before returning to the University of North Dakota to earn a doctorate in educational administration.

*United Tribes News, June-July 1987, p.3*

**1987-03-21:** Lighting struck on the United Tribes basketball court during the 10th Annual AIHEC Women's Basketball Tournament. A packed house "witnessed something that will never happen again," said UTTC's Dave Archambault Sr., about the championship game between Oglala Lakota College and Little Big Horn College. The Oglalas hung on for a 90/88 victory, despite foul trouble that reduced them to three players with nine minutes remaining and only two players for the last six minutes. Debbie Iron Cloud and Lisa Phelps took advantage of Crow miscues and lived up to their team's nickname, the "Strong Hearts." Iron Cloud poured-in 48 points and was named tournament MVP.

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 23, 1987, p.28; Sports Illustrated, Faces in the Crowd, Apr. 20, 1987; United Tribes News, Apr. 2011, p.10*

**1987-03-13:** Governor George Sinner signed the law designating each third Monday in January as Martin Luther King Jr. Day in North Dakota. The law fell short of making it an official state holiday but it represented a "significant step forward for all people in terms of basic human rights," according to David M. Gipp, UTTC President and Chairman of the North Dakota King Holiday Commission. Yolanda King, the late Civil Rights leader's eldest daughter, called from Atlanta during the signing. She thanked the bill's sponsors and said "it's especially gratifying that her father's ideals were honored in North Dakota, which has few black residents."

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 14, 1987, p.4B*

**1987-05-04:** UTETC hosted a visit from a focus-evaluation team of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The accrediting review led to the Center's first degree-granting programs. The NCA approved the school's first two-year Associate of Applied Science degree programs, Medical Records and Licensed Practical Nursing. "This will increase opportunities for student financial assistance and open doors for other federal and private funding," said UTETC President David M. Gipp. Nine other programs, accredited by the NCA from 1982 to 1990, continued to offer vocational certificates. In the planning was a change in the academic calendar to a semester system.

*United Tribes News, June-July 1987, p.1; United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 21, 1987, UTTC Archive*

**1987-05:** Leaders of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium established and incorporated the American Indian College Fund. The Fund's mission was to focus on raising financial support for tribal colleges and universities, and for tribal college students directly in the form of scholarships. Charged with shaping and developing the Fund was TV actor Anne Sward-Hanson, Vito Perone and Rose Robinson.

*Ahead of the Herd, Fort Berthold Press, July 9, 1987, p.3*

**1987-06:** UTETC hosted the first North Dakota Indian Athletic Association high school east-west all-star basketball games in June. Named 1987 athletes of the year were Scott Davis of Belcourt and Jodi Archambault of Bismarck.

*Ahead of the Herd, Fort Berthold Press, June 10, 1987, p.7*

**1987-06-28:** The United Tribes Board amended its articles of incorporation changing the organization's name to "United Tribes Technical College" (UTTC). A ceremony recognizing the new name was later held during the powwow in Sept. "The new name more closely reflects the positive changes and service to Indian students and their families as we approach the 21st Century," said board chairperson Russell Hawkins.

*Corporate Name Change Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, ND Secretary of State, Aug. 26 1987; United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 21, 1987*

**1987-07:** Several members of the United Tribes staff served on an Indian Parent Advisory Committee to review Title IV services to Indian students in the Bismarck Public School system. Irene LaFontaine chaired the committee that also included Dave Archambault Sr., Warren "Red" Koch and Sue Kramer. As part of the review, a community survey was conducted with 200 Indian families, along with teachers and administrators in Bismarck schools.

*United Tribes News, June-July 1987, p.8*

**1987-09-10:** The 18th Annual United Tribes International Powwow took place September 10-13 at UTTC. Held in conjunction was the 34th Annual Miss Indian America Pageant. Featured in concert at the Bismarck Civic Center was country rock singer Eddie Rabbit.

*Ahead of the Herd, Fort Berthold Press, August 10, 1987, p.2*







Bismarck Tribune Photo

Eagle feathers for UTETC grads placed by counselor G. Russell Gillette Jr.

**1987-10-27:** Bismarck was the site of the 19th Annual National Indian Education Association convention. It was the first time the organization held its annual gathering on the Great Plains.

*Ahead of the Herd, Fort Berthold Press, November 30, 1984, p.1; United Tribes News, June-July 1987, p.12*

**1987:** UTTC began working with Crownpoint Institute of Technology in New Mexico (now Navajo Technical University) to develop federal legislation to support technical education under the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act. The partnership resulted in successful creation of a title in the law pertaining to both institutions.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Mar-Apr. 1991, p.1*

## 1988

**1988-02-21:** A basketball squad from United Tribes pulled off a remarkable victory in junior college regional play at Wahpeton, North Dakota. The Thunderbirds defeated NDSU Bottineau 84-81 with only three T-Bird players on the court at the end of regulation. Fouls eliminated two of the 'iron five' players at the tourney with first-year coach Ken Hall. "We literally had nothing to lose," said Hall, of dropping to four players with four minutes remaining and only three at the one-minute

mark. When it was over, "we didn't know how to act," said guard Barry Webster. "But that's still a good memory."

*Three-Man Weave, Chuck Closterman, grantland.com, June 8, 2011*

**1988-05-06:** North Dakota Congressman Byron Dorgan was guest speaker for UTTC's spring graduation. Forty-three students were honored, representing 14 Indian tribes. A strong supporter of the college, Dorgan helped secure its funding base. It was his first speech to UTTC graduates since being elected to Congress.

*United Tribes Office of Public Information News Release, May 4, 1988*

**1988-08:** Joan Estes left UTTC to become the Assistant Director of Elementary Education in the North Dakota Dept. of Public Instruction. Estes (Fort Berthold) had been principal of Theodore Jamerson Elementary School since 1975. She had supervised a staff of 18 instructors and paraprofessionals teaching kindergarten through grade eight. With a distinguished career as an educator and educational administrator, she took up the challenge of working with all schools in the state that served Indian students.

*United Tribes News, June 1989, p.17*

**1988-09-18:** When the North Dakota State Penitentiary put on its Prison Rodeo in 1988, it



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was a repeat performance in a series that had started 15 years earlier with the support of United Tribes. Prison inmates, many of whom were Native, yearned for what the *Star Tribune* of Minneapolis called, "Eight Seconds of Freedom." The story by George Monaghan, superbly illustrated with photographs by Rita Reed, took readers inside the pen for a look at the rough and tumble experience of those behind bars.

*Star Tribune, Sunday Magazine, Sept. 18, 1988, p.10+*

**1988-12-17:** The United Tribes commencement ceremony featured feathers and plumes. To honor their achievement, the 30 graduates received an eagle feather (for men) or an eagle plume (for women). Clad in traditional regalia, counselor G. Russell Gillette Jr. attached them to each graduates' mortar board when crossing the stage to receive diplomas. The feathers and plumes were provided by faculty member Leroi Laundreaux.

*Bismarck Tribune, Dec. 17, 1988, p.1A*

## 1989

**1989-02-24:** Arlene Benson (Fort Peck Sioux Tribe) celebrated her third year as UTTC's Chemical Health Center supervisor. But long before that, even before she was a counselor and social worker at UTTC, she was a student. Benson told *United Tribes News* it was terrifying when she arrived in 1975 as an "older than average student." She worried all the time that people were saying, "What's that old lady doing here?" After reassurance from the dean of education, her negative thinking disappeared. "Determination took hold of me," she said. That's when she accomplished her first goal, getting her GED (General Equivalency Diploma). From there, she never stopped learning. She graduated from UTTC's Human Services program, later earned degrees from Mary College in Social Work and Theology, and contributed successfully through her work. The mother of four children and 10 grandchildren advised UTTC students to "apply yourselves and be proud to be part of this school, where you can learn and even practice your culture."

*United Tribes News, May 1989, p.9*

**1989-04-24:** United Tribes board members, staff and students were part of large crowd that welcomed President George H.W. Bush to the State Capitol in Bismarck. More than 10,000 turned-out for the Presidential visit to mark the North Dakota Centennial. Students from

Theodore Jamerson Elementary School had a close-up view. TJES was one of three local schools chosen to be seated near the speaker's podium on the capitol front steps. Several TJES students shook hands with the President as he passed them on his way to plant a tree in honor of the state's living-legacy centennial project to plant 100-million trees by the year 2000.

*United Tribes News, May 1989, p.1*

**1989-05-05:** Singer/songwriter and North Dakota Centennial Troubadour Chuck Suchy provided musical entertainment during spring graduation. Ceremonies for college students and TJES students were held on the same day. Keynote speaker was Joan Estes of the North Dakota Dept. of Public Instruction, a former TJES principal.

*United Tribes News, May 1989, p.1*

**1989-06:** UTTC was among the four accredited Indian colleges in North Dakota to receive \$50-thousand awards from the U.S. West Foundation for program development. The grants were used to improve the transferability of Indian students from two-year tribal institutions to state institutions for baccalaureate programs. The others were Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, ND; Fort Berthold Community College, New Town, ND; and Standing Rock Community College, Fort Yates, ND.

*United Tribes News, June 1989, p.1*

**1989-06-21:** United Tribes held its fourth annual summer retreat in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Representatives of tribes in the region and other tribal college officials joined gatherings in a variety of locations, including Rapid City, Crazy Horse Memorial and Sylvan Lake Lodge. The retreat focused on American Indian higher education technical needs into the 21st Century.

*United Tribes News, June 1989, p.1*

**1989-07:** Juanita Helphrey (Fort Berthold) was elected chairperson of the Executive Council of the 1.7-million member United Church of Christ. She became the first American Indian to hold the position. She had been executive director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission since 1975. Prior to that, she was among the earliest employees of United Tribes, serving in the administration from 1968 to 1974.

*Bismarck Tribune, reprinted in United Tribes News, July 1989, p.9*





**1989-07:** “She combines the best of both the French ancestry and Chippewa Indian heritage,” said Eddie “King” Johnson of his featured performer in the group “Turtle Mountain Fiddlers and Dancers.” He meant Sandra A. Poitra, a Red River Jig dancer and supervisor of the United Tribes Child Daycare Nursery. The group presented Michif and Metis songs and dances at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC. The Red River Jig is “not just a bunch of steps,” Johnson and Poitra insisted. It’s a combination of clogging, the Irish Jig and Indian dancing. They also performed for the North Dakota and South Dakota Centennial celebrations.

*United Tribes News, July 1989, p.13*



Artist/Instructor John Beheler

United Tribes Technical College Archive

**1989-07:** A work by artist and educator John Beheler (Crow Creek) was selected as the poster design of the 20th Annual United Tribes International Powwow. Beheler was a teacher at Theodore Jamerson Elementary School, having earned degrees in art and elementary education at Bismarck State and University of Mary. His experience was put to good use helping coordinate the United Tribes Art Expo during the powwow. Beheler also coordinated the American Indian Curricula Development Program.

*United Tribes News, July 1989, p.14*

**1989-09-07:** UTTC held a 20th Anniversary Reunion for alumni and staff during the 1989 United Tribes International Powwow. Anyone who had graduated from or worked at the college was welcomed free of charge to all reunion and powwow activities.

*United Tribes News Release, Sept. 5, 1989*

**1989-10:** David Archambault Sr. was elected President of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. The former United Tribes Activities/Athletic Director was then president of Standing Rock Community

College, Fort Yates, ND. Archambault said his first priority was the 1990 reauthorization of the Tribal Controlled Community College Act. In 1991, Archambault Sr. became Executive Director of the American Indian College Fund, the non-profit fundraising entity supporting 26 tribal colleges in the U.S.

*Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 1989, Volume 1, No. 2, Fall 1989; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 1991, Volume 3, No. 2 - Fall 1991*

**1989-11-15:** *Tribal College Journal* previewed the theme of the next conference of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to be held April 8-11, 1990 in Bismarck. The ninth annual gathering would focus on sustaining traditions, using new technology and building leadership for the future. The conference was sponsored by the five North Dakota tribal colleges: Fort Berthold Community College, Little Hoop Community College, Standing Rock College, Turtle Mountain Community College and United Tribes Technical College.

*Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 1989, Volume 1, No. 3, Winter 1990*

## 1990

**1990-05-26:** United Tribes Technical College President David M. Gipp received an honorary doctorate degree from North Dakota State University. The degree was awarded during NDSU Spring Commencement on the NDSU campus in Fargo, ND. Gipp’s national leadership in Native American education was noted by the nominating board, along with his successful leadership of United Tribes Technical College since 1977.

*Tribal College Journal, May 15, 1990, Vol.2 No.1, Summer 1990*

**1990-09-06:** Just prior to the start of the annual United Tribes Powwow, a special naming ceremony was held for the gathering-place of the yearly event. The powwow dance arena at the center of campus was named “Lone Star Arena.” Lone Star was the Indian name of David M. Gipp. The event honored the UTTC president, recognized his career-long commitment to improving education for Native People and acknowledged his receipt of an honorary doctorate from North Dakota State University. Students, staff, friends and well-wishers attended. A traditional song was created and sung, using Gipp’s name in Lakota, Wica Kpe IsNala (Wee Cha Kpe Eesh Nala).



## 1991

**1991:** The Indian Nations at Risk Task Force, established by the U.S. Secretary of Education, released a report emphasizing the need to improve financial aid programs for Native American students to become teachers, and develop a national database on Native American education.

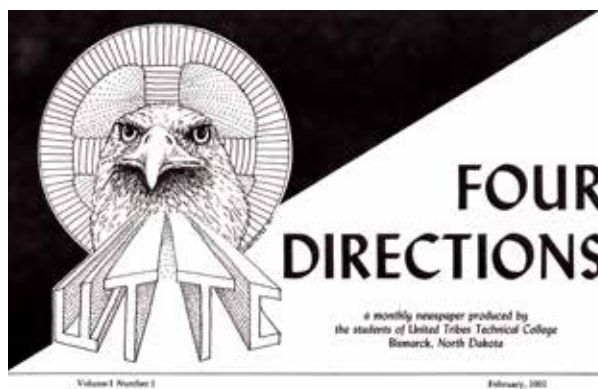
National Center for Education Statistics, Demographic and Historical Overview, Oct. 1998; Montana Office of Public Instruction, Feb. 2001

**1991-02-07:** UTTC's Native American Literature class visited the state prison to meet with the Native American Spiritual Committee of the North Dakota State Penitentiary. Students Lynesse Larabee, Tracy Wilkie, Greg Bad Hawk and Wendell White Eyes were accompanied by instructor Brian Palecek. Of interest during the visit was an offer from the penitentiary's spiritual adviser to help plan for a sweat lodge at UTTC.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Feb. 1991, p.4*

**1991-02-09:** On a warm, winter day, United Tribes held an honoring in Lone Star Arena for Native servicemen and women serving in Operation Desert Storm. Family members, veterans and friends gathered in the college's powwow dance arbor for prayers, honor songs and service awards. Marine Lance Cpl. Kenny Wells (Three Affiliated) attended and was honored with a flag song. Two men were memorialized for their ultimate sacrifice. Marine Lance Cpl. Steve Bentzlin (Sisseton-Wahpeton) was killed Jan. 29 in Saudi Arabia. Air Force Capt. Jeffrey Olson, Grand Forks, ND, died on a bombing raid and North Dakota Lieutenant Governor Lloyd Omdahl accepted an award to deliver to Olson's family. One-hundred-seventy-six flags were posted in the arena by name for each American Indian from UTTC's governing tribes then serving. *Four Directions News* subsequently published the listing under the heading "Indian Men and Women of Desert Storm." On May 4, a Victory Ceremony was conducted for the Desert Storm Veterans in the powwow dance arbor.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Feb. 1991, p.1&8; United Tribes Administration Office News Release, Apr. 30, 1991, UTTC Archive*



Masthead for Four Directions News

**1991-02:** A new newspaper at United Tribes Technical College was founded by students. *Four Directions News* began under the leadership of Alexander J. Lunderman Jr., editor, who was assisted by other students and college staff. The eight-page tabloid was distributed among students, staff and friends of the college. The lead story of the first issue reported on a ceremony at UTTC honoring American Indian service men and women serving in Operation Desert Storm.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Feb. 1991; Tribal College Journal, Feb. 15, 1991, Volume 2, No. 4, Spring 1991*

**1991-02:** With the start of Spring Quarter, a new learning experience was offered to students in UTTC general education classes. Instructors Bev Huber, Brian Palecek and Anne Kuyper began conducting a full-day workshop-like class modeled on the "core curriculum" program at the University of North Dakota. Lectures, movies, discussions and cooperative learning were supplemented by readings, guest speakers and written assignments in the six credit class. All of the readings, research presentations and projects related to the theme "Home and Beyond." Field trips were taken, including one to Double Ditch north of Bismarck, site of a Mandan Indian village 200 years ago. During Fall Quarter 1991, a team-taught core English class explored the voyages of Columbus and the way Native American culture changed the world.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Feb. 1991, p.3; Four Directions News, UTTC, May 1991, p.4; Four Directions News, UTTC, Sept-Oct. 1991, p.7*

**1991-03-01:** The Future Generations Club at the North Dakota State Penitentiary helped bankroll new basketball uniforms for the Theodore Jamerson Elementary 'Warriors.' The inmate organization was dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect on Indian





reservations; some having been victims. Also pitching-in with a fundraising raffle was UTTC's Security staff under Lt. Stan Cadotte.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, May 1991, p.3; Bismarck Tribune, Mar.1, 1991*

**1991-03-21:** A House-Senate conference committee in Congress addressed the urgent need for funding at United Tribes Technical College in North Dakota and Crownpoint Institute of Technology in New Mexico. The historic lack of funding had plagued the nation's two tribally-owned post-secondary technical institutions. Neither was eligible for funding under the Tribally Controlled Community College Act. Several years of planning and lobbying had resulted in the solution to add the two schools in August 1990 into the reauthorized Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act. With cash flow minimal, support was needed immediately. A bipartisan effort persuaded the conference committee to direct that funds be released without delay and made retroactive to keep the doors open at both institutions.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Mar-Apr. 1991, p.1*

**1991-04:** In April 1991, the North Dakota Indian Business Development Center reported working with 150 to 200 active clients and adding 10 to 15 new ones each month. Founded at UTTC in 1980, the center was considered a leading authority on developing minority businesses, particularly in the areas of construction and procurement. The staff was: Dennis Huber (Three Affiliated), director; Barbara Mason (Turtle Mountain) procurement specialist; and Pamela Schriock (Standing Rock) administrative assistant.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Mar-Apr. 1991, p.5*

**1991-04-21:** "Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future" was the theme of the 10th Annual AIHEC student conference in 1991. Thirteen UTTC students participated in activities and competitions. Business Clerical student Russell Swagger (St. Croix-Wisc.) was selected Mr. AIHEC and Don Mann (Three Affiliated), UTTC Student Senate president, was named one of 10 Students of the Year. Students from 27 tribally-controlled colleges attended.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Mar-Apr. 1991, p.11; Four Directions News, UTTC, May 1991, p.3*

**1991-04-25:** The Student Health Center conducted a day-long Health Fair in the UTTC Skill Center, with help from St. Alexius Hospital

and campus food services. Health screenings were performed on 114 students and staff member volunteers. Group data was later shared by gender and age in the student newspaper.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, May 1991, p.10*

**1991-05:** UTTC formed a "Beautification Committee" to enhance the look of campus through horticulture and tree planting. Co-chairs Al Eckroth and Anne Kuyper receive help from Sharon Snyder, John Thunder Hawk Sr. (both caring and sharing master gardeners), Glenna Mueller and David Gipp. The so-called "green" committee served informally for many years.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, May 1991, p.5*

**1991-05-18:** The former chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe received an honorary Associate of Arts Degree from Standing Rock College during a commencement ceremony. Melvin White Eagle sponsored progressive initiatives during his tenure as tribal leader, including support for establishing the community college. "I always dreamed of going on to college myself," said the 64-year-old White Eagle, who was then a student placement officer at United Tribes Technical College. White Eagle was in his 14th year commuting 110-miles roundtrip daily from his home near Cannon Ball to Bismarck to work with students at the technical college.

*Four Directions News, May 1991, p.8*

**1991-05-20:** North Dakota's tribal college presidents continued discussing an idea to develop a four-year inter-tribal college. The concept emerged in July 1990 to provide greater access for tribal students to earn a four-year degree. Participants in the May 20 meeting were: Phyllis Howard, Fort Berthold Community College; Carol Davis, Turtle Mountain Community College; Dave Archambault Sr., Standing Rock Community College; Dave Gipp, United Tribes Technical College; and Gwen Hill, Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College. The presidents discussed possible models for such a college and methods for greater cooperation among tribal colleges and non-Indian universities and schools. These planning discussions eventually led to formation of the North Dakota Association of Tribal Colleges in August 1994.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, May 1991, p.1; Four Directions, UTTC, Special Edition Aug. 1994, p.10; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 1994, Vol.6, No.2, Fall 1994*



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News



**1991-05:** A new student housing facility was on the drawing board for the campus. UTTC engaged Bismarck's Don Jiran Architects to design a facility for single parents with children to address the shortage of family housing. A concept was presented to the Economic Development Administration and groundbreaking took place Sept. 6. The new 16 unit family residence hall was funded at \$560-thousand under the EDA's Public Works Impact program and later came to be known as UTTC's Solo Dormitory.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, May 1991, p.1; Four Directions News, UTTC, Sept-Oct. 1991, p.1*

**1991-05-31:** The 1991 spring "All Nations Powwow" at United Tribes featured the very first "Miss Indian Nations" pageant. Miss Indian Nations succeeded the former Miss Indian America pageant that had started at UTETC in 1985.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Mar-Apr. 1991, p.4;*

**1991-06-03:** United Tribes held summer school from June 3 through July 12, offering classes in Auto Body, Business Clerical and Criminal Justice. Course outlines were published in *Four Directions News*.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, May 1991, p.7*

**1991-07-01:** A new principal took over at Theodore Jamerson Elementary School on the

UTTC campus. F. Sam Azure, 42, from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in Belcourt, ND, was welcomed aboard, filling an important position that had been vacant for six months. Azure had earned teaching degrees at the University of North Dakota and the University of South Dakota. His education experience included classroom teaching, federal programs management and elementary school administration. His tenure as TJES Principal lasted more than 26 years.

*Four Directions News, 1991*

**1991-09-05:** At the request of participants, the 22nd Annual United Tribes International Powwow went indoors for the first time at the Bismarck Civic Center. It created convenient contact with other related events, like the 3rd Annual Indian Art Expo and Market in the nearby exhibit hall. A reported 1,000 dancers took part and 20 drums. The move to an indoor event was reviewed and not repeated.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Sept-Oct.1991, p.1&10; United Tribes News Release, Aug. 23, 1991*

**1991-10-01:** The National Leonard Peltier Defense Committee held a rally at United Tribes on the evening prior to a hearing in Federal Court in Bismarck about denial of due process in Peltier's case. An audience of 175 in the James Henry Gymnasium heard from author Peter Matthiesen (In the Spirit of Crazy Horse). Singer Robbie Romero and the Red Thunder Band rocked the gymnasium.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Sept-Oct.1991, p.4; United Tribes News Release, Sept. 24, 1991*

**1991-11-15:** *Tribal College Journal* reported that UTTC President David M. Gipp was elected president of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium for 1992. He had previously served as president of the board in 1979 and 1980. He said his leadership would focus on student opportunities and on higher education policy development for tribes and tribal colleges.

*Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 1991, Volume 3, No. 3, Winter 1992*

## 1992

**1992-01:** With the start of Winter Quarter, a cohort of UTTC students was enrolled in a new program in Early Childhood Education. It was supported by a grant from the North Dakota State Board for Vocational Education. Offered were one-year certificate and two-







year associate degree tracks. In addition to coursework, hands-on learning involved service in the college's nursery and Child Development Center. The program was coordinated by Shari Olson.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Sept-Oct.1991, p.5*

**1992-02:** Val Finley Jr. became UTTC Registrar in early 1992. He was familiar with the campus and the campus community. Finley graduated from United Tribes and was a standout athlete for the Thunderbirds. A member of Three Affiliated Tribes, he earned a degree in Human Resource Administration Management at Valley City State University. "I started my education here," was his advice to students. "This is where your education starts. All it takes is hard work and determination."

*Four Directions News, UTTC, Sept-Oct.1991, p.6*

**1992-02:** Dr. Jack Barden, UTTC Research and Development director, led a planning committee on a program for faculty development. Supported by a Bush Foundation grant, the effort focused on general education, state-of-the-art work in the vocations, work skills across the curriculum and the connection between elementary and postsecondary components of the institution.

*Four Directions, UTTC, Feb-Mar. 1992, p.4*

**1992-03-03:** UTTC Student Senate President Donald Mann testified along with Board Chairman Russell Hawkins (Sisseton-Wahpeton) and President David M. Gipp at a hearing of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations. They urged lawmakers to restore funding for UTTC that had been cut by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The trio was part of a 28 member national delegation in Washington, DC pressing for more equitable support of tribal colleges. At an average of \$2,774 per student, education funding from the BIA was below the \$3,200 average authorized by Congress and much lower than the \$5,800 average for non-Indian colleges and universities.

*Four Directions, UTTC, Feb-Mar. 1992, p.1; Four Directions, UTTC, Mar. Special Edition, 1992, p.1*

**1992-03-21:** The United Tribes Lady Thunderbirds won the National AIHEC Basketball Championship in Billings, MT. They clinched the title with an exciting 77/76 victory over Little Big Horn College. Coached by Arland Hodgekiss, team members were Nanette Waupekenay, Rhonda Yankton, Shannon Hodgekiss, Jody

Last Star, Janice Big Horn Lynette Larabee and Laurie Mallow. Mallow was named to the All-Tournament Team.

*Four Directions, UTTC, Feb-Mar. 1992, p.9*

**1992-03-29:** Russell Swagger, 22, a UTTC Criminal Justice student, received the "Outstanding American Indian Student" award from the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and American Indian College Fund. The honor was presented during the 11th Annual AIHEC Conference in Billings, MT. Swagger was active in student government and a founder and co-editor of UTTC's *Four Directions News*. He was from the St. Croix Chippewa Tribe in Wisconsin. Later he became a UTTC employee and eventually served as the college's Vice President of Student and Campus Services.

*United Tribes News Release, Mar. 31, 1992*

**1992-04:** At a national conference in Santa Fe, NM, UTTC President David M. Gipp was honored by Coretta Scott King for his work in establishing the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in North Dakota. The wife of the slain civil rights leader presented Gipp with a crystal pyramid, inscribed for the "Living the Dream, Let Freedom Ring" award. Gipp chaired the committee that successfully lobbied for the holiday, which was adopted by the 1991 State Legislature.

*Bismarck Tribune, photo/photo caption item, April 1992*



Jack Barden

**1992-11-15:** Jack Barden of United Tribes Technical College and Paul Boyer, editor of *Tribal College Journal*, teamed-up on an essay about scholarship at tribal colleges under the title: "Ways of Knowing: Extending the Boundaries of Scholarship." In it, they made a case for tribal college contributions



to expanding the vision of research and new paths to understanding. They pointed out that research, as practiced in American universities, was largely a German invention, imported to the U.S. where “the scientific method” became the sole technique of scholarly investigation. American Indian scholars could be counted among those “who believe the western research model does not allow all of the right questions to be asked, the right methods to be used and the right conclusions to be drawn.” As new types of scholarly exploration are emerging, tribal colleges could also, if they chose, become leaders in a national movement to reexamine the very foundations of scholarship, they wrote.

*Tribal College Journal*, Nov. 15, 1992, Volume 4, No. 3, Winter 1993

## 1993

**1993:** At a time when more people were adopting the use of computers for home and office work, the publication *Aging* reported that United Tribes was conducting targeted computer training. The subject was computer management systems and grant writing for staff people who administer nutrition and social service programs. The training was under Title VI of the Older Americans Act. It was offered to tribes on 19 reservations in the region. The report said this was the first time this type of training was offered through an Indian-owned college and targeted specifically to Title VI grantees.

*Aging*, 1993, Issue 365, p.50

**1993-02-15:** *Tribal College Journal* carried an uplifting article about two older-than-average students at UTTC who typify students in the tribal college setting. Arlene Fogg (Crow Creek) and Steve Waupekenay (Menominee) had children of their own to consider when choosing where they would go to school. Both had been supporting themselves and their families before they decided to seek higher education. For them, family came first. That priority brought each of them and their families to United Tribes Technical College where they found day care, student family housing and an elementary school on campus. Writer Marjane Ambler wrote that “students such as these drive most educational statisticians crazy. Since they do not step immediately out of high school and into college, they show up on the statistics as

dropouts from the education pipeline.”

*Tribal College Journal*, Feb. 15, 1993, Volume 4, No. 4, Spring 1993

**1993-08-04:** United Tribes Technical College received authority from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to add three new associate degree programs: Art/Art Marketing, Automotive Technology and Early Childhood Education. Following a site visit in March, the college was commended for developing an innovative interdisciplinary general education program. As an example, a course in introductory psychology was tied together with a class in freshman composition, so students studying the basics of psychology can apply the knowledge with writing skills.

*Tribal College Journal*, Aug. 15, 1993, Volume 5, No. 2, Fall 1993

**1993-11-15:** Jack Barden of United Tribes Technical College authored a book review of, what he called, a significant work about tribal colleges. He described the content and importance of “Tribally Controlled Colleges: Making Good Medicine,” 1992, by Wayne J. Stein, a former tribal college president. Through interviews with tribal college leaders and document sources, Stein chronicled the development and first ten years of the movement and the formation and development of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Barden pointed out how Stein showed the similarities of the early colleges, the difficulty of founding and developing colleges that are rooted in tribal cultures, and the problems achieving legitimacy. He called it “the first coherent effort to pull a wide variety of sources together in one documentary history of this important social movement.” Further, Barden said Stein had provided a “scholarly basis for studying the impact of prevailing ideas about education and learning on tribal people.”

*Tribal College Journal*, Nov. 15, 1993, Volume 5, No. 3, Winter 1994

## 1994

**1994-02-15:** Using the title “For Good Measure,” Jack Barden of United Tribes Technical College tackled the topic of assessment in the tribal college setting. In an essay in *Tribal College Journal*, Barden cautioned that assessment was a mixed blessing, offering opportunity and risks,





“especially for institutions that exist outside the mainstream of American higher education.” He pointed out that the impact on culture could be particularly serious. People with a cultural inclination are less likely to break things down into parts, preferring to think of things as whole. “The very act of assessing in the Euro-centric mode represents a violation, in some sense, of the tribal colleges’ efforts to honor cultural ways of thinking,” he wrote. The path for tribal college assessment could involve multiple measures, connect to the mission of tribal colleges, have an appropriate conceptual framework, and allow for differences. Barden concluded, “What is clear is that they need to be both practical to tribal colleges as they are used for institutional improvement and acceptable to the larger academic community.”

*Tribal College Journal, Feb. 15, 1994, Volume 5, No. 4, Spring 1994*

**1994-03-27:** Canadian singer and artist Buffy St. Marie was the featured presenter of the Annual American Indian Higher Education Consortium’s gathering in Bismarck. North Dakota’s tribal colleges hosted the five-day event, which also included a banquet performance by the North Dakota Native American Dance Theater.

*United Tribes Press Release, Mar. 20, 1994*

**1994-05:** UTTC’s former public information director, Harriett Skye, was honored by New York University. NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts Center for Media, Culture and History praised her receipt of the United Nation’s Environmental Program Scholarship for her film work. Singled out was her autobiographical film “The Right to Be.” The film was screened at Robert Redford’s Sundance Film Festival and at other noted film events.

*Indian Affairs, Spring 1994, p.6*

**1994-06-15:** Ada Deer, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, visited United Tribes. It was her first visit to North Dakota. She met with tribal college leaders, who described their needs in serving tribal students and communities. Deer was joined by North Dakota U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan for a hearing about child abuse and the Indian Child Welfare Act. In August, Deer returned to North Dakota. She met with tribal college leaders and took a whirlwind tour of four North Dakota reservations in the company of Rep. Earl Pomeroy.

*Four Directions, UTTC, Special Edition, August 1994, p.10; Four Directions, UTTC, Sept. 1994, p.12*

**1994-07-31:** A United Tribes employee, who began work when the employment training center first opened, retired after 25 years on the job. Ruth Snider, RN, devoted her professional life to the health and welfare of Indian People. In 1969, she was recruited from public health work at Standing Rock by Theodore “Tiny Bud” Jamerson. She worked in and directed the Student Health Center and was an LPN instructor. “I remember those first years and how there was little or no student housing,” she recalled. “Thousands of students and their families have come here since, making tremendous positive changes in their lives.”

*Four Directions, UTTC, Special Edition, August 1994, p.1&5; Ruth Snider interviewed by Harriett Skye, May 24, 2004, UTTC Archive*

**1994-08:** In early August, North Dakota’s five tribal colleges received funding to form a statewide organization called the North Dakota Association of Tribal Colleges. The purpose was to work together for greater effectiveness in serving students. The objectives were to assure the transferability of coursework, coordinate proposals to state schools and develop a common data base. A long-term goal was to establish a tribally-controlled, four-year college for Indian students. The five colleges were: Fort Berthold Community College, New Town; Little Hoop Community College, Fort Totten; Standing Rock College, Fort Yates; Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt; and United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck. In 1995, Phil Baird (Rosebud Lakota) became the NDATC executive director. Baird had served in Indian higher education at Sinte Gleska University and UTTC. He was a founder and advisor for AIHEC’s Student Congress.

*Four Directions News, UTTC, May 1991, p.1; Four Directions, UTTC, Special Edition Aug. 1994, p.10; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 1994, Vol.6, No.2, Fall 1994; Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 1995, Volume 7, No. 3 - Winter 1996*

**1994-08-15:** United Tribes adopted the theme “Where the Spirit Lives” for the college’s silver anniversary year. A faculty planning committee suggested having a theme for academic, cultural and public events in 1994-95 during the 25th anniversary year. “It’s the spirit that has kept the college growing and thriving for 25 years,” said instructor Bev Huber. The theme dovetailed with a program started in 1992 titled: “Student Progress In Reaching Indian





Traditions" (SPIRIT). The program was designed to help build on Indian traditions and heritages. At the outset of Fall Term, the adult student enrollment was nearly 300. Another 180 children accompanied their student parents and enrolled at on campus daycare centers and the elementary school.

*Four Directions, UTTC, Special Edition, August 1994, p.1;*  
*Four Directions, UTTC, Sept. 1994, p.1*

**1994-09-08:** The Silver Anniversary United Tribes International Powwow appeared to be the largest event of its kind up to that time. Four Directions reported that 20,000 spectators attended over the four days Sept. 8-11. Upwards of 2,500 participated in the dancing, along with 30 singing groups. The publication "Inside Tourism" listed the powwow as one of the "Top 100 events in North America." Triple A selected it as an "Official Home and Away Travel Treasure." A 25th Anniversary United Tribes Powwow CD was produced by Makoche' Recording Co. The slate of activities included the 6th Annual Indian Art Expo and Market, the 4th Annual Miss Indian Nations Pageant, the "Parade of Champions" through downtown Bismarck, Youth Day at the Powwow attended by over 2,000 school children, the 25th Annual UTTC Softball Tournament, the 7th Annual UTTC Golf Classic, and a 10K run/walk.

*Four Directions, UTTC, Sept. 1994, p.1*

**1994-09-08:** UTTC built a new Cultural Arts Center building that was dedicated during

the 25th Annual United Tribes International Powwow and Art Expo. The wood-frame Bldg. #6 on the north side of campus initially housed the college's art collection. Space was available for art classes, lectures and other training and technical assistance, such as art marketing and the preservation of traditional Native art forms.

*Four Directions, UTTC, Special Edition, August 1994, p.5*

**1994-10-29:** President Bill Clinton signed into law the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, conferring Land Grant status on United Tribes and 28 other Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). The law granted TCUs access to resources and benefits previously reserved for state institutions and historically Black Colleges and Universities. TCUs became known as "1994 Institutions," referring to the year they received Land Grant status. Those established in 1862 and 1890 received land. TCUs received an endowment fund, equity grants, extension program grants and tribal college research grants to help improve the lives of tribal students, while respecting sovereignty and promoting self-sufficiency in American Indian communities. Phil Baird became the first director of UTTC's land grant programs.

*Tribal Colleges: Acknowledging the Past, Understanding the Present, and Aspiring to a Successful Future, Oct. 25, 2017, USDA website; Food Sovereignty, Celebrating 20 Years, 1994-2014, United Tribes Technical College Land Grant Programs Report*



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

United Tribes Medicine Wheel



## 1995

**1995-03-02:** Artwork by LeRoi Laundreaux was selected for the poster of the 1995 United Tribes Art Expo. His piece, "Northern Style Split-Horn Bonnet," was unveiled at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Laundreaux (Cheyenne River) was featured artist at the expo.

*Four Directions, UTTC, May, 1995, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 8, 1995, p.2C*

**1995-03:** Karlita Knight (Ute Mountain Tribe) was named UTTC Student of the Year at the AIHEC conference. An honor student in Office Technology, Knight was recognized in the 1995 Edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges and selected for a summer internship at the North Dakota State Historical Society.

*Four Directions, UTTC, May 1995, p.1; United Tribes Press Release, Apr. 27, 1994*

**1995-04-20:** The United Tribes Licensed Practical Nursing program flourished under the leadership of Dr. (Sr.) Katheryn Zimmer. The two-year degree program was evaluated by the National League for Nursing and approved for accreditation through the year 2000. An excellent review also came from the North Dakota State Nursing Board following a site visit.

*Four Directions, UTTC, May 1995, p.8; Tribal College Journal, May 15, 1995, Volume 7, No. 1, Summer 1995*

**1995-04-22:** North Dakota Governor Ed Schafer attended a UTTC Board meeting, seeking to open up dialogue and communications with tribal leaders. Discussions centered on tribal-state relations and tribal gaming.

*Four Directions, UTTC, May 1995, p.8*

**1995-08-15:** Misconceptions about the benefits of tribal gaming stirred-up calls in Congress to trim tribal budgets. Sen. Slade Gorton (R-Wash.) suggested reducing or eliminating federal funding for tribes that have successful gaming ventures. "Casino money was intended to compliment federal support, not replace it," editorialized the *Bismarck Tribune*. David M. Gipp and North Dakota tribal leaders pushed-back on slashing the BIA. "This would set Indian Country back to the '50s," Gipp said in discussions with the Clinton administration. If funds weren't restored, the group recommended that the President veto the Interior Dept. appropriation.

*Bismarck Tribune, July 18, 1995, p.6D; Bismarck Tribune, July 30, 1995; Minot Daily News, Aug. 17, 1995, p.1*

**1995-09:** Following the 1995 powwow and art expo, the UTTC administration and Cultural Advisory Board voted to move the expo to the spring time of year. Survey results indicated that artists and spectators preferred another date, away from the powwow, "so we can focus just on the expo," said coordinator Sandra Poitra.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 19, 1995*

**1995-11-14:** UTTC President David M. Gipp was named 1995 Educator of the Year by the National Indian Education Association. He was lauded for his contributions to improving Indian education. The honor was conferred at the 26th Annual NIEA Conference in Tucson, AZ.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Nov. 27, 1995, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 24, 1996, p.1C; Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 1995, Volume 7, No. 3 - Winter 1996*

**1995-11-22:** Federal agents came to United Tribes looking for recruits. Representatives of the CIA sought Native Americans for internships and co-op positions with the intelligence agency. The pitch featured a video in the Skill Center commons. For anyone with serious interest, a private visit was held in another location.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Nov. 20, 1995, p.1*

**1995-12:** The North Dakota Interactive Video Network (ND-IVN) arrived at United Tribes. A classroom in the Skill Center was equipped with cameras, monitors, microphones and other telecommunications equipment. Up to 18 participants could receive instruction in courses and classes originating from 28 classrooms of 11 North Dakota University System campuses, five tribal colleges, and other state institutions.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Dec. 4, 1995, p.4*

**1995-12-14:** UTTC's Health Information Technology (HIT) program received a site visit from two professionals representing the American Medical Association and the American Health Information Management Association. Formerly known as Medical Records, HIT underwent the comprehensive evaluation that led to accreditation. James Steen directed the program.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Dec. 18, 1995, p.3*

## 1996

**1996-03-22:** German School children looked downright disappointed when they met two American Indians from North Dakota in Bonn, Germany. Sandra Poitra, United Tribes







United Tribes Technical College Archive

1997-98 "Thunderbirds"

Cultural Director and Tex G. Hall, Mandaree, ND, School Superintendent, took part in a trade show in the metropolitan city along the Rhine River. But neither was wearing war paint or traditional regalia that would have matched the romantic image of Indians held by Europeans. The two helped market Indian art and connect German and Native American school children via the internet. They were delighted when we invited them to the United Tribes Powwow, said Poitra, who was amazed at the amount interest Europeans had in Native American culture.

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 31, 1996*

**1996-03-24:** David M. Gipp was named the 1996 "Martin Luther King Educator of the Year" by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and 1995 "Educator of the Year" by the National Indian Education Association. In a feature story in the *Bismarck Tribune*, Gipp was recognized for his visionary leadership of United Tribes Technical College. The *Tribune* said it was the UTTC president's destiny to serve the college and American Indian higher education. Gipp recalled a time early in the training center's history when the board took full control of the school's operations and training programs, saving the college from

the fate that ended two other Indian training school initiatives. "I think the reason we survived is because the tribes were the owners of the college," he explained. "The tribes said 'we can provide this. We can hire and fire and we can do it better.' It was the whole issue of empowerment." Reflecting on the college's success, Gipp said "Our primary targets are American Indians. Our students aren't seen as part of the mainstream. It takes a lot of work. I don't know that there's any magic formula. Just a lot of hard work."

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 24, 1996, p.1C*

**1996-05-11:** Seventy Native American visual artists from around the country displayed their works at the 1996 United Tribes Indian Arts Expo. The two-day event at the Bismarck Civic Center was held for the first time in the spring. Artist Robb Barr said it would attract more buyers since it was earlier in the year. Artists had wanted to separate the event from the United Tribes Powwow, held in the fall.

*Bismarck Tribune, May 11, 1996, p.1*

**1996-10-21:** President Bill Clinton issued a White House Executive Order directing all agencies of the federal government to create partnerships and strengthen relationships with the nation's 29 tribal colleges and universities.





The order culminated 20 years of effort by tribal college leaders at building relationships with departments of the executive branch. While the order contained no new funding, it provided an entry point for access not available in the past and filled tribal college leaders with hope.

*Tribal College Journal, Feb. 15, 1993, Volume 4, No. 4, Spring 1993; Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 1996, Vol.8 No.3, Winter 1997*

## 1997

**1997-09-03:** North Dakota Governor Ed Schafer said tribal leaders are not alone in their opposition to government tampering with tribal sovereign immunity. Speaking at the first United Tribes Intertribal Council Summit meeting, Schafer sided with tribal leaders against a proposal from the Department of Interior. Legislation under consideration would have reduced the federal budgets of tribes that refused to give up sovereign immunity and shift law enforcement responsibilities to the BIA and U.S. Justice Dept. Schafer urged consultation with tribal leaders when considering major changes to intergovernmental relations. The United Tribes Tribal Leader's Summit became an annual event held in conjunction with the powwow. It served to bring tribal leaders from the region together with local, state and federal officials to address common concerns on a wide range of topics, including health care, transportation, housing, legislation, taxation, welfare reform, education, gaming, trust reform, tribal courts, water rights and more.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 4, 1997*

**1997-09-04:** Ada Deer, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs, visited with students at Theodore Jamerson Elementary School during a tour of the United Tribes campus. A member of the Menominee Tribe, Deer was the first female to be Assistant Secretary of Interior. While in Bismarck, Deer also attended the United Tribes Summit.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 5, 1997*

**1997-09-14:** U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley signaled a commitment to the nation's 30 tribal colleges and universities. He met at United Tribes with North Dakota's tribal college presidents. Dr. Carty Monette, Turtle Mountain Community College president, represented the American Indian Higher Education Consortium as the organization's elected president. The

Secretary heard from the group on three areas of concern: the White House Executive Order on Tribal Colleges; the Higher Education Act; and the Vocational Education Act. Riley said the White House Order was essential in bringing "parity in treatment" to the TCUs and the 25,000 tribal college students they served nationwide.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Sept. 22, 1997, p.3*

**1997-09:** A \$650-thousand grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation launched the Northern Plains Bison Education Program coordinated by United Tribes. UTTC began networking with tribes and other tribal colleges on research and education for developing and managing bison herds on tribal homelands. The coordinator was Phil Baird (Sicangu Lakota), associate director of UTTC's newly established office of Tribal Land Grant Programs. This is very important, he said, having colleges use education resources to reconnect Native People with their relatives of the Buffalo Nation. Nine other tribal colleges joined the project.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Sept. 22, 1997, p.1; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 1997, Volume 9, No. 2 - Fall 1997*

## 1998

**1998-01-20:** Newly appointed Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Gover and a Dept. of Interior delegation visited United Tribes. In what was described as his first official visit to Indian Country in his new role, Gover met with students, North Dakota tribal leaders and toured the campus. Gover was from the Oklahoma Pawnee Tribe. On hand for the meeting was North Dakota U.S. Senator Kent Conrad.

*United Tribes Press Release, Jan. 19, 1998*

**1998-05-15:** The North Dakota Association of Tribal Colleges received a W.K. Kellogg grant to pursue distance education. A first phase concerned sharing of course work through a fiber optic video network and the Internet. Later, the association developed core courses and made agreements with other colleges and universities for four-year programs. The project also focused on distance education methods.

*Tribal College Journal, May 15, 1998, Volume 9, No. 4, Spring/Summer 1998; Tribal College Journal, Feb. 15, 1999, Volume 10, No. 3, Spring 1999*

**1998-05:** United Tribes Technical College started the "Sacred Child Project," a five-year



effort to implement strategic mental health planning for Native American children in North Dakota. It was designed to keep youngsters with their families and communities, when possible, instead of having them shipped-off to youth correction centers, the North Dakota State Hospital or foster care. Native children comprised only seven-percent of children in the state but they represented over 33-percent of those in foster care, the state hospital and correction centers. “We want to repatriate our children,” said Susan Paulson, project director. The program was based on the philosophy that every child was sacred. It relied on Native American relationships, such as clanship and other familial systems, to support families. Support teams never include more than 50 percent professionals. Funding came from the Center for Mental Health Services in the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Sacred Child was one of only three Native programs funded for that purpose in the nation.

*Tribal College Journal, May 15, 1998, Volume 9, No. 4, Spring/Summer 1998*

**1998-11:** The UTTC Automotive Technology program, instructed by Todd Reidman and Ben Ramsey, received National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Nov. 30, 1998*

## 1999

**1999-01-18:** One of the subjects UTTC students were curious about was the impeachment proceeding against President Bill Clinton. One-hundred humanities and speech students had the opportunity to ask North Dakota U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan for his take on the matter and other issues. Dorgan said he was one of those who is listening to the facts and considering the will of the people. About his visit to UTTC, he praised the dialogue with students, saying more participation in electoral politics would bring better representation for American Indians.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Jan. 22, 1999, p.1*

**1999-02-08:** A key figure in coordinating efforts to gain federal support for UTTC and tribal colleges was honored in Washington, DC. The prestigious “AIHEC 99 Award” was presented

to Sarah Garland, a consultant to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. The North Dakota native was Senator Kent Conrad’s former chief of staff and a staffer for the late Senator Quentin Burdick. She specialized in resource development and was instrumental in helping tribal colleges access federal resources and receive funding.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Feb. 16, 1997, p.3*

**1999-02-28:** For the second year in a row, the Thunderbirds men earned a trip to the NJCAA basketball finals. The T-Birds claimed the Division II Region 13 Championship with at 128-100 victory over cross-town rival Bismarck State. The game was played in two locations. It started at UTTC but was moved to BSC in the second half when the court became too slippery for play. Alan Spoonhunter was tournament MVP. Coach Kevin Finley was honored with the Region 13 “Coach of the Year” award.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Feb. 16, 1999, p.1, reprinted from Bismarck Tribune; United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Mar. 1, 1999, p.1*

**1999-03:** Four leaders were honored for their work in developing the Northern Plains Tribal Transportation Assistance Program (TTAP) headquartered at United Tribes. Ted Danks (Three Affiliated), Gibb Red Dog (Cheyenne River) Rick Albers and Pete Red Tomahawk (Standing Rock) received United Tribes Outstanding Leadership Awards. The program served tribes in both Dakotas and Montana.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Mar. 8, 1999, p.1,*

**1999-05-12:** Three Affiliated Chairman Tex G. Hall had some words of wisdom that made a strong impression on President Bill Clinton. Tribal leaders from the Aberdeen and Billings BIA Areas met with the President at the White House. Clinton later related that one of the leaders [Hall] stood up in a very dignified way and said, “Mr. President, we have something to say about our involvement in Kosovo. We know something about ethnic cleansing. We were removed from our land and some of the people who did it, said it was God’s will, which we hear in the Balkans. We have signed a proclamation to tell you that First Americans support America’s policy to stand up against ethnic cleansing and the murder of people because of their religious and ethnic background.” Hall also led the presentations about issues of concern to tribes on the northern Great Plains. A





summary was contained in a booklet published at UTTC's Arrow Graphics print shop.

*A WHITE HOUSE MEETING..., May 12, 1999; Northern Plains Tribal News, SPECIAL ISSUE, June 1999, p.2*

**1999-07-12:** United Tribes hosted a Summer Teacher Institute focusing on "effective teaching of American Indian children." The one-week session covered traditional and contemporary subjects, technology and teaching strategies. Participants earned the ND Teacher Certification for Indian Studies. Involved were the ND Dept. of Public Instruction and UTTC's Fine Arts Project, coordinated by Carole Anne Heart of UTTC's Comprehensive Regional Assistance Center. *Northern Plains Tribal News, June 1999, p.12; Northern Plains Tribal News, July 1999, p.2*

**1999-07-20:** Carrie Billy, executive director of the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities, convened in Washington, DC, the first meeting of the group charged with strategic planning to support the mission of TCUs. Six tribal college presidents and other private sector individuals were on the panel created by a presidential executive order. UTTC's David M. Gipp served as a special adviser to WHITCU.

*Northern Plains Tribal News, July 1999, p.9*

**1999-07-26:** The North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission issued a report describing the commission's 50-years as an agency of state government. The 58-page document described the legislation, annual reports, milestones and incremental steps involved in making progress on tribal/state relations over the course of a half-century. Since its inception in 1949, eight governors had chaired the commission; the current one was Edward T. Schafer. Then serving as executive director, Cynthia Lindquist-Mala was the eighth head of the agency since the job became a full-time state position in 1967. The report was researched and written by commission staffers Chadwick Kramer and Cheryl Long Feather.

*North Dakota Indian Affairs, 1949-1999, 50 Years of Tribal/State Relations, Anniversary Report, July 26, 1999, NDIAC*

**1999-09-14:** United Tribes announced that funding was on its way specifically to strengthen institutional operations and services to students. UTTC had received approval for Title III funding for a five-year development grant. The first year award was \$395-thousand from the Tribally Controlled Colleges and

Universities Program. A Title III planning committee was formed and Phil Baird became Title III project coordinator and director of the UTTC Development office. Baird had formerly directed the Indian Technical Assistance Center and the ND Association of Tribal Colleges. A survey was distributed, asking students and staff to contribute to the comprehensive planning with ideas and priorities for a new student life center.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Sept. 14, 1999, p.1;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 25, 1999, p.1;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 6, 1999, p.1*

**1999-09-30:** Nearly 66 percent of drivers on the UTTC campus followed state law and buckled their seatbelts. That was the overall finding of a seat belt survey conducted by students in the United Tribes Injury Prevention Program. Male drivers were only slightly more inclined to click it, 67 percent, versus 65 percent for female drivers. Injury Prevention had been established in 1998, under the direction of Dennis R. Renville of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe. His career included teaching and coaching, managing and administering government programs, and directing the national Injury Prevention coalition. Two I-P instructors in 1999 were David Penrose and Linda Beckler.

*United Tribes Weekly Newsletter, Feb. 8, 1999, p.5;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 18, 1999, p.1;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 29, 1999, p.1*

**1999-10-21:** UTTC President David M. Gipp was elected president of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) to lead the nation's 31 tribal colleges and universities into the 21st Century. He had earlier served as vice president and was the organization's first permanent executive director from 1973 to 1979.

*United Tribes Press Release, Nov.2, 1999*

**1999-10-28:** A Halloween dance at the James Henry Community Gymnasium was attended by masked figures dressed as spooks and ghouls, making it a Masquerade Powwow. Campus and community attended with identities revealed only at the end, for prizes and awards.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 18, 1999, p.10*

**1999-12-03:** The board of "Indians Into Medicine" (INMED) pushed for a new sports mascot and logo at the University of North Dakota. Under the chairmanship of UTTC President David M. Gipp, the board urged that the "Fighting Sioux" nickname and logo be discontinued in favor of a new symbol more



befitting of the 21st Century. In a letter to UND President Charles Kupchella and the UND Alumni Association, Gipp offered INMED's help to identify a logo because the current one was "not appropriate for an institution of higher education."

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 13, 1999, p.1*

## 2000

**2000-01-19:** The newly organized Lakota-English Language Acquisition Program hosted its first parent meeting. The program aimed to improve Lakota-English literacy skills of youngsters in UTTC's Early Childhood Program. Everett Chasing Hawk (Standing Rock) was coordinator; Leah Woodke project director; Doris Red Bird, support teacher; along with a group of team teachers. A parent advisory board was organized.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Jan. 10, 2000, p.1;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Jan. 24, 2000, p.7*

**2000-04-13:** United Tribes was crawling with higher education officials when the visits of two notable education figures coincided. The paths of Patricia McNeil and Charles Kupchella crossed at UTTC when both were making first visits to the campus. McNeil was Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education; she was accompanied by staff members of the U.S. Dept. of Education. Kupchella, the new University of North Dakota president, was on a tour of the state's tribal college campuses. The visitors explored the facilities, met students and staff, posed for photos and were welcomed with a meal.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Apr. 26, 2000, p.1*

**2000-04-15:** Students in the UTTC's Art/Art Marketing Program displayed and sold their artwork at the second annual United Tribes Art and Craft Fair. Coordinated by Wayne Pruse, Art/Art Marketing Program director, the event was held in the campus small gym and featured traditional and contemporary works by students.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Apr. 3, 2000, p.7*

**2000-04-17:** During a visit to Diné College, President Bill Clinton announced new initiatives to bring digital opportunity to American Indian reservations by way of the 32 tribal colleges and universities in the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). Millions of dollars in grants, hardware, software and technical assistance were in the offing through

private and public sector partnerships. One of the most important was the tribal college virtual library involving AIHEC, IBM, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the University of Michigan. Project designers formed a plan to expand the virtual library while maintaining high quality, low cost services. The plan emphasized sustainability for modestly funded tribal college libraries. The project was coordinated by Jack Barden, Ph.D., who had been involved with tribal colleges for 29 years.

*Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 2000, Volume 12, No. 1, Fall 2000; Tribal College Journal, May 15, 2004, Volume 15, No. 4, Summer 2004*

**2000-04-26:** Groundbreaking and a ground blessing took place for a new building on the north side of campus. The college's "Cultural Interpretive Arts Center" building was part of a national program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to create cultural centers at the nation's 31 tribal colleges. Once constructed, the log cabin style building housed and displayed UTTC's collection of tribal art. Standing Rock elder Joe Flying By provided the ground blessing.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, May 1, 2000, p.1*



Standing Rock elder Joe Flying By at art center groundbreaking

**2000-05-05:** J. Kurt Luger was keynote speaker for UTTC's spring commencement ceremony. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal member from Fort Yates, ND, was a prominent and influential figure among tribes in the region. He was active in tribal rights issues and was an acknowledged



United Tribes Technical College Archive





expert in Indian gaming. From his office at United Tribes, he directed the North Dakota Indian Gaming Association and the Great Plains Indian Gaming Association for 16 member tribes in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Nebraska.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, SPECIAL EDITION, 2000, p.1*

**2000-12-04:** United Tribes On-Campus News reported on a key step leading to expansion of the United Tribes campus. The newsletter carried a check presentation photo. Rick Williams, executive director of the American Indian College Fund, presented David M. Gipp a \$520-thousand check to purchase an adjacent tract of land south of UTTC. The 132-acre parcel more than doubled the size of the 105-acre campus, the main site of Bismarck's former Fort Lincoln. The College Fund gift came from contributions by the Eli Lily Endowment and other foundations. The vision was to increase institutional capacity and expand the student population in the coming years.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 4, 2000, p.1; Tribal College Journal, May 15, 2001, Vol.12, No.4, Summer 2001, p.29*

## 2001

**2001-01-01:** After working as a business development specialist for eight years, Brek Maxon (Three Affiliated/MHA Nation) became the new director of the North Dakota/South Dakota Native American Business Development Center at United Tribes. The center's work in aiding Native business startups was funded by the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Getting financing from off the reservation remained difficult because sovereignty issues made bankers and other financiers skittish, said Maxon, who did economic development work on Standing Rock after earning a business degree at University of Mary. "It's the American dream to start your own business, no matter what your color."

*Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 25, 2001, p.6C*

**2001-06:** Action by the U.S. Senate resolved a critical funding issue for United Tribes. North Dakota's Congressional delegation teamed up to repair wording in the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act that would have reduced UTTC's annual funding by 40 percent. The discretionary Perkins funding was money

well spent, according to the Bismarck Tribune. "The \$2.8-million at stake for UTTC represents a small price tag for what the taxpayer and the Indian community gets in return. All things considered, full funding of UTTC is in everyone's best interest."

*Bismarck Tribune, May 19, 2001, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, June 19, 2001, p.2B; Bismarck Tribune Editorial, June 20, 2001, p.6A*



Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk, Jr.

A.P. Photo - Idaho Press Tribune

**2001-05-31:** Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk Jr. (Dakota/Lakota, Standing Rock) was at Harvard University's Peabody Museum prepping for a Lewis and Clark Bicentennial project. Accompanied by Art/Art Marketing Director Wayne Pruse, the UTTC Tribal Arts instructor examined original artifacts gifted by tribes to Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their famous expedition in 1803. Thunder Hawk later involved his students in the honor of replicating 16 of the pieces, including pipes and weapons. They went on display in the "Indian Hall" at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Virginia estate when the bicentennial kicked off Jan. 18, 2003. Knowing there were mixed feelings among Native People about celebrating the Corps of Discovery expedition, Thunder Hawk had sought and received the blessings of elders prior to launching the project.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 1, 2001; Idaho Press Tribune,*



June 10, 2001, p.1; *Bismarck Tribune*, Aug. 1, 2001; *Tribal College Journal*, Aug. 15, 2001, Vol.13, No.1, Fall 2001; *United Tribes On-Campus News*, Feb. 3, 2003, p.1

**2001-09-06:** A new cultural feature was added to the 32nd Annual United Tribes International Powwow. An international indigenous performing group became part of the already diverse line-up. "Explendor Azteca" became the first group from other regions of the Americas and around the world to display traditions unique to their culture. The Aztec Dancers represented Native people indigenous to Mexico.

*United Tribes Press Release, July 31, 2001*

**2001-09:** The "Dancers and Data" project began following the United Tribes International Powwow in September. Jen Janeczek, director of UTTC's Rural Systemic Initiative, and Jamie Higlin, teacher at Theodore Jamerson Elementary School, collaborated on a learning project for sixth grade students. Students entered nine-years of powwow registration data into a database with over 4,700 entries. They used the data to create an illustrated slideshow about the powwow containing tables, charts, graphics and photos. The presentation was delivered to the college administration, the powwow committee, and at education conferences in the region. The project was a great motivator for the students and it fulfilled a National Science Foundation initiative to integrate technology into math and science curricula.

*Tribal College Journal*, May 15, 2003, Volume 14, No. 4, Summer 2003

**2001-09-14:** United Tribes prayed and smudged for American lives lost three days earlier on 9-11. Students, staff members and friends from the local community gathered at the college's Medicine Wheel. Counselor Russell Gillette conducted a purification ceremony. Tourism Director John Beheler shared his pipe. President David M. Gipp talked about loss of life, unity and peace in uncertain times. The Cannonball Singers sang special songs. Meeting the same day, members of the UTTC board passed a special resolution mourning the victims, urging justice and supporting the prevention of future acts of terrorism.

*United Tribes On-Campus News*, Sept. 17, 2001, p.1

**2001-11-27:** United Tribes received continued accreditation for 10 years as a two-year degree and certificate granting institution. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools said UTTC remained in "good standing" and needed no special focus visits. A site visit had taken place in April and the next comprehensive evaluation would occur between 2010 and 2011.

*United Tribes Press Release, Dec. 3, 2001; United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 3, 2001, p.3*

## 2002

**2002-02-07:** United Tribes President David M. Gipp told the *Bismarck Tribune* that a proposed budget cut for the college came as a "big



United Tribes News

Ribbon cutting during the dedication program for the Jack Barden Student Life and Technology Center







surprise.” The Bush Administration budget for 2003 eliminated nearly 50 percent of UTTC’s annual \$6.5-million funding from the BIA. “We’re not going to roll over and go away,” said Gipp of the potential for school closure. “I’m confident it will be restored.”

*Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 7, 2002, p.1B*

**2002-03:** A last minute shot in double overtime lifted the United Tribes Thunderbirds into the junior college national tournament for the third time in five years. The 113-111 victory over Central College on home court in the “Thunderdome” sent the T-Birds to Danville, Ill in March. At the end of the national tourney, UTTC celebrated having another all-star on the Thunderbird roster. Orlando Morrison (Cheyenne River) was named to the NJCAA 2001-2002 All American Team. He was the fourth Thunderbird so honored. He joined Geno Levaldo, Alan Spoonhunter (two time recipient) and Tanner Albers as All Americans in the junior college ranks. Morrison was only in his first year at UTTC and assistant coach Kevin Finley said he had much more potential. He was also named to the All-Region 13 Team.

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 11, 2002, p1D; United Tribes On-Campus News, Apr.15, 2002, p.8*

**2002-04-11:** The BIA’s national education director toured United Tribes and got a better picture of why the college shouldn’t be cut from the President’s Executive Budget. At the request of North Dakota U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan, William Mehojah visited the campus and met with students and staff. President David M. Gipp and UTTC Board Chairman Charles

W. Murphy (Standing Rock Chairman) were hopeful about restoration of \$3-million in BIA funding, about half the annual operating budget. Gipp asked Mehojah to up the figure by another million to help with a campus expansion plan. He also pointed out that UTTC’s funding is not in the education portion of the BIA budget and Mehojah suggested it should be moved there. Since he became president of the college in 1977, Gipp said BIA funding cuts had been threatened four times, with Congress restoring funds three times.

*Bismarck Tribune, Apr. 12, 2002; reprinted in United Tribes On-Campus News, Apr.15, 2002, p.1*

**2002-04-24:** The North Dakota Dietetic Association named Wanda Agnew the Outstanding Dietician of the Year at its spring conference in Grand Forks. Agnew directed the United Tribes Nutrition and Dietary Management Program. Prior to becoming a teacher, she had worked in public health and the WIC program at the local and state level. Later she served UTTC as director of the college’s USDA Land Grant Programs.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Apr.29, 2002, p.7*

**2002-05-13:** United Tribes hosted a two-day University Center and Native American Conference to develop partnerships and strategies for meeting development needs in Indian Country. UTTC was a beneficiary, program participant and conduit in Economic Development Administration partnerships. Other EDA grantees attended, along with participants from the ND Rural Development Council and the Native American Minority Business Development



UTTC all staff photo 2002.

Center. Barbara Schmitt of UTTC's University Center coordinated the event.

*United Tribes Press Release, May 8, 2002*

**2002-05-15:** United Tribes dedicated its newly constructed student center to a man who avoided the spotlight. Dignitaries, including the city mayor and state governor, attended a ribbon cutting for the Jack Barden Student Life and Technology Center. Barden was a former UTTC employee who became involved in tribal higher education at the outset of the "Tribal College Movement." He helped found Standing Rock Community College, taught there and at UTTC, wrote grants, and coordinated new project development for tribal colleges. At the time of his passing in 2001, *Bismarck Tribune* columnist Cheryl Long Feather described why the self-identified "old hippie" was so admired and well-liked. "Barden was not American Indian by birth but he certainly was one at heart. He didn't patronize Indian people or view himself as a 'savior' of the poor Indians. Instead, he made true friends and relatives in the community, he changed what he could and accepted what he couldn't and he helped create visions of a better future. Barden understood the humor and recognized the pain that was often behind the humor. He gave of himself for the betterment of the community. He was proud to be a part of the creation and progression of tribal colleges but humble regarding his role in it."

*Bismarck Tribune, May 28, 2001, p.7A; Bismarck Tribune, May 30, 2001; United Tribes On-Campus News, Apr. 29, 2002, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, May 16, 2002; United Tribes On-Campus News, June 3, 2002, p.6*

**2002-05-15:** A story in *Tribal College Journal* highlighted the commitment to early childhood education at United Tribes. The college's Early Childhood Education Dept. was involved with three major initiatives. A grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education created the Lakota/English Acquisition Project, providing teacher training, parent education and direct instruction. The Plains Alliance for Bilingual Education served early childhood practitioners throughout the state with online education courses from UTTC. And the college's Early Childhood Education program was going online. Many of the students took courses online at early childhood centers but some accessed them from the convenience of their homes.

*Tribal College Journal, May 15, 2002, Volume 13, No. 4, Summer 2002*

**2002-06-10:** The first program of its kind in the country to focus on tourism training was announced for United Tribes by the college president. UTTC offered the new Tribal Tourism Degree program beginning with fall semester to prepare tribes for the flood of tourists expected to travel the Lewis and Clark Trail during the bicentennial anniversary.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 29, 2001, p.1; United Tribes Press Release, June 10, 2002; Tribal College Journal, Feb. 15, 2003, Volume 14, No. 3, Spring 2003*

**2002-06-14:** Two top officials in the U.S. Dept. of Interior visited United Tribes in June, getting a first-hand look at the college. Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Neil A. McCaleb attended a luncheon at the college while in Bismarck for the National Congress of American Indians conference. He toured the campus and took-in a cultural event at the powwow dance arena. On June 18, Interior Secretary Gail Norton visited. She toured the facilities, met with students and received a briefing from UTTC President David M. Gipp and Board Chairman Charles W. Murphy (Standing Rock Chairman). She came to UTTC at the request of North Dakota U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan, to acquaint her with the college's educational opportunities for Native students in light of funding cuts for UTTC in the President's Executive Budget.

*United Tribes Press Release, June 14, 2002; Bismarck Tribune, June 19, 2002; United Tribes Press Release, June 19, 2002*

**2002-07-22:** A newly published Early Childhood curriculum was the focus of a group training session at United Tribes. The Early Childhood Curriculum Institute offered resources and plans for including Native language and culture in the education of youngsters from infancy to age eight. The four-day training attracted 44 participants from the Dakotas, Oregon and Nebraska. Coordinators were Kathy Johnson (Three Affiliated) North Dakota Infant Toddler Coordinator and Lisa J. Azure, Chair of UTTC's Early Childhood Dept.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 14, 2002, p.4; United Tribes Press Release, July 22, 2002*

**2002-08:** By late summer, the college had welcomed the addition of several new employees who became key personnel in the college administration. Military veteran Wes Long Feather (Standing Rock) was Executive Assistant to the College President. University





Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

UTTC staff during 2002 Summit, seated from left, Brad Hawk, Debbie Paint, Jamie Davis and Ryann Red Bird. Standing from left, Charles W. Murphy, Wes Long Feather and Harriett Skye.

of South Dakota Health Administration graduate Brad Hawk (Crow Creek) was Research Assistant for Development. BJC student Jamie Davis (Turtle Mountain) was Administrative Assistant. Former KLND tribal radio station manager at Standing Rock, Dennis Neumann, was Public Information Director. The administrative support-staff provided services to the president and the college's administrative team: Phil Baird, Dean of Vocational and Academic Programs; Russell Swagger, Dean of Student and Campus Services; Sam Azure, Dean of Childhood Education; and Shirley Bordeaux, Dean of Finance and Business Services. Harriett Skye later became Dean of Intertribal Programs.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, June 3, 2002, p.1;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Sept. 30, 2002, p.9*

**2002-08:** Recognizing the severe negative impact of Type 2 Diabetes on American Indians, UTTC began offering a new, three-credit class titled "Diabetes and Mother Earth." The course provided students with information about the disease and how it impacts the mental and physical health of Indians. Students learned about nutrition, fitness, and the psychosocial effects of diabetes, along with the benefits of gardening, hunting and fishing, exercise and healthful food selection. Diabetes and Mother Earth was one class in the college's Nutrition and Foodservice Associate of Applied Science degree. The program provided

theory and hands-on experience in healthful food preparation, food science, food safety, wellness, and community nutrition.

*Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 2002, Volume 14, No. 1, Fall 2002*

**2002-08-19:** A campus wellness initiative received a boost of energy during an all staff orientation gathering in Lone Star Arena. UTTC President David M. Gipp signed a wellness proclamation, formalizing efforts to improve and sustain health and wellness among the 350 people who worked, attended classes, or lived on the campus. The move addressed health disparities experienced by Native people, especially in the Great Plains IHS service area. The effort was modeled on national health and Native wellness concepts. It built on recent campus progress in a number of individual health and wellness programs that were operating as a "wellness circle."

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 19, 2002*

**2002-09-20:** According to the registrar, 356 students registered for UTTC's fall semester, the largest enrollment for a single term to that date. The student body included individuals from 39 different tribes, and 13 states. Not included in the tally were students taking classes online, through the Instructional Video Network, or those attending special trainings and workshops.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 14, 2002, p.1*





**2002-10-08:** The Bismarck City Commission approved an ordinance creating a Human Relations Committee for the Capitol City. United Tribes employees were centrally involved. UTTC President David M. Gipp and Dean of Vocational and Academic Programs Phil Baird presented testimony during a public hearing. The committee's purpose became that of advising the City Commission. A local group, known as the Bismarck Human Relations Coalition, initiated the effort. Members of the coalition who worked at or were associated with UTTC included: Shirley Bordeaux, Tom Disselhorst, Brenda Dvorak, Dave Gipp, Wes Long Feather, J. Kurt Luger, Tina Morningstar and Deborah Painte. Cheryl Long Feather facilitated work on the group's strategic plan, some of which was included in the city ordinance. Mayor John Warford later appointed David M. Gipp to serve on the committee.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 28, 2002 p.1;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 23, 2002 p.7*

**2002-11-04:** A UTTC graduate and former instructor was part of the team that started the Teton Times, that Indian-owned newspaper at Standing Rock. Cynthia Antelope (Lohnes-Fox) graduated from the UTTC Medical Records program and had taught Office Technology in the early 1990s. She handled the paper's sales and marketing, joining editor/publisher Avis Little Eagle and designer Thomas Little Moon for the first edition published in early November.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 11, 2002, p.9*

**2002-11:** One of the exciting new features of UTTC's newly constructed student center was expanded space for the college bookstore. Located in the lower level of the Jack Barden Center, interesting merchandise could be seen through its large windows. Manager Cathy Mastrud and clerk Leah Fox displayed new items of "Thunderbird" wearables and an expanded line of cards and novelty products. All were in stock just in time for gift-giving season.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 25, 2002, p.3*

**2002-11-27:** Thanksgiving was acclaimed as one of the best days of the year at United Tribes. Making it so was the scrumptious turkey dinner on the day before the national holiday. In 2002, Dennis Lucier and his cafeteria staff prepared 26 turkeys and all the trimmings, along with 130 pies of different flavors. More than 600 people attended. They didn't think the line

would ever end. It took over three hours for all the students, faculty, staff, family members and friends from the community to go through.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 9, 2002, p.1*

**2002-12-09:** Unseasonably mild weather helped two major construction projects on the UTTC campus. Nearly completed was a modular classroom building for Theodore Jamerson Elementary School. And, excavation work began Dec. 9 on a \$2.6-million student dormitory project. Native symbols from artist/instructor Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk Jr. adorned the exterior walls of the modern two-story structure. Its name, Itancan Oyanke, meant Leadership Lodge. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Prior Lake, MN made a major contribution for its construction. When dedicated 10 months later, it was considered a "21st Century dream come true," helping alleviate the campus housing shortage.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 23, 2002, p.1;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Sept. 29, 2003, p.12*

**2002-12-27:** The United Tribes Board passed a resolution urging the state of North Dakota to restore the position of Indian Education Director in its Department of Public Instruction. The position had been eliminated in 2001. MHA Chairman Tex G. Hall cited the need to address "No Child Left Behind" legislation that required greater attainment standards and accountability by schools serving Native students.

*United Tribes Press Release, Dec. 27, 2002*

## 2003

**2003-01-14:** The United Tribes Land Grant Extension Program released two published resource guides about Native American nutrition and health. "Buffalo and Native American Wellness" and "Gifts from the Earth - Fruits and Vegetables" contained culturally specific nutrition education materials for community health educators and others concerned about improving Native health through nutrition. Kim Hinnenkamp, LRD, coordinated the project.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Jan. 20, 2003, p.5*

**2003-01-20:** During UTTC's observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Aruna and Vinod Seth of Bismarck launched the "Season for Nonviolence." Individuals and groups were invited to explore the principles of nonviolence advocated by Mohandas K. Gandhi and Martin





Luther King Jr. The time period was the 64-days between the anniversary dates of the two assassinations: Gandhi on Jan. 30 and King on Apr. 4. Sponsored by the Gandhi Peace Network, it was the first time the world-wide educational program was launched in the Peace Garden State.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Feb. 3, 2003, p.12*

**2003-02-23:** In early 2003, United Tribes was planning a long-range campus expansion program to double the size of the college. Comprehensive strategic planning involved all campus stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, administrators and board members. The initiative was driven by a goal to increase student enrollment to 2,000 by the year 2010. Published in the *Bismarck Tribune* was an architect's vision showing the circular design of streets, placement of buildings and facilities, and a view of the soon-to-be rerouted University Drive going around the new "south campus."

*Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 23, 2003, Learning Experience Section p.6*

**2003-03:** The UTTC yearbook staff was busy taking orders for the 2003 edition of "Dream Catcher." The hard-cover publication contained people and event photos of the year. Editor Verleen Holds (Crow Agency) was assisted by Tracy Shelltrack (Standing Rock), Geri Stewart (Crow Agency) and Nicole Gagnon (Turtle Mountain). Adviser was Karen Siegfried.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Mar. 3, 2003, p.6*

**2003-03-21:** United Tribes hosted state higher education leaders to talk about collaborating with tribal colleges. Members of the North Dakota Board of Higher Education met informally with UTTC students, faculty and tribal college leaders. "We're interested in exploring an accord," said UTTC President David M. Gipp. "Although tribal colleges are not under the authority of the state board and do not receive state appropriations, we do have common goals and objectives as institutions of higher learning." The chair of the state board confirmed the need for collaboration, setting aside the view that the state and tribal college systems were separate.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Mar.31, 2003, p.1*

**2003-04-23:** Passers-by happily stepped around UTTC students seated on the sidewalk in downtown Bismarck. A good many even stopped to visit. It was the 5th Annual Sidewalk Art Show of the college's Art/Art Marketing

program, directed by Wayne Pruse. Students created elaborate images on the sidewalk in chalk and charcoal, to the delight of downtowners.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Apr.14, 2003, p.8,15; United Tribes Press Release, Apr. 17, 2003*

**2003-04-28:** Youngsters from Theodore Jamerson Elementary School enlivened the celebration of Arbor Week in the Capitol City with a ceremonial tree planting on the UTTC campus. All eight grades turned out to see the planting of a Siouxland Poplar tree near the playground and take part in a Four-Directions prayer blessing by instructor Tom Red Bird. Instructor Hank LaBore coordinated the event, attended by the city mayor and city forester.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, May 12, 2003, p.1*

**2003-05-09:** Students of United Tribes Technical College were an "excellent investment" of federal dollars, according to a study released by the college. Seventy UTTC students, poised to graduate with two-year degrees, would generate over 1,000 percent return on the government's investment. "Venture capitalists would jump at a return like that," said author Tom Katus of Rapid City, SD. The study said UTTC grads would earn a projected \$85.5-million over their working lives and provide a net gain to the nation in taxes paid and avoidance of government assistance. The return-on-investment study illustrated how the government "gets its money back" when funding American Indian higher education, said Shirley Bordeaux, UTTC finance director and study co-author.

*United Tribes Press Release, May 9, 2003; Bismarck Tribune, May 9, 2003; United Tribes On-Campus News, May 12, 2003, p.1; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 2003, Volume 15, No. 1 - Fall 2003*

**2003-05-30:** United Tribes released a second economic study in the month of May to emphasize how a host community benefits from having a tribal college. A UTTC economic impact study pegged the annual figure at \$44-million in both direct and secondary benefits to Bismarck-Mandan. "This is the kind of information people need to know," said UTTC President David M. Gipp at a press conference. Gipp was accompanied by North Dakota U.S. Senator Byron L. Dorgan who said the report would be a "major boost" in restoring federal funding for UTTC. The study followed the model and methods of studies prepared for the North Dakota University System.

*United Tribes Press Release, May 30, 2003; Bismarck Tribune, May 31, 2003*

**2003-06-10:** United Tribes President David M. Gipp was appointed to the national council that advised the U.S. Dept. of Labor on Native American employment and training. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao made the two year appointment as the DOL reestablished the 21 member Native American Employment Training Council. The group's focus was programs under the Workforce Investment Act. Gipp had served on the council during previous administrations.

*United Tribes Press Release, June 10, 2003*

**2003-08-11:** Fall semester enrollment set another record at United Tribes. Registrar Joetta McLeod reported the college was on record-setting pace to register students for the term. "We really don't have anything to compare it with," she said of the unofficial, but exciting forecast. When confirmed after the September 19 deadline to register, enrollment of 465 eclipsed the previous record of 445 set during the spring term. "It means there's a large population of Indian students who want to get their education," said McLeod. "I know there's even more who want to enroll."

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Aug. 18, 2003, p.1;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Sept. 29, 2003, p.1*

**2003-09-05:** "Youth Day" celebrated its tenth anniversary as a special event of the United Tribes International Powwow. Youngsters from Bismarck-Mandan and surrounding areas were invited to the powwow free of charge as part of organized school outings. A program of cultural entertainment and participatory activities included music and dance, storytelling and sharing. Youth Day was first added to the powwow in 1994.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 20, 2003; Bismarck Tribune, Aug. 24, 2003, p.10C*

**2003-09-06:** One of the "founding fathers" of United Tribes wore his best regalia in the United Tribes "Parade of Champions." August Little Soldier, 89, (Three Affiliated) donned his many-feathered headdress and rode in a convertible through downtown Bismarck as part of the powwow event. He was one of the tribal leaders who signed the original Articles of Incorporation in 1968, launching United Tribes.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Sept. 15, 2003, p.9*

***"It means there's a large population of Indian students who want to get their education."***

**2003-09-09:** When he got back from serving in Iraq, Marine Lance Corporal B. J. Rainbow made it a point to visit his former grade school to say 'thank you.' At Theodore Jamerson Elementary School he was a special guest, shaking hands with students and visiting. "I was overjoyed to get your letters," he said about receiving mail penned earlier in the year by TJES students. It helped ease the loneliness and connect him with home and his childhood.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 27, 2003, p.4; UTTC Archive digitized video holdings*

**2003-09:** UTTC Cross Country coach Becky Wells (Blackfoot) had a roster of 13 runners for the fall season. The majority were athletes from the Thunderbirds basketball teams. As a role model, they needed to look no further than their coach. Wells was a 20 time North Dakota State Cross Country Champion, an All-American and record holder in college cross-country and track, and an Olympic Trials qualifier in 2000.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 27, 2003, p.6; Indian Country Today, Sept. 17, 2003*

**2003-09:** United Tribes received a \$400-thousand grant to launch a three-year program in food safety education in North Dakota. The competitive award came from the USDA National Integrated Food Safety Initiative and was the first of its kind granted to a tribal college.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 14, 2003; United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 10, 2003, p.1*

**2003-10-03:** All the Native art in the United Tribes art gallery was removed and put into storage, emptying the log cabin building on campus for a major exhibit about the internment period of World War Two. "Snow Country Prison" opened with a series of public programs and events about the experience of those locked behind barbed wire at Fort Lincoln Internment Camp. Former internees and internee family members were special guests. The exhibit remained open into December, tallying more than 1,000 visitors, including many school groups from the area.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Sept. 29, 2003, p.1;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 13, 2003, p.4;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 10, 2003, p.6;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 22, 2003, p.4*

**2003-10-10:** The first time for "First Nation's Day" attracted the interest and support of United







Tribes. Students and staff members gathered at the front steps of the State Capitol in Bismarck to help celebrate the observance put into law early in the year by the State Legislature. Tribes were successful in having First Nation's Day authorized as the Friday preceding the second Monday in October each year.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Oct. 27, 2003, p.16*

**2003-11:** United Tribes began consolidating its research activities into a new office responsible for an array of duties including conducting research, training and gathering information about the institution. Former Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Chairperson Twila Martin-Kekahbah directed the UTTC Office of Research and Development. She hired an experienced researcher as research director. Kyle Patterson Cross, Ed.D. (Tuscarora Nation of New York) earned a doctorate from Harvard University and developed expertise in institutional research as academic dean of Fort Berthold Community College. Under her direction, UTTC developed an Institutional Review Board. Dr. Patterson Cross also served on the advisory board for a landmark AIHEC project to define more relevant ways to measure student success, the American Indian Measures for Student Success initiative.

*Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 2004, Vol.16, No.2, Winter 2004*

**2003-11-04:** UTTC students and staff spent a thoughtful and entertaining evening with author Joseph Marshall III (Sicangu Lakota/Rosebud). Marshall read from two of his books, *The Lakota Way* and *On Behalf of the Wolf and First Peoples*, and talked about concepts of truth, perspective and reality. It was the first of two appearances he made at UTTC sponsored by the General Education dept.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 10, 2003, p.16*

**2003-11-10:** The first "KODA THE WARRIOR" comic strip was published in United Tribes On-Campus News. Created by Mark Mindt (Spirit Lake) it related the cultural and educational journey of mild mannered Koda Two Hearts. In each episode, Koda (which means "friend" in Dakota) transformed to become an American Indian superhero, battling dark thoughts and evil deeds. Mindt was a fitness instructor in the UTTC Wellness Center. The comic strip followed publication of a 32 page, brightly colored KODA comic book that Mindt was inspired by his father to write and illustrate.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Feb. 17, 2002; p.3;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 10, 2003, p.2; Tribal College Journal, May 15, 2003, Volume 14, No. 4, Summer 2003*

**2003-11-14:** UTTC staff members and students stepped-up to the counter of a new eatery on campus. The "Wopila Coffee Shop" grand opening in the lower level of the Jack Barden Center created a new path of service-learning and a great place for socializing. Shelby Weist managed the operation that was conceived by Wanda Agnew as a learning lab for Nutrition and Foodservice students. Wopila is a formal way of expressing gratitude in Lakota.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 10, 2003, p.8;*

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 24, 2003, p.13*

**2003-11-15:** The War in Iraq claimed the life of a former Theodore Jamerson Elementary School student. Pfc. Sheldon R. Hawk Eagle, 21, died in a helicopter crash in Mosul, Iraq. He had attended grades 7 and 8 at TJES on the UTTC campus in 1996 and 1997. "I want everyone to know that he really liked it there," said his aunt Barbara West-Turner. "It was a good place for him and a good part of his life." Hawk Eagle's Lakota name was Wanbli Ohitika, Brave Eagle.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Nov. 24, 2003, p.16*



PR: Sheldon Hawk Eagle

Landstuhl Hospital Care Project

**2003-11-15:** A quartette of experienced tribal college educators turned a divisive political phrase of the time into a call for empowering Native voters. Writing in *Tribal College Journal*, David M. Gipp, Phil Baird, Janine Pease and Tom Katus suggested that office-seekers should be measured against the essentials listed in a "Contract with Native America." Many close campaigns for the U.S. Congress and Senate in the Northern Plains states had been won with the Native American vote in the previous 30

years. They argued that a strategy paper should be developed so all parties and candidates who courted the Native vote or campaign contributions might be evaluated for support and held accountable after elections. They suggested that tribal colleges and universities should play a central role in educating, grassroots organizing and conducting tribal voter education activities.

*Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 2003, Volume 15, No. 2, Winter 2003*

**2003-11-21:** United Tribes became the first tribally controlled, post-secondary higher education institution in the country to receive accreditation to grant full, two-year degrees for education programs delivered online. The designation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools allowed UTTC to offer its first online degree programs in Injury Prevention and Early Childhood Education. Online program development and instruction had evolved from individual course offerings over the previous two years and was preceded by an NCA site visit in April 2003. The program was directed by Leah Woodke, Online and Distance Education director, assisted by Barbara Archambault, Online and Distance Education coordinator. Planning was underway for seeking accreditation for more programs.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 8, 2003, p.1; Tribal College Journal, May 15, 2004, Volume 15, No. 4, Summer 2004*

**2003-12:** Delmar Clown Jr. (Cheyenne River) from Eagle Butte, SD, became the first student in the nation to receive an Indian Health Service scholarship to study Injury Prevention. Delmar was one of 23 full time, six part time and seven online students in the United Tribes Injury Prevention program. A full roster of students and hosting a meeting of the National Tribal I-H-S Steering Committee for Injury Prevention made for a gratifying but busy semester for Injury Prevention Director Dennis Renville.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Sept. 29, 2003, p.9; United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 22, 2003, p.8*

**2003-12-02:** State lawmakers held an interim committee meeting at United Tribes to hear about successful Native businesses. The meeting of the North Dakota Legislative Council's Economic Development Committee was thought to be the first time a committee of the legislature convened at UTTC.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Dec. 22, 2003, p.5*

## 2004



**2004-01:** Early in 2004, a project was nearing completion to upgrade the infrastructure that delivered information technology services throughout the campus. "We rely so much now on e-mail, the internet and phones and we're not taking it for granted," said Russell Swagger, UTTC Dean of Student and Campus Services about the installation and mapping of underground ductwork. Directional boring allowed for the installation of high-density polyethylene tubing, thereby upgrading the telecommunications system and providing for future growth.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Jan. 5, 2004, p.9*

**2004:** An award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) helped United Tribes create a Tribal Environmental Science Department. Jen Janeczek-Hartman developed the program and served as department chair from 2004 to 2015. The college's first science degree, AAS in Environmental Science, focused on educating environmental technicians to survey the biotic and physical features of tribal lands in the Northern Great Plains. Offerings later moved into research and STEM education at increasingly higher levels. Research experiences became an effective educational tool to improve student engagement, retention and completion.

*History of Science and Land Grant Programs at United Tribes Technical College, Dr. Jeremy Guinn, Feb. 20, 2019*

**2004-01-05:** A United Tribes staff member was selected to coordinate a statewide substance abuse program. Julie Creed (Spirit Lake) became the North Dakota Substance Abuse Coordinator for the Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center. The center's offices were located on the college campus, connecting UTTC with the national program.

*United Tribes Press Release, Jan. 19, 2004; United Tribes On-Campus News, Jan. 19, 2004, p.13*

**2004-01-23:** Below zero wind chill factors tested instructor Terry Anderson's carpentry students as they moved a new building onto its foundation on campus. Over the previous year, 25 students had been involved in constructing the 1,248 sq. ft. wood-frame structure indoors in the Skill Center. The outdoor test met, the new building took the number 11 and was soon ready for occupation by the college's Human Resource department.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Feb. 2, 2004, p.8*





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Sheila Crow Ghost at UTTC Graduation.

**2004-01-27:** Basketball action from the “Thunderdome” made it onto local television. Bismarck’s Community Access TV began cable-casting entire Thunderbird men’s and women’s home games on a tape-delay basis. UTTC Athletic Director Kevin Finley said the telecasts were a way for viewers to “see the quality of athletes that Indian Country has to offer.”

*United Tribes Press Release, Jan. 26, 2004*

**2004-02-04:** A name was selected for a group formed by young people and elders dedicated to reducing poverty among American Indians in the area. The Bismarck-Mandan Youth-Elder Coalition was part of the Ventures Program sponsored by the North West Area Foundation of St. Paul, MN. The concept centered on “youth driven coalitions” supported by elders. One of the first projects was to gather more information about Indians with a survey.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Feb. 16, 2004, p.10*

**2004-02:** United Tribes received a grant to increase the number of qualified American Indian teachers in Elementary Education and Special Education. The U. S. Dept. of Education award created the PASE program (Plains Alliance for Special Education). “There simply aren’t enough American Indian teachers in the Special Education field,” said Lisa J. Azure,

PASE Director and head of UTTC’s Teacher Education program. The program offered AAS and Bachelor tracks and focused on preparing American Indian teachers for licensure in North Dakota.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Feb. 2, 2004, p.1; Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 2005, Volume 17, No. 2, Winter 2005*

**2004-02-24:** Clad in green hard hats and green reflective vests, 34 UTTC staff members took part in a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) exercise. “There’s a renewed emphasis on preparedness after 9/11,” said Barbara Schmitt, University Center director and co-coordinator of the CERT team. Basic fire suppression was part of the training, along with treating and moving victims, and learning protocols for different kinds of emergencies. The session seemed all the more urgent knowing UTTC was adjacent to a busy airport.

*United Tribes Press Release, Feb. 24, 2004; United Tribes On-Campus News, Mar. 1, 2004, p.1*

**2004-03-01:** A team of auto technicians began reevaluating UTTC’s Automotive Technology Program, directed by Marcel Gierszewski. The four-member group included one automotive educator and three certified technicians from local businesses. The visit resulted in a five-year





renewal of the program through the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation. One of the certified technician reviewers was Dale Pletan, who later became director of the UTTC program.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, Mar. 15, 2004, p.1*

**2004-03-19:** United Tribes announced it was looking seriously at the hotel business. A ten-week feasibility study by consultant Al Nygard (Three Affiliated) concluded there was sufficient market demand to support the addition of a new hotel in the Bismarck-Mandan area. For consideration was a hotel with associated meeting and conference center that could serve to train college students for jobs in the hospitality industry. Barbara Schmitt, Economic Development Director of the United Tribes University Center, chaired an advisory committee looking into the hotel project.

*United Tribes Press Release, Mar. 19, 2004; United Tribes On-Campus News, Jan. 19, 2004, p.1*

**2004-05-05:** Nutrition and Food Service educators began the yearly tradition of having a tree planting ceremony and hosting a reception for students graduating from the program. Fruit bearing trees became a living legacy of UTTC graduates and an orchard to supply future nutrition projects.

*United Tribes On-Campus News, May 24, 2004, p.4*

**2004-05-07:** 'Famous Dave' Anderson fired up the crowd in Lone Star Arena as the keynoter for spring commencement. "Find something you love to do and be passionate about it," he told UTTC's 89 graduates, the largest graduating class to date. The founder of Famous Dave's barbecue restaurant chain had been appointed Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs in February. He was under attack to resign because he had recused himself from tribal recognition and gaming-related decisions. "I will not step down," he told a reporter. A member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and co-founder of a company that ran casinos, Anderson said he would make no apology for promoting them in the past. "Gaming has helped tribal infrastructure and created meaningful jobs," he said.

*Associated Press in Bismarck Tribune, May 8, 2004; United Tribes On-Campus News, Jan. 5, 2004, p.8; United Tribes On-Campus News, Mar. 29, 2004, p.1; United Tribes On-Campus News, May 24, 2004, p.7*

**2004-07-01:** The United Tribes Land Grant program was awarded research funding from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to study the

nutritional properties of native plants. Included were cattails, onions, lambs quarter, beaked hazelnuts, berries, and stinging nettles. The findings and results were added to a national data base maintained by the USDA's Agriculture Research Service at the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, Beltsville, MD.

*Journal of Food Composition and Analysis, 2014*

**2004-09-09:** "Home of the Champions," a CD of music from past United Tribes powwows, was released at the 35th anniversary event. The retrospective of some of the finest moments of the powwow was produced by David Swenson of Makoché Recording Company of Bismarck. National release was set for Sept. 21.

*Makoché Press Release, Aug. 19, 2004; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 3, 2004*

**2004-09-10:** United Tribes received a call from space. It was answered by two dozen youngsters attending Youth Day at the Powwow. It was a video call from two astronauts aboard the International Space Station as it passed over North Dakota. "It was a huge success," said event coordinator Jen Janecek of the interactive link with NASA. Students participated from three elementary schools, including TJES, and two middle schools. The 20 minute chat was carried world-wide on NASA TV and on local TV.

*United Tribes Campus News, Aug. 30, 2004, p.9; United Tribes Campus News, Sept. 20, 2004, p.8; NASA Press Release Aug. 17, 2004*

**2004-09-11:** Two separate community parades, the United Tribes "Parade of Champions" and the Bismarck-Mandan "Folkfest Parade," merged into one community event for the 35th Annual United Tribes International Powwow. "We've had good participation from the community in the past," said Karen Paetz, UTTC Tourism director and parade coordinator. "Now we'll have more of it. Bismarck will have much to celebrate." Planning committees from the college and the local chamber of commerce combined efforts. The event was telecast live by KFYZ-TV and carried by western North Dakota's NBC TV stations.

*United Tribes Press Release, July 8, 2004; United Tribes Campus News, Aug. 16, 2004, p.3; United Tribes Campus News, Sept. 20, 2004, p.12*

**2004-09-21:** A jubilant throng of over 25,000 American Indians marching on the Capitol Mall in Washington, DC, included two-dozen students and staff members from United Tribes. Thanks to a 35 hour one-way bus ride, they





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Thunderbirds sculpture dedication; Wayne Pruse at podium with Art/Art Marketing students.

were part of the grand procession of 500 Native Nations celebrating the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. "It was powerful to see all the tribes together in one place," said Steven P. Walker (Three Affiliated) a Computer Support Technology student. The DC visit also included a reception at the Hart Senate Office Building and a tour of the new museum.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 4, 2004, p.1*

**2004-10-21:** A sculpture showing four raptors emerging from a thunder cloud was dedicated along the Missouri River at Keelboat Park. United Tribes Art/Art Marketing students created the Thunderbird sculpture as a class project. Directed by Wayne Pruse, the art piece was commissioned by the Bismarck Parks Board as the first in a series of six public sculptures by UTTC along the Bismarck/Burleigh multi-use trail near the Missouri River.

*United Tribes Press Release, June 17, 2004; United Tribes News, Oct. 18, 2004, p. 5; Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 19, 2004; United Tribes News, Nov. 1, 2004, p.1*

**2004-10:** UTTC's Athletic Dept. was fully staffed for action in the junior college ranks. Director Darryl Bears Tail (Three Affiliated) entered his first year leading the department. Ruth Buffalo (Three Affiliated) began her first year as Head Women's Basketball coach, along with pursuing

a master's degree at University of Mary. UTTC general education instructor Steve Kubisiak began coaching the UTTC Cross-Country team. Joe Ware returned as Head Men's Basketball coach, assisted by Jason Horner.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 1, 2004, p.9*

**2004-10-21:** A group of Native patriots, led by activists from Pine Ridge, SD, staged a public protest at the Lewis and Clark Signature event at University of Mary. Before doing so, two-dozen members of the "Stop Lewis and Clark Resistance Group" gathered at United Tribes for a meeting with the local sheriff. "We don't intend to riot or destroy property," said Deb White Plume, about plans to express an alternative view of the Lewis and Clark journey. It was the "dawn of genocide" for American Indians on the northern Great Plains, said Alex White Plume of the expedition 200 years earlier. The group stood in the rain with signs near the event entrance and used a loudspeaker to express resistance to celebrating the anniversary. Support and assistance came from the local Native community.

*Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 1, 2004; United Tribes News, Nov. 1, 2004, p.6*

**2004-10-21:** The first Child Find Fair was held on the UTTC campus. Organized by TJES, the

event was held in the gym and featured games, door prizes and information for parents about education programs that benefit children. Brenda Jechort coordinated and other campus departments participated along with programs in the community.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 1, 2004, p.4*

**2004-11-01:** UTTC's Jack Barden Center was alive with entertainment for "Rock the Vote," a pre-election rally to improve tribal voter participation in the 2004 General Election. The event was hosted by 16 students in the college's Tribal Management Program. Instructor Bobbi Jo Zueger coordinated the North Dakota Tribal Voter Education Project, involving her students and those at the other tribal colleges in the state. The project was funded with a grant from the Help America Vote Act, administered by the North Dakota Secretary of State's office.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 1, 2004, p.4*

**2004-11-20:** Good news arrived on the funding front. Congress passed an omnibus spending bill that included \$3.5-million in BIA funding for UTTC, one-half-million more than the previous year. For the third consecutive year, the Congressional action reversed the Bush Administration's elimination of UTTC funding. Good news also on Carl Perkins Technical Act funding. The Dept. of Education authorized \$4.1-million for UTTC. That amount also about \$500-thousand higher than the year before.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 15, 2004, p.5; United Tribes News, Nov. 29, 2004, p.1*

**2004-12:** A warm and fuzzy project called "Operation Teddy Bear" brought out the best in North Dakotans and United Tribes. UTTC Teacher Education students collected more than 2,000 of the stuffed animals to send to children in Iraq. They were donated to the college and transferred to North Dakota troops who distributed them. "The response has been amazing," said Leah Hamann, Teacher Education adviser and project coordinator. So successful it was, the furry critters filled a whole room. Organizers ceased taking bears in favor of gathering contributions to pay for shipping and the last boxes were sent off in early December.

*Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 12, 2004; United Tribes News, Oct. 18, 2004, p.1; United Tribes News, Dec. 13, 2004, p.1;*

## 2005



**2005-01-25:** A charter was adopted forming the United Tribes chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). Fourteen UTTC students applied for membership. "Native Americans are under-represented in these career fields," said Marla Striped Face-Collins, chapter president.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 14, 2005, p.9; United Tribes News, Mar. 28, 2005, p.4;*

**2005-02-07:** When the President's Executive Budget was released in Washington, DC, United Tribes was on the chopping block again. For the fourth straight year, UTTC received help from the North Dakota Congressional delegation to get its BIA funding restored. The North Dakota Legislature pitched-in with a resolution urging congress to support the college and up the appropriation by \$1-million.

*Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 8, 2005; United Tribes News, Feb. 14, 2005, p.1;*

**2005-02-10:** Merle Red Bear was the winner of a friendly student competition. Red Bear put away five hot dogs in two minutes to win first prize in a Hot Dog Eating contest between United Tribes and Bismarck State. The feat took place before fans in the UTTC gym during a meeting of the cross-town rival basketball teams.

*Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 11, 2005*

**2005-03-03:** Bismarck's three local colleges initiated a community campaign to combat alcohol and drug abuse among students. About 300 attended a tri-college summit sponsored by United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck State College and University of Mary. Staff and faculty joined in, along with community members to "pool human resources" in finding local solutions.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 14, 2005, p.1; United Tribes News, Mar. 7, 2005, p.2; Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 22, 2005*

**2005-03-03:** United Tribes continued to be seen and used as a central location where Indian groups from throughout the region could assemble and be welcomed for important gatherings. Indian ranchers met Mar. 3 to discuss the Keepseagle lawsuit against the USDA over discrimination in farm lending practices. June 1, MHA Chairman Tex G. Hall, then president of NCAI, presided over a meeting about the Cobell case on trust reform.

*MHA Nation Press Release, Mar. 3, 2005; United Tribes Press Release, May 31, 2005*







**2005-03-28:** United Tribes showed off the artwork selected for the 36th Annual United Tribes International Powwow. For the first time it was ledger style art, with a piece by Donald F. Montileaux (Oglala Lakota) Rapid City, SD. His work "Faster Horses" depicted two mounted steeds racing across entries on a sheet of ledger paper used by the Butte County, South Dakota Treasurer in the 1930s. Montileaux's modern revival of ledger art was "among the best," said UTTC President David M. Gipp.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 28, 2005, p.1*

**2005-04-11:** A man who called himself the 'Strongest Native American in the Country' was a headliner for United Tribes Wellness Week. Harold Dean Collins (a.k.a. Chief Iron Bear) pulled a loaded UTTC school bus singlehandedly and demonstrated how to flip-over small cars. The power-lifting champion and Guinness Book record holder owned and operated a fitness center in Pembroke, NC.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 28, 2005, p.3; United Tribes News, Apr. 18, 2005, p.11; United Tribes News, May 2, 2005, p.11*

**2005-04:** The UTTC Development staff characterized the response as "very positive" to the start of a \$5-million scholarship fundraising campaign. It began with a focus on local Bismarck-Mandan donors and was called "Opportunities in the Making." David M. Gipp, UTTC president, and James K. Laducer, president and CEO of Laducer and Associates, were the campaign leaders. Key members of the Research and Development Dept. were Twila Martin Kekahbah, dept. director; Rebecca Phelps, development director; and Brad Hawk, director of major gifts and alumni relations.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 18, 2005, p.1*

**2005-04-15:** After three years of planning, United Tribes broke ground for a new Wellness Center. College officials, tribal leaders and dignitaries turned ceremonial shovels of soil for the two-story, 19,000-square-foot structure in the heart of the campus. The \$2.7-million facility became the focal point of the ongoing campus wellness program. Dr. Linda Gourneau (Three Affiliated), the first director of Community Wellness Services, said the mission was to "integrate services that bridge the modern world of medicine and traditional medicine." Wholeness is the focus, not just physical but the emotional and spiritual as well, she said.

*Bismarck Tribune, Apr. 16, 2005; United Tribes News, May 2, 2005, p.1*



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

UTTC Wellness Center groundbreaking. From left, J.C. Crawford, David M. Gipp, Dr. Linda Gourneau and Charles W. Murphy

**2005-05:** Near the end of spring term, Sheri Bear King-Baker's history students played a game of "Lakota Jeopardy" in her classroom. Baker created the teaching method as a form of student assessment. It was modeled after the popular 'Jeopardy' TV show with Baker in the role of host. Students were grouped into three teams. "It was totally awesome," said Kristi Dionne (Turtle Mt.). "Not only fun and educational, it brought the whole class together. Even the shy people came out of their shells."

*United Tribes News, May 16, 2005, p.7, Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 2005, Volume 17, No. 2, Winter 2005*

**2005-05-06:** The number of annual UTTC graduates broke the century mark for the first time. One-hundred-fourteen students earned degrees and certificates in 16 different academic and vocational programs during spring commencement. "In the lives of these graduates, American Indians are contributing to the revitalization of Indian Country and the economic growth of the nation," said UTTC President David M. Gipp, referring to a study prepared by the college showing the grads will earn a projected \$184.5 million over their working lifetimes. The return-on-investment study was another "weapon in the fight for

federal funding.” Among the graduates was the first cohort of five Elementary Education students to earn Bachelor’s Degrees, conferred in partnership with Sinte Gleska University. Kahnya Cornelius was the first to graduate with an AAS in Elementary Education. Guest speakers were Lionel Bordeaux, SGU president and Cecelia Fire Thunder, Oglala Sioux Tribal Chair.

*United Tribes Press Release, May 6, 2005; United Tribes News, Apr. 18, 2005, p.1; United Tribes News, May 16, 2005, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, Aug. 11, 2005; Bismarck Tribune Editorial, Aug. 19, 2005; United Tribes News-SPECIAL ISSUE, Feb. 23, 2006, p.1*



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

Spike Medicine Horse on UTTC's disc golf course

**2005-05-19:** The first round of play took place on the newly constructed United Tribes Disc Golf Course. Several UTTC maintenance employees,

including Joe Many Bears, Spike Medicine Horse and Mike Stockert played through after having erected tee-poles and pole-holes for the 18-hole course.

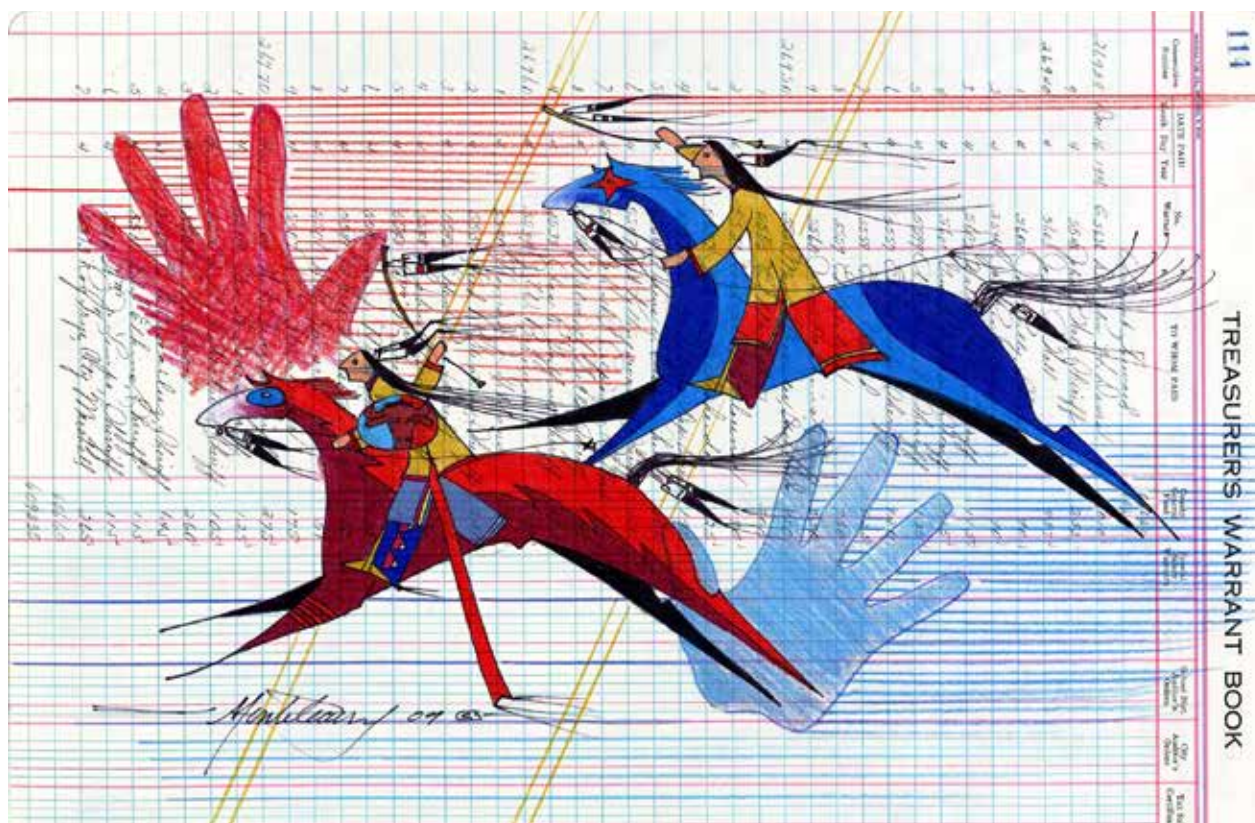
*United Tribes Photo Archive*

**2005-05-26:** More than 20 tribal college representatives gathered in Minneapolis, MN to formalize their association of land grant professionals. The First Americans Land-grant College Organization and Network (FALCON) resulted from more than three years of work and planning by those who work in land grant programs. Martina McKinney of the UTTC Land Grant Program was elected secretary. FALCON's goals were to maintain the unique identity of the 1994 Land Grant institutions, foster collaborative partnerships, and facilitate professional development.

*Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 2005, Volume 17, No. 2, Winter 2005*

**2005-06-06:** Lisa J. Azure, UTTC Teacher Education Dept. chairperson, was selected for a national leadership program by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The 'Supporting Teachers-Strengthening Families Leadership Program' aimed at developing a new generation of leaders in the field of early childhood education.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 15, 2005, p.4*



"Faster Horses" by Oglala Lakota artist Donald F. Montileaux represented the 36th Annual United Tribes International Powwow





**2005-06-14:** Dennis Renville was elected to lead the National Injury Prevention Steering Committee. This was the policy-making group that advised the U.S. Public Health Service I-H-S about injury prevention programs. Renville's program at UTTC was one of the leading injury prevention programs in the country.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 15, 2005, p.5*

**2005-07-20:** Members of the TJES Board of Directors received the high honor of being named the 'Outstanding School Board of the Year' by the National Indian School Boards Association. Accepting the award were Warren "Red" Koch, Bernard Strikes Enemy, Joetta McLeod, Wes Long Feather and Minnie Plenty Chief. Glenna Mueller was selected 'Teacher of the Year' by the NISBA.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 15, 2005, p.3*

**2005-07:** UTTC Land Grant Programs Director Wanda Agnew was part of a group representing U.S. tribal colleges that visited a rural area in the Andes Mountains of Bolivia. The international learning experience included agricultural tours, cultural sharing and a visit to a private college that was similar to tribal colleges. Agnew said she was particularly excited to see huge gardens maintained for research on traditional plants and produce.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 23, 2006, p.4*

**2005-08:** Going into fall semester, seven students were enrolled in Tribal Environmental Science. UTTC's newest vocational program was established with a multi-year grant from the National Science Foundation's Tribal College and University Program. UTTC dubbed its program UT-PASS (United Tribes Pathways to Success). It offered a system of instruction and support for students pursuing studies in the STEM fields. The staff was: Jen Janecek-Hartman, project director; Mike Collins, environmental science instructor; Andrew Reed, student facilitator; and Derek Schulte, math instructor.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 24, 2005, p.7; United Tribes News, Aug. 29, 2005, p.6*

**2005-08-25:** The 'Culture Shock' music jam welcomed students back to campus for fall term. Singer/song writer Annie Humphrey headed a line-up that included local groups Gypsy Foot and the V-Dubs, along with vocalist Memory Eagle and Native rapper Maniac the

Siouxpernatural.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 15, 2005, p.11; United Tribes News, Sept. 19, 2005, p.6*

**2005-08-31:** The UTTC faculty honored Phil Baird, academic dean, with a bronze sculpture of three horses to recognize his honorary doctorate from Sinte Gleska University. "Like the three horses, sometimes you take the lead, sometimes you are in our midst supporting us, and sometimes you follow," said Leah Hamann, Early Childhood instructor, presenting the gift. "You epitomize what good leadership is about." Baird later acknowledged the gesture by donating to the college his 70 volume collection of American Indian literature inherited from his grandmother Irene Red Owl.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 19, 2005, p.7; United Tribes News, Oct. 10, 2005, p.4*

**2005-09-07:** More than 400 friends, well-wishers, dignitaries and public officials (including the state governor) eagerly lined up at a reception to shake hands with Charles W. Murphy, outgoing Standing Rock Tribal Chairman and UTTC Board Chairman. UTTC leaders presented the guest of honor with a vest decorated with brightly colored Native designs and thanked him for his constant support and many years of service on the college governing board.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 7, 2005, p.3B*

**2005-09-08:** During the Tribal Leader's Summit, the United Tribes Board of Directors weighed-in on the UND "Fighting Sioux" nickname controversy. They passed a resolution supporting the NCAA's ban of "hostile and abusive" nicknames, mascots and logos from tournament play. A talk by UND President Charles Kupchella failed to convince tribal leaders that UND had ensured respectful use of the name.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 19, 2005, p.8*

**2005-09-08:** The ledger book art drawing "Faster Horses" by Oglala Lakota artist Donald F. Montileaux represented the 36th Annual United Tribes International Powwow. Modern ledger art recalled drawings of an earlier time when stories and deeds were preserved on the pages of ledger books acquired from non-Indians. Montileaux's original went into UTTC's collection of American Indian art in the college's cultural interpretive center.

*Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 2005, Volume 17, No. 1, Fall 2005*

***"You epitomize what good leadership is about."***







**2005-09-10:** A graceful gesture of respect took place during the popular United Tribes Powwow Softball Tournament. Umpires working the event presented the family of John Thunder Hawk Sr. with a beautiful start quilt carrying the T-Hawk design and John's number. The late UTTC Activities director passed away only a few weeks earlier. At the time, he was the longest serving active employee at the college. He began a 34-year career at United Tribes as a recreation assistant on July 1, 1971. He was well-known and liked in the community as an athlete, sports booster and mentor. The tournament was dedicated to John's legacy of friendship, sportsmanship and leadership.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 23, 2005; United Tribes News, Sept. 19, 2005, p.4*

**2005-09-10:** The chairman of the United Tribes Powwow Committee received some good news while he was busy with the powwow. Andrew Vasquez (Apache Tribe of Oklahoma) was a winner in the 2005 Indian Summer Music Awards. Andy's CD "Togo" won the Flute category at the award event in Milwaukee, WI.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 10, 2005, p.3*

**2005-10-03:** Three years of growth in student enrollment was a mixed blessing for the college. Cumulative enrollment of 905 students for summer and fall terms was the highest figure in the school's 36 year history. One of most significant challenges was honoring the commitment to provide housing. UTTC's Housing Director Cheryl Wilkie reported that 191 students and their families were involved in the Off-Campus Student Housing Program, twice as many as a year earlier. The college provided lodging in local apartments and in hotels as a temporary solution.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 10, 2005, p.1*

**2005-10-05:** United Tribes was honored to have elders from each of the college's governing tribes participate in an "Elders Wisdom" forum as part of a wellness fair. They were: Danny Seaboy (Sisseton-Wahpeton); Ambrose Little Ghost (Spirit Lake); August Little Soldier (Three Affiliated); Margaret Teachout and Leona Claymore (both Standing Rock); and Marvin Bald Eagle (Turtle Mountain).

*United Tribes News, Oct. 31, 2005, p.3*

**2005-10-19:** The North Dakota Governor's office announced a \$1.4-million grant to United Tribes to bolster its health information technology programs. The U.S. Dept. of Labor

award provided state-of-the-art technology for the college's Medical Transcription Program. The new program was launched earlier in the year when the college acquired Exact-Med, a Bismarck-based medical transcription training company. Former owner Renae Becker coordinated the program.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 31, 2005, p.1*

**2005-12-07:** Forty-six UTTC students were acknowledged and celebrated at a holiday gathering of the new "Leadership Through Experience" program. LTE allowed students to work in college departments, developing experience and skills for future careers. As with jobs in the marketplace, students went through an application and interview process and were evaluated for job performance. Their earnings were their own for college and personal expenses.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 16, 2005, p.4*

## 2006

**2006-01-06:** Two representatives of the Bush Foundation visited United Tribes. Dr. Bert Ahern and Dr. John Archambal met with the college president, administrators, faculty and staff about continuing the foundation's support for professional development.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 23, 2006, p.2*

**2006-01:** The United Tribes Teacher Education Program was operating the newest chapter of the Student North Dakota Education Association. Eight other chapters were active at North Dakota colleges and universities and UTTC was the first tribal college to organize. Tanya Frederick was the first chapter president.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 3, 2006, p. 4*

**2006-02-13:** One of UTTC's academic leaders was tapped to become the new director of Community Wellness Services. Dennis A. Renville (Sisseton-Wahpeton) succeeded Dr. Linda F. Gourneau as head of the campus wellness center and its programs. Renville was assistant academic dean and director of the Injury Prevention Program.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 13, 2006, p. 1*

**2006-03-06:** Construction Technology students were all smiles having earned their OSHA cards following a 10-hour safety course at the UTTC Skill Center. Training covered the basics of industry safety and health as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 6, 2006, p. 1*





**2006-03-06:** An explanation of one type of racism was offered at UTTC during a professional development talk by a former North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission director. Juanita Helphrey said it involves a mix of prejudice and power. It begins when people make pre-judgments about others based on race. If they use social, economic, political or organizational power to enforce that 'prejudice,' it fits the classic definition of institutional racism. "For Native People it's important to understand that racism is not always about us as people," said the racial justice advocate. "It's more about those who are perpetrators."

*United Tribes News, Mar. 27, 2006, p. 12*

**2006-03-14:** The city mayor appointed Dr. Harriett Skye to the Bismarck Human Relations Committee. Dr. Skye was acting UTTC Dean of Intertribal Programs. The panel advised the city commission about discrimination complaints and efforts to promote diversity in the community.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 27, 2006, p. 11*

**2006-03-27:** The United Tribes Tribal Analytics Institute (TAI) was in the closing year of a project concerned with grant evaluations and reports. Community Research Specialist Tiffany Hodge assisted tribes and tribal programs in navigating the confusing and often dissatisfying maze of performance measurements required under Federal grants. The effort focused on establishing culturally appropriate criteria for Tribal Nations and online statistical analysis. TAI was initiated by Twila Martin Kekahbah (Turtle Mountain), former UTTC Research and Development director.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 27, 2006, p. 3*

**2006-03:** Marla Striped Face-Collins (Standing Rock) was selected for an undergraduate fellowship by the Ecological Society of America. She was the first graduate of UTTC's Tribal Environmental Science program.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 27, 2006, p. 6*

**2006-04:** United Tribes and the University of North Dakota teamed up on the UT-PLAINS project to increase the number of American Indian school principals in the state. The full title was United Tribes Principal Leadership for American Indians in Native Schools. The goal was to recruit current Native educators into a degree program in UND's Dept. of Educational Leadership. Sheri Bear King-Baker directed the project for UTTC and Dr. Angie Koppang for

UND. A DOL grant funded the project.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 17, 2006, p. 1*

**2006-04-15:** Two United Tribes Teacher Education students received scholarships from the North Dakota Education Association. Janice St. Claire and Tammy Kelsch (both Three Affiliated) were working on their bachelor's degrees when they were honored at an NDEA banquet assembly.

*United Tribes News, May 1, 2006, p. 3*

**2006-04-21:** At a staff awards banquet, an employee who signed-on near the start of United Tribes and served faithfully ever since was warmly wrapped in a Pendleton blanket by the college president and one of the deans. The gesture of respect and thanks was accorded to Shirley Iron Road, who was honored for 35 years of dedicated service. In addition to her work in career development, she was a guiding member of the UTTC powwow committee.

*United Tribes News, May 1, 2006, p.10*

**2006-04:** United Tribes always attracted students from across the nation and that continued during the 2005-06 academic year. A tribal affiliation summary of the student count showed 66 different tribes were represented in the student body. The top five in number were: Standing Rock, Three Affiliated, Cheyenne River, Turtle Mountain and Oglala.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 27, 2006, p. 5*

**2006-04:** Two of UTTC's Chemical Health Center counselors were recognized by the Aberdeen Area Alcohol Program Directors Association. Harriett Schneider and Julie M. Cain received certificates of appreciation for their work in substance abuse counseling. Their supervisor, G. Russell Gillette Jr., praised them for incorporating American Indian culture, spirituality and social norms in their work.

*United Tribes News, May 15, 2006, p. 8*



Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills with UTTC staffers Anita Charging and Carol Walker

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News



**2006-06-02:** Shovels of soil flew during groundbreaking for a new apartment complex on the UTTC campus. North Dakota U.S. Senator Kent Conrad and Representative Earl Pomeroy joined Turtle Mountain Chairman Ken Davis and UTTC President David M. Gipp in launching a \$2.7-million project to help ease the chronic shortage of affordable housing. Construction proceeded swiftly over the summer using a trained labor force. Students in the college's Construction Technology program erected the 26,400 sq. ft. complex under the supervision of Michael Matheny, Construction Technology director.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 2006, p. 11*

**2006-07-24:** Russell Swagger, UTTC Dean of Student and Campus Services, was one of 26 leaders from a five-state region in the northern Great Plains invited to participate in the Meadowlark Project - A Leadership Laboratory on the Future of the Northern Great Plains. The project was an 18-month social change effort designed to find new ways to address long-standing, systemic problems in the region.

*United Tribes Press Release, July 24, 2006; Bismarck Tribune, July 30, 2006, p.2B*

**2006-08-13:** A *Bismarck Tribune* editorial called the idea of creating a second parade in September in Bismarck a "clinker." Nonetheless, a downtown business owner and county commissioner pushed ahead with organizing the "Autumnfest Parade" as a separate event from the combined "Parade of Champions" and "Folkfest Parade." The move was disappointing to UTTC President David M. Gipp and Bismarck Chamber Chairman Kent Blickensderfer, who said it ignored the progress made to celebrate cultural heritage together. "Ours is a collaborative effort that unites the community," they said. The *Tribune* observed, "It's not too late to cancel the event" but it was held anyway, beginning the future segregation of cultural parades in the Capitol City.

*Bismarck Tribune, Aug. 4, 2006; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 24, 2006, p.9C*

**2006-08-16:** U.S. Olympic Champion Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota) helped kick-off UTTC's first Thunderbird Run Half-Marathon. The friendly and approachable winner of the 10,000 meter race in the 1964 Olympics, signed autographs, posed for photos and spoke at the awards ceremony. He also participated in a 'fun walk' with UTTC staff and students. The event was created and coordinated by Daryl Bears Tail,

Ruth Buffalo and Dennis Renville.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2006, p.9; Bismarck Tribune, Aug. 17, 2006, p.6D*

**2006-09-01:** United Tribes reported that the college contributed nearly \$47-million in annual economic activity into the Bismarck-Mandan economy. The college's economic impact was analyzed using the well-known North Dakota Input-Output Model used by the North Dakota University System. The report noted that the powwow alone pumped over \$4-million into the local economy.

*United Tribes Press Release, Sept. 1, 2006; United Tribes News, Oct. 2006, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 2, 2006*

**2006-09-05:** A ribbon-cutting and dedication program for the college's wellness center was attended by tribal dignitaries, two state governors and a congressman. The newly completed \$2.7-million facility was named for the late Lewis Goodhouse, chairman of the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe from 1957 to 1972 and one of the college founders. The center became the focal location for the college's wellness initiative, offering mainstream and holistic wellness practices in student health, counseling, chemical health, fitness training, lifestyle choices and athletics. To set-up the nearly two-dozen staff members for their mission, UTTC maintenance workers did the heavy lifting in August, moving in furniture and equipment. The muscle was supplied by: Reuben Alicea, James Carry Moccasin Jr., Frank Lohnes Jr., Dennis Belgarde and foreman Bernard Strikes Enemy.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 2006, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 6, 2006; United Tribes News, Oct. 2006, p.8*

**2006-10-16:** The UTTC Maintenance staff fired up the grill for burgers and steaks to salute their leader Mervin "Bud" Anderson. Staffers presented Bud with a star quilt, to recognize his 30 years of service to the college, and a cake inscribed "Happy Boss Day." Melted by the affection, the famously grouchy but kind-hearted boss allowed that it was "one of the best days" he'd had at UTTC.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 2006, p.2*

**2006-10-23:** UTTC's Childhood Development Center underwent a planned reorganization, creating welcome and important changes in supervision and staffing. The college's Teacher Education Dept. began administering the CDC under the direction of Lisa J. Azure and Leah Hamann. The change came at a time of unprecedented enrollment growth. It divided







the center into three age levels of service, provided for a practicum and field learning for college students in Teacher Education, and adopted new 'best practices' in early childhood education. Eighteen months later, the center reported nearly 40 workers involved and a grant in the hopper for a language and literacy project for children ages 3-4.

*United Tribes News*, Nov. 2006, p.1; *Tribes News*, Apr-May 2008, p.16

**2006-11-03:** Vandalism to the public sculpture "Reflections" failed to destroy the spirit of UTTC students at a dedication program for the art project in Bismarck's Steamboat Park. Jeremy Pettigrew (Oglala), Mike Gopher Jr. (Blackfeet) and Josey Redday (Sisseton-Wahpeton) labored through the summer creating a 12 ft. tall eagle, its wings engulfing a six ft. diameter stainless steel gazing ball representing Mother Earth. City workers found and removed a racial slur written on the sphere. "Despite the vandalism, this remains a valid symbol of cultural sharing and unity," said David M. Gipp, UTTC president, about one of the goals of the project to reach out to the community and change attitudes.

*United Tribes News*, Dec. 2006, p.1; *Bismarck Tribune*, Nov. 4, 2006; *Tribal College Journal*, Feb. 15, 2007, Volume 18, No. 3, Spring 2007

**2006-11-07:** UTTC students took their civic duty seriously and served as poll watchers during the General Election. Two training sessions in mid October by Bobbi Jo Zueger, coordinator of the North Dakota Tribal Voter Education Project, prepared them for the experience. Serving as election clerks at area polling precincts were: Billi Eckiss at University of Mary, Flo Burning Breast at Prairie Rose School, Mandie McLeod at Riverside Golf Course, and Nancy Galligo at Horizon Middle School.

*United Tribes News*, Nov. 2006, p.11; *United Tribes News*, Dec. 2006, p.6

**2006-11:** Obsolete equipment from the earliest days of the college, including old tools, vehicles and dusty furniture, were some of the 250 surplus items that attracted bids from as far away as Montana during a sealed-bid sale. Supply supervisor Dan Larson and clerk Cynthia Hurkes conducted the week-long property purge that generated over \$38-thousand and freed-up considerable space in a storage building.

*United Tribes News*, Jan. 2007, p.4

**2006-12-01:** Family members of the late UTTC activities director were recognized and honored during the inaugural John Thunder Hawk Sr.

Basketball Tournament. The home-standing Thunderbirds won three games in the pre-season event that came to be known as the "John Thunder Hawk Sr. Classic."

*United Tribes News*, Jan. 2007, p.9

**2006-12:** UTTC Athletic Director/Coach Daryl Bears Tail praised his top cross country runner who placed very well in the national junior college finals. Sage Koch came in 57th in a field of 200 runners at the championships held at El Paso, TX. He covered the 5-mile course in 26:00:42, more than a minute faster than his best time all season. The winner was an elite runner from Kenya who finished in 22:36.

*United Tribes News*, Dec. 2006, p.10

## 2007

**2007-01-11:** New titles were conferred on leaders serving on the college's Administrative Council. Rather than college deans, they became college vice presidents: Shirley Bordeaux, Vice President of Finance and Business Services; Russell Swagger, Vice President of Student and Campus Services; F. Sam Azure, Vice President of Elementary Services; Phil Baird, Vice President of Academic and Vocation Programs; and Harriett Skye, Vice President of Intertribal Programs. Another staffer (not on the administrative council) with a new title was Cheryl Long Feather. UTTC's Research Director earned a PhD from the University of North Dakota entitling her to be addressed as Dr. Cheryl Long Feather.

*United Tribes News*, Feb. 2007, p.6



Karen Paetz at "Go Red for Women" luncheon

**2007-02-02:** UTTC's Land Grant Program made a strong commitment to promote women's heart health. During American Heart Month, staffers displayed a "Go Red for Women" information booth at the State Capitol in Bismarck. Later, program director Karen Paetz wore red-colored



traditional regalia in a “Go Red” luncheon of the American Heart Association. In October, 188 participants attended a “Go Red” seminar at UTTC, keynote by Dr. Monica Mayer (Three Affiliated).

*United Tribes News, Mar. 2007, p.15; United Tribes News, Apr. 2007, p.2; United Tribes News, Dec. 2007, p.5*

**2007-03-21:** The Native Research Lecture series at UTTC featured a scholarly talk about historical trauma. Dr. Spero Manson (Pembina Chippewa) presented “Wounded Spirits, Ailing Hearts - Current Studies of Trauma among American Indians.” Manson was professor of psychiatry and director of American Indian Programs at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Dr. Cheryl Long Feather coordinated the lecture series.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 2007, p.6*

**2007-04:** The newly formed United Tribes Facilities Committee focused attention on infrastructure needs as part of college expansion plans. Organized in December, committee membership included Russell Swagger, Bud Anderson, Curtis Maynard, Frank Bosch and Mike Matheny.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 2007, p.5*

**2007-05-02:** David M. Gipp was honored at a reception on a milestone anniversary. Dozens of friends of the college, relatives, students and colleagues gathered to mark his 30 years of service to United Tribes. The guest of honor was wrapped in a buffalo robe and lauded for his leadership at UTTC and commitment to advancing tribal higher education throughout the country.

*United Tribes News, May 2007, p.1; United Tribes News, June/July 2007, p.1*

**2007-05-03:** August Little Soldier (Three Affiliated) of Zap, ND, was the honored guest for dedication of new student apartments on campus. “This is such a nice complex that I might move in here myself,” he said with a grin about the August Little Soldier apartments bearing his name. At age 92, Little Soldier was the only tribal member still living who helped found the college’s governing organization in 1968, the United Tribes of North Dakota.

*United Tribes News, June/July 2007, p.20*

**2007-05-10:** Many hours of lobbying by North Dakota’s tribal college presidents paid off with a long sought-after victory in the State Legislature. Along with key lawmakers, they peered over the shoulder of Governor John Hoeven as he signed into law the Tribal College bill (HB 1395)

during a ceremony at United Tribes. The law provided funding for non-beneficiary (non-Indian) students attending tribal colleges. It was the first time state tax dollars were appropriated specifically for students attending the state’s five tribal colleges.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 2007, p.10; United Tribes News, Mar. 2007, p.1; United Tribes News, Apr. 2007, p.6; United Tribes News, June/July 2007, p.2; Bismarck Tribune, May 11, 2007, p.4B; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 2007, Volume 19, No. 1, Fall 2007*

**2007-06-12:** The presidents of United Tribes and Minot State College signed an accord for educational partnerships. The three-year agreement was seen as a “model for collaboration” between a tribal college and a North Dakota University System institution. A feature known as ‘two-plus-two’ assured that courses completed at UTTC would be accepted at MSU and count toward a four-year degree.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2007, p.3*

**2007-05:** UTTC President David M. Gipp (Hunkpapa Lakota) was featured in the University of North Dakota’s “More Than Beads and Feathers” poster campaign. He was recognized as one of nine successful Native graduates of UND. He graduated in 1969 in political science. Gipp had led United Tribes for the preceding 30 years. Prior to that, he directed the American Indian Higher Education Consortium.

*Tribal College Journal, May 15, 2007, Volume 18, No. 4, Summer 2007*

**2007-06-22:** The ND/SD Native American Business Enterprise Center at UTTC earned a singular distinction. The center was named the “National Outstanding Performance Leader” of the year. The U.S. Dept. of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency conferred the honor. The UTTC center was directed by Brek Maxon along with business consultant Larry Stockert.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2007, p.14*



United Tribes founder August Little Soldier

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News





**2007-06-23:** On a hot summer day, a hearty group of UTTC students took on the Maa Daa Hey Trail in western North Dakota. Outfitted with helmets and up-to-date mountain bikes, they pedaled a portion of the trail in 90 degree temps. The outing was organized by the Strengthening Lifestyles Program of the college's wellness center.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2007, p.1*

**2007-07:** The fifth season of the summer camp, "Nokotas on the Prairie," involved 26 students in grades three to six. Under the direction of Dr. Jen Janecek-Hartman, the math/technology/culture camp presented activities, instruction, camping and field trips, including one to the Nokota Horse Conservancy in Emmons Co. North Dakota.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2007, p.14; Tribal College Journal, November 15, 2008, Volume 20, No. 2, Winter 2008*

**2007-08-25:** UTTC students discovered their "Rising Eagle" sculpture had been vandalized with spray paint in Bismarck's Pioneer Park. "It's pretty tough to understand why someone would do this," said David Black Cloud, who designed the public art piece. Art/Art Marketing students Bethany Drapeau, Martha Garreau, John Clifford and Black Cloud put in countless hours of work. More than 100 people attended a dedication in early September, including the Bismarck Police Chief.

*Bismarck Tribune, Aug. 25, 2007; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 6, 2007*



"Rising Eagle" sculpture

**2007-08:** United Tribes began offering a new career and technical education program in the field of Community Health. The program built on the success of the college's 10-year-old Injury Prevention program. It integrated the former curriculum into the wider field of Community Health. The expanded range of

coursework offerings included environmental science, injury prevention, gerontology, medical terminology, multicultural health, nutrition, and personal and consumer health.

*Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 2007, Volume 19, No. 2, Winter 2007*

**2007-09-07:** An open house was held for the newly renovated teaching kitchen in the UTTC Skill Center. New equipment for the Nutrition and Foodservice vocation was installed by the Maintenance Dept. staff, Construction Technology students and students in the program.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2007, p.5*

**2007-09-07:** Two environmental organizations were involved in a solar heating demonstration on the UTTC campus. "UTTC is a good place for one these," said Winona LaDuke, about the experiment. The founder of "Honor the Earth" teamed-up with Richard Fox of "Trees, Water and People" to help Henry Red Cloud of Lakota Solar Enterprises, Pine Ridge, SD, hook up a solar panel on a student family house on campus. "This has the potential to be a model of sustainability," said LaDuke.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2007, p.17*

**2007-09:** UTTC Land Grant teamed up with Thunderbird Athletics on a statewide tribal community-service campaign called "Eat Smart, Play Hard." Billboards and posters showed youngsters and athletes with healthy foods like fruits and vegetables. It was part of a USDA initiative to promote healthy eating and physical activity in children and families. A privately funded project rolled out in August called "Eat Right and Ride," relied on bicycle riding to keep youngsters moving.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 2007, p.3; United Tribes News, Oct. 2007, p.15; Tribal College Journal, Feb. 15, 2008, Volume 19, No. 3, Spring 2008*

**2007-09-08:** Rain interrupted the Saturday routine of the 38th annual powwow, cancelling the parade and one grand entry and forcing another grand entry indoors. Sunshine prevailed on closing day for a special honoring of family members of Woodrow W. Keeble (Sisseton-Wahpeton) a veteran of World War II and Korea. Later in the fall, the Army Master Sgt. was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for distinguished and heroic service. On Mar. 3, 2008 at the White House, President George W. Bush presented the medal to Keeble's step-son, Russell Hawkins.





Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

Arrow Graphics staff, from left: Joaquin Andrews, Andi Gladson, Florine Burning Breast and Sandy Erickson

*United Tribes News*, Oct. 2007, p.1; *Dakota-Lakota Journal*, Dec. 14, 2007, p.7; *Tribes News*, Apr-May, 2008, p.24

**2007-09:** Students and staff members were taking their personal wellness quite seriously at UTTC. A record number used the Lewis Goodhouse Wellness Center during the month of October. Scott Davis, Strengthening Lifestyles physical specialist, reported that over 1,000 signed-in to use the facilities during the month. Many had developed a workout plan, routinely using the fitness equipment, gymnasium, sauna, hot tub and locker rooms.

*United Tribes News*, Nov. 2007, p.15

**2007-09:** The first United Tribes Golf Team competed in five outings during the short, fall season. Phillip Fox, Carlisle Wells and Taylor Brushbreaker all gained valuable experience against seasoned competitors in the junior college ranks. "I'm very proud of them," said Athletic Director Darryl Bears Tail. "They're excellent young men who exhibited great character."

*United Tribes News*, Nov. 2007, p.16

**2007-10-01:** United Tribes distributed an educational DVD package about Indian land tenure, the recovery of Indian land. Accompanied by teaching resource materials, the project was titled "The People and the

Land Are One." A video dramatically showed the historic loss of Indian land, the scourge of fractionated land ownership, and what can be done to recover productive uses. Makoche' Recording Co. produced the materials for UTTC.

*United Tribes News*, Oct. 2007, p.7

**2007-10:** Sheri Bear King-Baker (Standing Rock/Turtle Mt.) took on a new role, becoming Director of Community Wellness Services. She was previously a Business and Office Technology instructor. At the wellness center, she directed programs in Student Health, Chemical Health, Student Success and Strengthening Lifestyles.

*United Tribes News*, Oct. 2007, p.9

**2007-11:** A grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education boosted UTTC's distance education programs. It was a five-year \$2.4-million award under the department's Title III, Strengthening Developing Institutions Programs for Tribal Colleges and Universities. UTTC created a new Center of Educational Outreach to further enhance the college's five online degree programs. UTTC was the only tribal college with accredited online degree programs.

*United Tribes News*, Nov. 2007, p.1

**2007-11-05:** How UTTC does things differently for the success of its students emerged as a central focus at the start of an institutional self study.



Meeting during a retreat, a 26 member campus committee was considered to be ahead of the curve in planning for reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The college's existing 10-year accreditation was good through 2011. Accreditation was considered the 'holy grail' of educational effectiveness and credibility. The study was led by Russell Swagger, UTTC Vice President of Student and Campus Services.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2007, p.1*

**2007-11-05:** United Tribes Technical College was awarded \$299,512 from the U.S. Dept. of Justice to assure campus safety. The grant allowed UTTC to strengthen its partnership with the Abused Adult Resource Center, Burleigh County Sheriff's Department and the Bismarck Police Department to prevent violent crimes against women on campus.

*Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 2007, Volume 19, No. 2, Winter 2007*

**2007-12-07:** Staff members of Arrow Graphics, the college's graphic design and print shop, held an open house, warmly greeting their campus and off campus clients for the holiday season. Staffers were: Sandy Erickson, head designer/supervisor; Andi Gladson and Joaquin Andrews, graphic designers; and Florine Burning Breast, office manager. Design and printing were essential services used regularly by the entire campus. Some routine and recurring projects included publishing and circulating United Tribes News, designing the annual powwow art poster, publishing the summit and powwow tabloids, designing advertising and promotional materials, and printing instructional reports and documents.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 2008, p.2*

## 2008

**2008-01-18:** Theodore Jamerson Elementary School began accepting enrollments for a new literacy program for parents and children. FACE (Family and Child Education) was dedicated to family literacy and life-long-learning, provided through home-based and center-based services. The program operated with a five-person staff, administered by Sam Azure, TJES Principal.

*United Tribes Press Release, Jan. 19, 2008*

**2008-02:** Two students who wrote descriptively about how they were motivated to succeed in college received awards from the Marvin

Family Endowment at UTTC. Aja Baker (Three Affiliated), Small Business Management, and Herbert I. Red Horse (Standing Rock), Health Information Technology, were selected by the college's scholarship committee. In 2007, United Tribes received \$90,000 in scholarship contributions from 175 individuals and groups. The scholarship fund accounts included: Opportunities in the Making, David M. Gipp Scholars, Johnson Scholarship Foundation, and "Teeing off for Success" UTTC Golf Tournament scholarships.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 2008, p.1&8*

**2008-03:** North Dakota tribal colleges hosted the American Indian Higher Education Consortium conference in Bismarck. The 27th annual gathering attracted over 1,200 students and educators from the nation's 36 tribal colleges located in 14 states. Events were held at several locations, including the Bismarck Civic Center, Ramkota Hotel and United Tribes. A colorful logo, design by UTTC Art/Art Marketing student Sandra Red Feather (Oglala) Pine Ridge, SD, was selected for the conference.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 2008, p.1; United Tribes News, Apr-May 2008, p.1*

**2008-03-12:** Two influential and supportive figures in athletics were honored during the opening ceremony at UTTC of the AIHEC Basketball Tournament. Al Bortke of University of Mary was acknowledged for his trust and faith in Indian athletes during a 30 year career as coach and athletic director. And former Louisiana State University basketball coach Dale Brown was recognized for his respect and friendship with Native athletes while growing up in Minot, North Dakota. A motivational speaker, Brown keynoted the annual AIHEC conference.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 2008, p.21*

**2008-03-21:** A gathering took place at 11 a.m. in front of the Wellness Center on the first full day of spring to pray and sing a healing song for Mother Earth. Counselor Julie Cain used e-mail to sync UTTC with other Tribal People doing the same across North America. The ceremony, titled "8,000 Drums," focused on healing the environment from the constant assault of modern life.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 2008, p.23*

**2008-04-21:** The United Tribes International Powwow received the 2008 North Dakota Governor's International Tourism Award.



Powwow committee members Dr. Harriett Skye and Debbie Painte accepted the award during the North Dakota Tourism Conference.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2008, p.28*

**2008-04-25:** Author Susan Power (Standing Rock) presented a lively talk at United Tribes that included readings from her books. Her novel "The Grass Dancer" received the 1995 PEN/Hemingway Award for First Fiction.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2008, p.21*

**2008-06:** Scientists and staffers from NASA visited United Tribes to work with 15 students attending a three-week Summer Research Experience. It was the first time a tribal college was the host site; previously the exclusive training sessions were held at NASA's Goddard Space Center in Maryland. Dr. Jen Janecek-Hartman coordinated the event for UTTC.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2008, p.23*

**2008-06-26:** The director of UTTC's Nursing Program participated in a national summit about the shortage of nurses. Evelyn Orth was on a team of North Dakota nurses and nursing educators at the meeting in Washington, DC. The focus was on developing greater capacity for nursing education. In July, UTTC's Nursing Program was awarded eight years of continued accreditation by the National League of Nursing

Accrediting Commission.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2008, p.10; United Tribes News, Sept. 2008, p.16*



Russell Swagger Jr. at UTTC summer horse camp

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News



United Tribes campus in 2008

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News







**2008-07-15:** UTTC's Pat Aune was recognized by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service for outstanding work in creating food safety outreach materials targeted for Native Americans. As Land Grant Program Food Safety Educator, she conducted hands-on safety training and certification programs for Nutrition and Foodservice students and many groups of food-handlers in tribal settings and in the public sector.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2008, p.2; United Tribes News, Feb. 2008, p.17; United Tribes News, Mar. 2008, p.16*

**2008-08-26:** UTTC President David M. Gipp addressed the Democratic National Convention in Denver, saying that American Indians are not just another special interest group trying to claim a share of the American pie. "Every step you take across this great nation, every vista you admire, every city you call by its tribal name, was once Indian Country," he said in the speech, Renewing America's Promise to American Indians. "We paid for our place in advance with land and blood." This was the convention that nominated Barack Obama as the Democratic Party candidate for President.

*Bismarck Tribune, August 27, 2008, p.1B*

**2008-09-03:** "All too often First Americans get second class treatment," said Byron Dorgan to 300 tribal leaders during the United Tribes 12th Annual Tribal Leaders Summit. As chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, he said the panel was going back to basics, focusing on health care, housing, education and law enforcement. About education, he said it was important that United Tribes had achieved authorization for its base funding in the Tribal Colleges Act, along with the nation's 36 other tribal colleges and universities.

*United Tribes Press Release, Sept. 3, 2008; Bismarck Tribune Editorial, Aug. 14, 2008*

**2008-09-04:** A metal art sculpture of an eagle, titled "The Keeper," was dedicated in Bismarck's Sertoma Park along the city's multi-use trail. It was the fifth piece in the series created by UTTC Art/Art Marketing students through a cooperative agreement with the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District. Sculptor Tom Neary advised on the project that was temporarily stalled in May for lack of a 'public art policy' in the city. Although the parks district planned for six sculptures, The Keeper turned out to be the last.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2008, p.15; Bismarck Tribune Editorial, Oct. 29, 2007, p.6A; Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 22, 2008; Bismarck Tribune May 5, 2008; Bismarck Tribune Editorial, May 29, 2008*

**2008-09-05:** United Tribes previewed its vision for the future at an outdoor dedication program overlooking the college's new, south campus. The cost of a phased expansion on the 135-acre tract was ball-parked at \$200-million. In the audience were more than 100 friends of the college and officials, who saw the beginning outline of progress on the infrastructure in two paved streets, several fire hydrants and street lighting.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2008, p.24; United Tribes News, June-July. 2008, p.4*

**2008-09-06:** The *Bismarck Tribune* highlighted an obvious factor about the economic benefit of the United Tribes Powwow. Local people went all-out for visitors by holding the "biggest yard and garage sale weekend of the year." Being impossible to quantify, the 'yard sale factor' was not included in the college's economic impact reports.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 6, 2008*

**2008-09:** Thunderbird basketball player and Teacher Education student Nevada Allen (Lakota) became the first recipient of an award from the Coach Dale Brown Scholarship Challenge. At the time, the matching gift campaign from the former LSU basketball coach and Minot, ND native had generated over \$24-thousand for scholarships.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 2008, p.20*

**2008-09-16:** UTTC students got a whiff of the smell of alternative energy when the "Bio-Bus" visited campus. The one-time school bus, converted to run on recycled vegetable oil, was a rolling classroom of the national Energy Action Coalition. The six-member crew was out to spread the word (and aroma) of renewable energy. During the UTTC stop, the college cafeteria supplied the used vegetable cooking oil that made the diesel engine exhaust smell like French fries.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 2008, p.1*

**2008-10-03:** Austin G. "Jim" Engel, Jr., 80, passed away. He was the only non-Indian to serve on the UTETC Board of Directors in the 1960s and early '70s. Governor William L. Guy appointed Engel as executive director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission in 1965,

which prompted a move to Bismarck from his ministry at Parshall, ND on the Fort Berthold Reservation.

*Bismarck Tribune, October 4, 2008, p.7A; Austin Engel interviewed by David M. Gipp, June 7, 2004, UTTC Archive*

**2008-10-30:** Former Thunderbird basketball player Brandon Stevens stepped up for United Tribes at a fundraising event in New York City. The 2004 UTTC graduate was a role model of success, having been elected to the council of his tribe, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. He endorsed UTTC to the audience and primed-the-pump with over \$5,000 in financial contributions from two foundations he was associated with.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2008, p.2*

**2008-11-04:** On General Election Day, United Tribes conducted a get-out-the-vote effort as part of a tribal voter education project. Sixty-six students living on the UTTC campus took advantage of bus transportation to reach the local voting precinct at an area elementary school. The non-partisan effort to improve tribal voter participation in state elections was branded with the slogan "You Count - North Dakota Tribal Voter Education Project."

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2008, p.1; United Tribes News, Nov. 2008, p.3*

**2008-11:** Kathy Aller, a 35-year member of the staff, was selected as the American Indian College Fund/UTTC Faculty Member of the Year. The Business and Office Technology instructor witnessed the evolution from job training facility to accredited technical college. She began in 1973 in the pre-school, later joining the college faculty. In March, she received a UTTC service award during the AIHEC conference.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 2008, p.7; United Tribes News, Apr-May. 2008, p.10*

**2008-11-10:** Chilly temps, hoarfrost on the trees and ice under foot failed to deter an outdoor component of UTTC's observance of Veterans Day. The drum group Tatanka Nagi sang and a Color Guard led a procession around All Nations Circle as a concluding gesture to a program honoring servicemen and women at United Tribes and around the world.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2008, p.24*

**2008-11:** Karen Paetz (Three Affiliated) was elected to a two-year term on the board of the American Indian/Alaska Native Tourism

Association. UTTC's Land Grant Programs director represented the Plains Region and was one of the founding members of the group.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 2008, p.10*

**2008-11-15:** The North Dakota chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union presented its 'Champion of Liberty' award to David M. Gipp. The UTTC president was recognized with the prestigious honor for his "lifelong commitment to the work of racial justice."

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2008, p.3*

## 2009

**2009-01-20:** Showing fortitude, a group organized by United Tribes braved long hours of cold weather in the nation's capitol to march in the Inaugural Parade for President Barack Obama. At the time the Inaugural Committee issued the invitation, UTTC was the only organization from North Dakota selected to participate from 1,382 applications. Wes Long Feather, UTTC administrative chief of staff, coordinated the group representing the state's five tribes that govern the college. Military Veterans who had served in Middle East conflicts were prominent among the 19 individuals who participated. Some carried flags, others wore traditional regalia.

*United Tribes Press Release, Dec. 15, 2008; United Tribes News, Jan. 2009, p.1; United Tribes News, Feb. 2009, p.23*

**2009-03-04:** UTTC's Student Health Center conducted a registry for the National Bone Marrow Donor Program. Fifty individuals new to the program signed-up. The effort was aimed at increasing the number of American Indians in the registry. Staffing the sign-up were: Suzanne Shields, RN, Student Health Center director; Lucie Gall and Charmelle Fuchs, Center LPNs; and Andi Gladson, a trained volunteer.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 2009, p.3*

**2009-03-19:** During a meeting of the BIA Tribal Budget Advisory Council, UTTC learned that its federal funding had been restored. It meant the college was part of the current fiscal year budget request of the Obama Administration. The welcome news ended an eight-year cycle of being excluded from the Interior-BIA budget and having to lobby congress for restoration.

*United Tribes Press Release, Mar. 19, 2009*

**2009-04-03:** UTTC Tribal Arts Instructor Wallace 'Butch' Thunder Hawk Jr. co-curated an exhibit about Lakota culture that opened at Harvard





University's Peabody Museum. "Wiyohpiyata: Lakota Images of the Contested West" originated from scenes depicted in the "Half Moon Ledger." The book of drawings by Lakota warriors showed encounters and battles prior to the Greasy Grass fight in 1876. Thunder Hawk was awarded a fellowship that involved work on interpreting the ledger images, mentoring student workers, constructing a horse effigy for display and creating graphic designs for the exhibit that captured the spirit and style of the 135 year old ledger drawings.

*United Tribes News*, Mar. 2009, p.1; *United Tribes News*, May 2009, p.2; *Symbols*, Peabody Museum, Spring 2009; *Tribal College Journal*, Nov. 15, 2009, Volume 21, No. 2, Winter 2009

**2009-04:** UTTC's Teacher Education Dept. began recruiting students for a new teacher education program known as the "Sweet Grass Project." The U.S. Dept. of Education supported the four-year program to recruit and train teachers to serve children with disabilities in North Dakota. With the first cohort limited to 25, the selection process was highly competitive. Instruction began with fall semester 2009.

*United Tribes News*, Oct. 2008, p.5; *United Tribes News*, Apr. 2009, p.20

**2009-04-25:** Improving law enforcement on reservations was the primary topic

of discussion when the newly appointed Secretary of Interior visited United Tribes. Ken Salazar, a cowboy hat-wearing former Senator from Colorado, met with tribal leaders and educators, accompanied by North Dakota U.S. Senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad. Plans were advanced for establishing an Indian Police Academy satellite training program at UTTC. The college's own security staff worked with the Federal Park Police during the visit. Security Chief James Red Tomahawk (Standing Rock) was assisted by officers Blair Thomas, Wayne Moran and Dustin Krueger.

*United Tribes News*, June-July 2009, p.9&10; *United Tribes News*, Aug. 2009, p.12

**2009-05-01:** Scott J. Davis, 39, (Standing Rock/Turtle Mountain) began serving as the new North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission director. Citing his focus on "education, wellness and youth," Governor John Hoeven appointed him to succeed Cheryl Kulas who retired. As a youngster, Davis lived on the UTTC campus when his parents worked at the college. As an employee, he served in the UTTC development office and wellness center and was involved in instruction and cultural events planning.

*North Dakota Governor's Office Press Release*, Apr. 21, 2009; *Associated Press*, Apr. 21, 2009; *United Tribes News*, May 2009, p.16



Buffalo ceremony conducted at United Tribes

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News





**2009-05-07:** Jacqueline Archambault (Cheyenne River) was the first recipient of a Lynn Ketterling Memorial Scholarship at UTTC. She had graduated from Business Office Technology, where a scholarship was established to honor one of the program's dedicated instructors who had passed away earlier in the year.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2009, p.5*



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

Jackie Archambault with instructors Kathy Aller, at left, and Sheri Baker

**2009-05-08:** "Just a few months ago I would've never imagined that I'd be in the White House working for the President of the United States," said Jodi Archambault Gillette as UTTC's graduation speaker. The enrolled Standing Rock member had been named Deputy Associate Director in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. As such, she was the main contact in the Obama White House for the nation's 562 federally recognized tribes. "She knows how to work with all kinds of people," said David M. Gipp, UTTC president. "She has experience in the contemporary working world and the academic foundation. She's a mother and is active and skilled in her tribe's traditions. She's been a champion dancer at our powwow for many years. She's mild-mannered and keeps her cool. She'll be a warm and welcoming presence in American Indian affairs."

*United Tribes News, Mar. 2009, p.3; United Tribes News, June-July 2009, p.1*

**2009-06-12:** UTTC hosted an induction and honoring ceremony for a group of master's degree students in the United Tribes Special Education Program (UTSEP). The four-year partnership with UND produced 16 Native educators at the master's level in Learning Disabilities and Early Childhood Special Education.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2009, p.16*

**2009-07-07:** A tribal ritual seldom seen off the reservation was held at United Tribes as part of

a cultural awareness series. A Buffalo Ceremony was conducted as a teaching and learning experience for a respectful audience of TJES students and college staff. Marcel Bull Bear, a Lakota Studies instructor at Oglala Lakota College, did the honors. The animal was taken only a few hours earlier from the Standing Rock buffalo herd and trucked to Bismarck. "I had not seen an event like this for a long time, maybe over 50 years," said Harriett Skye. "It was an exercise in culture and sovereignty. We know exactly where the buffalo came from and what it was eating. We know the people who took it, prayed for it, thanked it and processed it. It was an important activity to have in a tribal educational setting."

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2009, p.1; Tribal College Journal, Nov. 15, 2009, Volume 21, No. 2, Winter 2009*

**2009-07:** Theodore Jamerson Elementary School on the UTTC campus was poised for expansion. Five modular classrooms had arrived and were awaiting site preparations on the elementary school grounds along Sisseton Street in the east part of the college campus.

*United Tribes News, Aug. 2009, p.26*

**2009-07-28:** David M. Gipp called on local authorities to investigate the destruction of the "Rising Eagle" sculpture as a 'hate crime.' Several days earlier, the sculpture made in 2007 by UTTC students was busted from its frame and scattered into pieces in Bismarck's Pioneer Park. This is not a "random act of vandalism," Gipp asserted. It was intended to "intimidate" for displaying public art that expresses the cultural diversity that exists in the community. He emphasized that the FBI definition of a hate crime included crimes against property. Left unchecked, it could lead to other acts of violence, not only against property but individual citizens, he said.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 2009, p.3*

**2009-08-11:** UTTC received a National Citizen Corps Achievement Award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA commended the college for improving community resiliency by training the campus staff for emergency response. United Tribes was the first tribal organization in the country to conduct CERT training. UTTC's lead emergency training coordinator, Barbara Schmitt, accepted the award.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 19, 2009; United Tribes News, Sept. 2009, p.10*





**2009-09:** United Tribes began using the social media platform Facebook. Fans signed-on for access to UTTC happenings, discussion forums, photo galleries, videos and links to college news. User comments were almost entirely positive, according to Frank Bosch, UTTC Facebook moderator.

*United Tribes News, Sept. 2009, p.4*

**2009-09-08:** The head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs performed triple-duty when he visited Bismarck. Larry Echo Hawk (Pawnee), newly appointed assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, presented a keynote address at the United Tribes Tribal Leader's Summit. On the UTTC campus, he joined with youngsters from Theodore Jamerson Elementary School to watch a talk by President Obama about the importance of learning. And he read to fourth graders from a children's book written by his wife, titled "Call Me Little Echo Hawk."

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2009, p.20*

**2009-09-10:** Dignitaries included the city mayor, state governor and chancellor of the state university system when United Tribes broke ground for a science and technology building. The new structure was the first on the college's south campus; the cost estimated at \$3-million. Mild weather allowed construction into late November on the 16,000 sq. ft. facility.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2009, p.3; United Tribes News, Dec. 2009, p.26; Tribal College Journal, May 15, 2010, Volume 21, No. 4, Summer 2010*

**2009-09:** A United Tribes Teacher Education student became president of the Student North Dakota Education Association. Rolenthea Begay (Dine' from the Navajo Nation) was elected at the SNDEA fall meeting, becoming the first tribal college student to hold that leadership position. The state organization boasted over 500 members at 10 North Dakota colleges that offer teacher education.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 2009, p.1*

**2009-09-12:** Fireworks thundered in the sky over the United Tribes Powwow, marking the college's 40th anniversary. An audience upwards of 6,000 came to the powwow arena Saturday evening, witnessing the colorful aerial display, the dance contests and a cultural performance by Soweto Street Beat, representing the Zulu culture of South Africa. The "Parade of Champions" took place on the college campus, instead of downtown Bismarck.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2009, p.1*



Pinwheel parade of youngsters at Theodore Jamerson Elementary School

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

**2009-09-12:** A woman who graduated from United Tribes in the first cohort of practical nursing students attended a nurse's all-class reunion during the 40th anniversary powwow. Deborah Bordeaux, class of 1979, had moved into education and was principal of Lone Man School, Pine Ridge, SD. The grads reminisced with Sister Kathryn Zimmer, who directed and instructed the program in the 1980s and '90s.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2009, p.26*

**2009-09-28:** For the third year in a row, United Tribes Research Director Dr. Cheryl Long Feather began gathering data from students with a survey about their experiences and preferences. About 60 percent of the student body completed the comprehensive 81 question form, providing valuable information to help make the educational experience more relevant.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 2009, p.6*

**2009-10-03:** United Tribes students Jackie Archambault (Cheyenne River) and Sierra Two Bulls (Oglala Sioux Tribe) received the Sherman Brunelle/Gandhi Peace Scholarships for 2009. The announcement was made at the Gandhi Peace Network annual dinner. The award was created in 2003 by Aruna and Vinod Seth, Bismarck, in honor of the late Sherman Brunelle, a United Tribes employee.

*Tribal College Journal, Feb. 15, 2010, Volume 21, No. 3, Spring 2010*

**2009-11-05:** United Tribes President David M. Gipp attended the first White House/Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, DC. Nearly all of the nation's 564 tribes and tribal leaders gathered to meet with President Obama and his cabinet, setting a pattern of annual

meetings for the duration of his time in office. It was the first such meeting since the Clinton presidency.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2009, p.10*

**2009-12-04:** The United Tribes Curriculum Committee approved the college's first-ever upper division course. Early Childhood Special Education (SPD 400) was the first in a sequence of courses offered by the Teacher Education Dept., then seeking approvals to offer a Baccalaureate Degree in Elementary Education.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 2010, p.3*

## 2010

**2010-01-12:** Recruiting was underway for the newly formed UTTC chapter of American Indian Business Leaders. AIBL members signed-up new recruits during an organizing session of student vocational clubs.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 2010, p.4*

**2010-01-18:** Angela Delorme-Gaines (Turtle Mountain) was guest speaker for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She was an attorney specializing in Federal Indian Law. It was her Native and African American multi-racial ethnicity that brought unique insight to celebrating the federal holiday at UTTC.

*United Tribes Press Release, Jan. 8, 2010; United Tribes News, Feb. 2010, p.2*

**2010-02-05:** The newly formed Land Grant Advisory Committee organized itself, discussing its role and educational issues associated with UTTC's USDA Land Grant Programs. On the priority list were diabetes education, nutrition and diet, traditional foods, gardening and exercise programs.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 2010, p.8*

**2010-02-19:** United Tribes hosted the 2010 Census Road Tour, an interactive traveling exhibit from the Denver Regional Census Center. Exhibit liaison Jeff Baker (Turtle Mountain) helped students and staff record messages about why the census was important to them. The comments became part of the "Portrait of America" feature of the tour.

*United Tribes Press Release, Feb. 23, 2010; United Tribes News, Mar. 2010, p.1*

**2010-03-04:** "World Math Day" brought out the best in youngsters at Theodore Jamerson

Elementary School. They logged onto an Internet site and correctly solved over 161,000 simple math problems during live games of mental arithmetic with other 5 to 18-year-olds around the world. TJES more than tripled its score from a year earlier.

*United Tribes News, Apr. 2010, p.1*

**2010-03-18:** Gary Farmer was a big hit when he visited United Tribes. The Canadian actor played the warm-hearted Philbert in the movie "Powwow Highway." He and his band, "The Trouble Makers," played blues music. He signed autographs, posed for photos and did a student interview. "Through the arts is one way we can achieve political change," said the approachable actor/writer/producer/musician.

*United Tribes News, May 2010, p.17*

**2010-03-26:** United Tribes hosted a meeting of the North Dakota Commission to Study Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts. The 22 member group was charged by the State Supreme Court with examining the state court system for unfairness

based on race, ethnicity or minority status.

*United Tribes News, May 2010, p.4*

**2010-03-30:** The United Tribes Energy Auditor Program co-hosted a "Green Energy" Summit, to help develop energy conscious programs and initiatives in tribal communities. New advances in energy auditing technology were demonstrated. Two dozen students from 14 different tribes and eight states graduated May 3.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 2010, p.14; United Tribes News, Apr. 2010, p.14; Bismarck Tribune, May 5, 2010; United Tribes News, May 2010, p.5; United Tribes News, June-July 2010, p.27; North Dakota Living, August 2010, p.18*

**2010-04-21:** What would Thunderbirds basketball be without fans? That was the reason for the Thunderbird Fan Awards, presented during the athletic awards banquet. Singled-out for top honors were: Jerry Azure, Ralph Chase and Phil St. John, ever-present and in good voice on the bleachers. Also recognized were: Dave Schettler, Marsha Azure, Carol Walker, Helen Lindgren, Janet Alkire-Thomas, and Tamera Marshall.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2010, p.26*

**2010-05-03:** The very first David M. Gipp Native American Leader Fellowships were awarded







during a public recognition dinner. The recipients were: Kara Four Bear (Cheyenne River) Elementary Education; and Glenn Fox (Three Affiliated) Business Administration. Named for the college president, the program aimed at nurturing and empowering the next generation of Native leaders.

*Bismarck Tribune, Apr. 20, 2010; United Tribes News, May 2010, p.26; United Tribes News, June-July 2010, p.3; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 2010, Volume 22, No. 1, Fall 2010*

**2010-05-05:** Quick thinking in an emergency made a world of difference for a United Tribes employee. Arden Boxer experienced chest and shoulder pain that traveled to her left arm, making it go numb. The same happened in her left leg and speaking became difficult. Panic set in. Two co-workers immediately took her to the emergency and trauma center of a local hospital, where she was treated for stroke. Fast action by Boxer's boss, Barbara Schmitt and UTTC Student Health Nurse Charmelle Fuchs, got treatment in time, minimizing the effects. "The scariest part was how fast the symptoms developed," said Boxer. "I owe so much to Barb and Charmelle."

*United Tribes News, Nov. 2010, p.3*



Anne Kuyper

Provided, United Tribes Technical College Archive

**2010-05-10:** Dozens of UTTC staffers turned out on a rainy day to plant a ceremonial tree in memory of a beloved colleague. Anne Kuyper was a member of the Standing Rock

Tribe, a veteran of the Peace Corps and one of the college's first teachers. She was a well-liked general education instructor, campus beautification volunteer and caretaker of a conference center in one of the historic campus buildings. Planted for her was a long-lived Burr Oak tree to honor her 35 years of service and friendship.

*United Tribes News, May 2010, p.6; United Tribes News, June-July 2010, p.11;*

**2010-05-30:** United Tribes hosted the Fort Lincoln Planning Conference over the Memorial Day holiday. Sixty people from 15 states began planning for a memorial at UTTC for those caught up in the hysteria of World War II. Between 1941 and 1946, nearly 4,000 individuals were imprisoned at Fort Lincoln Internment Camp, the site of United Tribes. Attending the conference were former internees, descendants of internees, tribal members and local citizens. The group identified themes and ideas for a permanent remembrance of those who endured loss of freedom and confinement there.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 3, 2010; United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2010, p.3*

**2010-06-14:** A seven-week summer session began in the Native American Electrician's Training Program. Twenty-four students took the course that preceded apprenticeships in electrical work. Partnering with UTTC was the U.S. Dept. of Labor, the IBEW Union and the National Electrical Contractors Assn.

*United Tribes Press Release, Apr. 19, 2010; United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2010, p.4*

**2010-07:** Coffee was again brewing in the lower level of the Jack Barden Student Center. After a time without the service, a trendy coffee shop and eatery reopened under the name Cozy Creek, operated by owner Susan Mitchell.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2010, p.28*

**2010-07-15:** The North Dakota Indian Youth Leadership Academy attracted 50 high school students from tribes in the region for five days of training, tours and motivation. Headquartered at United Tribes, it was sponsored by the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission and led by Scott Davis, executive director.

*Governor's Office Press Release, Apr. 21, 2010; United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2010, p.1*

**2010-07-30:** A repaired and restored Rising Eagle returned to Bismarck's Pioneer Park. Steven

White Mountain, a former UTTC art student, mended the extensive damage done to the public art sculpture a year earlier. Back in original form with extra reinforcement, White Mountain welded its base securely in position.

*Bismarck Tribune, July 31, 2010, p.5B*

**2010-08-13:** Eight sets of scissors were needed for the main partners in a ribbon cutting for United Tribes Trail. The dedication opened the 1.6 mile paved loop around the campus. Federal and State Highway funding and technical support was essential in creating the multi-use pathway.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 3, 2010; United Tribes News, Oct. 2010, p.31*

**2010-09-07:** The American Bus Association selected the United Tribes International Powwow as one of its 'Top 100 Events of the Year' for 2011. The selection promoted the powwow as an excellent entertainment value for tour groups and individual travelers from around the world.

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2010, p.11*

**2010-09-10:** An honoring ceremony for a 'Champion of Indian Affairs' highlighted the 41st United Tribes Powwow. Retiring North Dakota U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan was applauded for his work for Native People. He served 30 years in Washington, the last 11 on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Wrapped in a star quilt, Dorgan was accompanied by tribal leaders around the dance arena, receiving greetings and thanks from well-wishers.

*Dorgan Press Release, Jan. 5, 2010; United Tribes News, Feb. 2010, p.3; United Tribes News, Oct. 2010, p.1*

**2010-10:** United Tribes Athletic Director Daryl Bears Tail chose former Bismarck Wizards player and assistant coach Kevin Rice as head Men's Basketball Coach. Rice succeeded Jay Claymore, who led the Thunderbirds the previous two seasons. Rice was also assistant athletic director.

*Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 6, 2010*

**2010-10-14:** United Tribes put its Criminal Justice Program on display for the newly appointed Deputy Director of the BIA Office of Justice Services. Darren A. Cruzan (Miami Tribe of Oklahoma) toured the campus and reviewed UTTC's law enforcement training programs.

*United Tribes News, Nov. 2010, p.6*



A UTTC student panel at North Dakota First Nation's Day; Lisa Stump speaking at right.



**2010-11-14:** Men and women of the UTTC Cross Country team competed in the NJCAA Nationals in Greenville, SC: Jayli Fimbres, Alvina Wolf, Justin Many Ribs, Lane Standish, Patrick Wolf and Hanna Hellekson. They were coached by Dolly Hellekson.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 2011, p.24*

**2010-11-22:** During a meeting at United Tribes, Native American ranchers involved in a class action lawsuit were reminded to register online to advance their discrimination claims against the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. A settlement had ended 11 years of litigation in *Keepseagle v. Vilsack*. At the meeting were lead plaintiffs Marilyn and George Keepseagle (Standing Rock) Cannonball, ND.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 2011, p.3*

**2010-12-03:** United Tribes honored two outstanding former Thunderbird basketball players. Tanner Albers (Turtle Mountain) and Jason Logg (Cheyenne River) were inducted into the "Thunderbird Hall of Fame." Both contributed to the successful seasons between 1996 and 1998 when the T-Birds won conference and regional honors and a berth in the 1998 NJCAA Division 2 National Tournament.

*United Tribes Press Release, Dec. 1, 2010; United Tribes News, Jan. 2011, p.23*

## 2011

**2011-01:** United Tribes began the year with the benefit of new leadership and new facilities in the college cafeteria. Curt Wellington became the new Director of Food Service Operations. A \$1-million renovation project created a bright and roomy facility of over 10-thousand square feet to serve the needs of a growing campus population.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 2011, p.19*



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

United Tribes Science and Technology building

**2011-01-05:** Students in three vocational programs were the first to take instruction in UTTC's new Science and Technology building. Classes were held in Practical Nursing, Computer Technology and Criminal Justice on the first day of spring semester. The gleaming two-story, 38,000 square foot facility became a symbol of growth and expansion at United Tribes.

*United Tribes News, Feb. 2011, p.28*

**2011-01:** Ruth Buffalo-Zarazua embarked on a new challenge to deepen her leadership skills and knowledge about tribal governance. UTTC's Strengthening Lifestyles director was chosen for the Native Nation's Rebuilders Program. She was selected by the Bush Foundation to find "sustainable solutions" to tough problems that face Native people. In 2018, Buffalo was elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 2011, p.18*

**2011-01-17:** The newly appointed top federal prosecutor in North Dakota vowed to protect the civil rights of Native Americans. Speaking at UTTC's Martin Luther King Jr. Day, U.S. Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon said he would follow the example of Robert F. Kennedy who made civil rights a priority 50 years earlier as United States Attorney General. Purdon visited all of the state's reservations and instituted regular 'tribal listening conferences' held centrally at United Tribes.

*United Tribes Press Release, Jan. 24, 2011; United Tribes News, Feb. 2011, p.1; United Tribes News, Apr. 2011, p.7*

**2011-01-27:** The motion picture actor Litefoot provided motivation for 500 United Tribes students and staffers during at talk for Professional Development Day. "The Creator has never let me down when I was doing what I was supposed to be doing," said the very successful Native rap artist, motivational

speaker, actor and entrepreneur. Gary Paul Davis, 42, (Cherokee) played the leading character, Little Bear, in the 1995 movie "Indian in the Cupboard." "I am no better than anybody in this room," he explained. "But I know where I get my strength and that may separate me from those who don't."

*United Tribes News, Mar. 2011, p.26*

**2011-01:** As another reminder to the community, United Tribes updated the calculation of its value as an economic input in Bismarck-Mandan. The college generated nearly \$32-million in annual activity as analyzed using the well-known North Dakota Input-Output Model. The report was released in detail by UTTC President David M. Gipp during appearances before the Bismarck City Commission and the Bismarck-Mandan Development Association.

*United Tribes Press Release, Feb. 24, 2011; United Tribes News, Mar. 2011, p.1; United Tribes News, Apr. 2011, p.2; United Tribes News, May 2011, p.2; Tribal College Journal, May 13, 2011, Volume 22, No. 4, Summer 2011*

**2011-03-01:** During a national conference, the "Family And Child Education" (FACE) program was recognized as one of the best family literacy programs in the country. The UTTC/TJES program had recently celebrated its first recipient of a North Dakota GED High School Diploma.

*United Tribes News, Mar. 2011, p.5; United Tribes News, Apr. 2011, p.23*

**2011-03-10:** United Tribes received the good news that it could offer its own baccalaureate degree programs in Elementary Education. The approval came following a program review by the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board. It opened the door for UTTC to offer its own four-year program instead of partnering with another college. The important next step was to secure approval from the national accrediting body.

*United Tribes Press Release, Mar. 28, 2011; United Tribes News, Apr. 2011, p.1; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 15, 2011, Volume 23, No. 1, Fall 2011*

**2011-03-24:** United Tribes President David M. Gipp received the "Love Without Fear" award from the Abused Adult Resource Center. Gipp was the 17th annual recipient cited for outstanding support of the non-profit's mission to serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

*AARC News Release, Mar.24, 2011; United Tribes News, May 2011, p.10*





**2011-03-26:** Taylahni Jackson, a fifth grade TJES student, took first place in the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair. She competed in the Physics and Astronomy category with a pinhole camera project, demonstrating her understanding of “depth of field.” Forty-seven schools were represented and over 500 projects.

*United Tribes Press Release, Apr. 1, 2011; United Tribes News, May 2011, p.20*

**2011-04-15:** The United Tribes International Powwow was recommended by USA Today as one of America’s ten great powwows. In the paper’s Travel Section, the national newspaper listed UTTC with a brief description and photo in a half-page spread. The story was headlined: 10 great places to be wowed by Indians.

*USA Today, Apr. 15, 2011, p.5D; United Tribes News, May 2011, p.26*

**2011-04-16:** Inspiration from TV journalist Hattie Kauffman (Nez Perce) and entertainment from actor Val Kilmer (as Mark Twain) highlighted the 30th Annual American Indian Higher Education Consortium conference held in Bismarck. Thirty-three UTTC students and staffers participated. Academic Vice President Phil Baird was honored for his role in creating the AIHEC Youth Congress and establishing student participation as a central part of the annual conference.

*United Tribes News, Jan. 2011, p.11; United Tribes News, Apr. 2011, p.16; United Tribes News, May 2011, p.1*

**2011-04-28:** Grace Link was guest of honor during a re-dedication program for Building no. 100 on the campus. It was named the Arthur and Grace Link Child Development Center. Originally constructed in 1978, it was a daycare facility for the youngsters of college students. Then-Governor Arthur A. Link backed the project as a joint effort of the state and the Economic Development Administration. The new name was a tribute to the late governor and former first lady, long-time friends of the college.

*Bismarck Tribune, Apr. 29, 2011; United Tribes News, Apr. 2011, p.14; United Tribes News, June-July 2011, p.28*

**2011-05-10:** Pat Aune was honored by the North Dakota Dietetic Association as the group’s 2011 recipient of the “Golden Grains Award.” She directed UTTC’s Land Grant Programs. An advocate for health and wellness, Aune promoted healthy eating and food safety training and education at United Tribes and in the state’s tribal communities.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2011, p.26*

**2011-06-02:** When Missouri River flooding caused property destruction, United Tribes students and staff answered the call for volunteers. They labored in force, filling



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A flag from the World Trade Center on 9-11 displayed at the United Tribes International Powwow



sandbags for the city and individual residents, and moving belongings from threatened homes. Although the campus itself was not affected, the college formed a flood emergency task force to handle information, alert volunteers and assist where needed.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2011, p.6*

**2011-06-05:** Retired U.S. Army General Eric K. Shinseki received a warm welcome from Native veterans at United Tribes. The head of the VA listened to tribal leaders describe their needs for veteran's services on reservations. The top priorities - housing, health care, jobs training and suicide prevention.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2011, p.2*

**2011-07:** United Tribes became a four-year college with approval of three advanced-degree programs offered entirely on its own. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of College and Schools granted formal approval for Bachelor of Science programs in Elementary Education, Business Administration and Criminal Justice. The HLC also renewed UTTC's associate degree offerings and expanded the approval to provide all degrees via online format. Barring any changes, the next accreditation cycle was set for the 2020-2021 academic year.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 21, 2011; United Tribes Press Release, Sept. 21, 2011; United Tribes News, Oct. 2011, p.3*

**2011-09-07:** *Bismarck Tribune* editor John Irby was honored during the United Tribes Tribal Leader's Summit. A member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, he retired after four-and-one-half-years at the *Tribune* and 40 years as a journalist and educator. "He was the first editor from the mainstream press that I know of who came to United Tribes to meet North Dakota's tribal leaders," said David M. Gipp. "It's seldom that we can recognize one of our own as editor of a mainstream newspaper," added Tex G. Hall (Three Affiliated). "I hope we have another one like you to continue your good work at the *Tribune*."

*United Tribes News, Nov. 2011, p.2*

**2011-09-11:** During the UTTC powwow, Native military veterans unfolded and displayed a large American flag that was flying over the World Trade Center when the building was attacked on 9/11. The program for "National Day of Service and Remembrance" included

honor songs and gun salutes. "As we opened up the flag, I could smell the smoke and dust," said David M. Gipp, Army veteran and UTTC president. "The memory of that event 10 years ago is fresh yet on this flag."

*United Tribes News, Oct. 2011, p.1*

**2011-09-13:** United Tribes dedicated "Dragonfly Garden" on the college's new, south campus. In the five-acre community demonstration and research garden, NDSU Extension Horticulturalist Tom Kalb established a diverse collection of about 450 hardy and semi-hardy roses. The dedication included a Lakota ground blessing ceremony and tree plantings. The college's Land Grant Programs worked with ten different garden plots on the campus.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 31, 2011; United Tribes News, Oct. 2011, p.27*

**2011-09-22:** United Tribes received the first of two major grant awards in 2011 to address persistent unemployment. The U.S. Dept. of Labor announced a \$1.7-million award for the Upper Missouri Tribal Environmental Risk Management (UM TERM) project, part of the Obama Administration's "Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge." It was modeled on the concept of innovative regional clusters, such as Research Triangle Park in North Carolina and Silicon Valley in California. UM TERM focused on training and technical assistance on environmental resources and risks, and planning among tribes in the region.

*SBA News Release, Oct. 17, 2011; United Tribes News, Nov. 2011, p.6*

**2011-11-02:** United Tribes was awarded \$18.9 million to lead a group of four tribal colleges in targeted career training and jobs development. The program acronym was TCC DeMaND (Tribal College Consortium for Developing Montana and North Dakota Workforce). Funding came from the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. Under the direction of Dave Archambault II (Standing Rock), UTTC partnered with Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten, ND; Fort Peck Community College, Poplar, MT; and Aaniih Nakoda College, Harlem, MT. The award underscored the Obama Administration's emphasis on community colleges for the delivery of workforce development and jobs training.

*United Tribes Press Release, Nov. 2, 2011; United Tribes News, Nov. 2011, p.1; United Tribes News, Dec. 2011-Jan. 2012, p.9*





**2011-12-08:** United Tribes launched a dual enrollment program to connect tribal high school students with college. The program allowed students to ease into college and get a head start on a college career. A two-day campus visit resulted in 33 enrollments for spring semester. "It was a great way to start a group of students on their journey into higher education," said Julie Desjarlais, UTTC Educational Outreach coordinator.

*United Tribes Press Release, Dec. 18, 2011; United Tribes News, Feb-Mar. 2012, p.3; Tribal College Journal, May 15, 2012, Volume 23, No. 4, Summer 2012*

## 2012

**2012-01-18:** Dan Molnar promised early risers they'd be 'wide awake' if they started their day with him. UTTC's Fitness Specialist conducted a 6:30 a.m. class for students and staff in the college wellness center. Molnar was on the Strengthening Lifestyles team, promoting wellness through aerobic, fitness and strength-training activities. "We're aiming to help people live well by getting them into a wellness routine," said Marcus C. Austin, the new Strengthening Lifestyles director. Ten years in the making, UTTC's wellness programs were fully operational on the campus.

*United Tribes News, Feb-Mar. 2012, p.1*

**2012-02-01:** The United Tribes Skill Center building was designated as a polling place for local and state elections. The Burleigh County auditor found the commons area suitable for the equipment needed and people who would vote in Precinct 3001 of Legislative District 30. Voters entered the UTTC campus to use the polling site for the first time on June 12 for the statewide primary election.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 2012, p.26; United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2012, p.8*

**2012-02-14:** United Tribes was on the leading edge when it came to the technology for teaching about law enforcement. The college's Criminal Justice program had the VirTra-300, a hi-tech law enforcement training simulator. Surrounded by large video screens in a darkened classroom, students were challenged to respond to lethal and non-lethal scenarios facing law officers. Borrowing from video-game technology, criminals talked and acted bad and the master computer simulated gunfire, making the teaching tool all the more realistic.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 2012, p.1*

**2012-02-23:** The junior college basketball rivalry in the Capitol City was telecast live when United Tribes hosted Bismarck State. Viewing originated from the 'Thunderdome.' It was carried on the Internet and local community access TV. Students in the Media Arts division of UTTC's Art/Art Marketing Program produced the programs under the direction of instructor Shawn F. Holz. It was the first live telecast of sporting events from UTTC. The college had previously streamed the powwow and graduation on the Internet.

*United Tribes Press Release, Feb. 17, 2012*

**2012-04-08:** The team 'Iron Five' claimed top honors in the first Tanner Albers Memorial Basketball Tournament. Twenty-one teams competed in the three-day marathon, leaving it all on the court in tribute to one of the best hoopsters to play at UTTC.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2012, p.36*



United Tribes Student Welder

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

**2012-04:** A once-popular vocation that went dormant was revived at United Tribes. Work was underway to update classroom and shop space in the Skill Center for the college's welding program. Federal support for workforce development and training under the DeMaND Program allowed creation of a new 16 week welding curriculum. Funding provided for welding simulators, the latest in hands-on teaching technology. An experienced welder from Sisseton-Wahpeton, Steve Shepherd, became the program director.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 2012, p.10; Tribal College Journal, Aug, 15, 2012, Volume 24, No. 1, Fall 2012*







**2012-04:** Two students from the Small Business Management program were introduced to the professional business environment during a six-week internship. Lora Grey Bear (Spirit Lake) and Andrea Addison (Northern Arapaho) experienced business on the inside at the Aetna Bismarck Service Center. Representatives from the nation-wide insurance firm had developed a relationship with UTTC during job and diversity fairs.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2012, p.13*

**2012-04-20:** Pioneering Native journalist and publisher Tim Giago (Oglala Lakota) was keynote speaker at the North Dakota General Education Council Summit held at United Tribes. "One time I wrote about Native colleges and titled it: 'Best Kept Secret in America.' One of the responses was, 'Is he kidding, what are Indians doing with colleges,'" he told the assembly of educators from North Dakota colleges. "So, the most important thing is, there's so much educating that needs to be done between Indians and non-Indians." It was the first time the group had met at a tribal college.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2012, p.30*

**2012-04-28:** United Tribes was the site of the first USA Powerlifting Association contest in North Dakota. The newly formed "Thunderbirds Weightlifting Club" hosted the non-sanctioned event in the college gym. It was dubbed the "United Tribes Iron Man-Iron Woman Contest."

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 2012, p.9; United Tribes News, June-July 2012, p.8*

**2012-06-27:** Members of the college's Land Grant and Nutrition and Food Service programs represented United Tribes at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, DC. They joined with counterparts from Northwest Indian College, Bellingham, WA, to highlight food sovereignty initiatives at tribal colleges.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2012, p.22; Tribal College Journal, Nov. 6, 2012, Volume 24, No. 2, Winter 2012*

**2012-07-04:** United Tribes was a winner in one of the largest and best-attended local community events. UTTC's entry in the Independence Day Parade in Mandan received the "Historical" award. Many students and staffers had volunteered to help Construction Technology build a 10-foot-tall rolling headdress. It was a classic parade float, constructed with tissue

paper over wire mesh, the kind seldom seen in modern local parades.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2012, p.27*

**2012-07-17:** Summer visitation hours began at the United Tribes Art Gallery, located in the log-style building on the campus north side. Angel Espinosa and Jess Clairmont greeted visitors and interpreted the superb collection of two and three dimensional work by Native artists assembled over the previous 30 years.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2012, p.13; City Magazine, Nov. 2012, p.10*

**2012-07-30:** Japan's top diplomat to the U.S. helped bring clarity to some writing left on the campus during World War II. On a visit to Bismarck, Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki inspected Japanese symbols etched into the brick wall of a United Tribes dormitory. "When we pointed out there was Japanese writing on a building he was eager to see it," said UTTC President David M. Gipp, who guided the tour. Fujisaki's translation identified the writing as a slogan from American citizens of Japanese descent who were locked up at Fort Lincoln Internment Camp. He encouraged UTTC to continue working to preserve campus history.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2012, p.6*

**2012-08-10:** Three United Tribes students reported on their work as researchers looking into aspects of ecology on Native homelands. Stimmy Lee and Nick Houston (both Cheyenne River) and Macaulay Brown (Standing Rock) described their projects with photos, graphs and charts before an audience. It was part of a 10-week North Dakota Tribal College Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), funded by the National Science Foundation. The program allowed Tribal Environmental Science students to use the summer to learn scientific research methods under the direction of TES instructor/Director Jeremy Guinn.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2012, p.12*

**2012-08-16:** UTTC teacher educators picked the brain of Dr. Camille Catlett of the University of North Carolina during a visit of the nationally acclaimed teaching expert. Catlett helped with ideas for redesigning the Early Childhood Education degree program. She also met with staff of the Arthur and Grace Link Child Development Center during a two-day stay.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2012, p.10*

**2012-09-04:** A large audience over 500 people attended a one-of-a-kind ritual at United Tribes.



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UTTC students backed Chase Iron Eyes, with megaphone, when he challenged white supremacists in Leith, ND in 2013.

At the request of the North Dakota National Guard, a naming ceremony was conducted for the Army's newest light utility helicopters. Two of the UH-72A 'Lakota' aircraft from the nearby Army Aviation facility landed in the expanse near the powwow dance area. George Iron Shield of Standing Rock named one "Eagle" and the other "Turtle," symbolizing spirituality and hope, along with protection and healing, for their safe operation.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2012, p.4*

**2012-10-03:** A transition was underway at the Native American Business Enterprise Center. UTTC received a U.S. Dept. of Commerce grant to serve all area minorities through a new Minority Business Development Agency Business Center. Brek Maxon, program director, said the center would continue to target Native Americans, but it will also make services available to other North Dakota minorities.

*Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 3, 2012*

**2012-10:** Five posters by TJES students made it into a publication of the 2012 Olympics in London. Designs by Chase Davis, Ava Morin, Kaitlen Sigres, Chloe and Jason appeared in "Culture, Education and Sport," published by the Foundation for Global Sports Development. The 152 page, full-color booklet contained artwork from youngsters around the world selected for good values associated with athletics.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2012, p.22*

**2012-10-11:** The United Tribes approach to domestic violence prevention was modeled for other tribal colleges at a training event in Kansas. Wellness Director Brad Hawk described how UTTC established its own program, partnering with other community groups and law enforcement to offer regular training.

*Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 11, 2012, p. 1B*

**2012-10-24:** United Tribes pitched-in with a campus-wide recycling drive on National Sustainability Day. The UTTC Student and Campus Services 'Green Committee' used the slogan "Let's Fill Our Bins to the Brim" to boost participation in the college's recycling program.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2012-Jan. 2013, p.1*



Itancan Hall, United Tribes Leadership Lodge, coed dormitory.

**2012-12-12:** After more than two years of planning, the presidents of Bismarck's three colleges signed an agreement to collaborate on education and leadership activities that

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News





focus on the region's future. BSC's Larry Skogen, UTTC's David M. Gipp and U-Mary's Rev. James Shea signed a charter creating the Institute for Culture and Public Service. The Bismarck-Mandan Development Association's Russ Staiger helped broker the alliance to help address challenges from the unprecedented growth of energy development.

*United Tribes News, Feb-Mar. 2013, p.20;*

**2012-12-21:** United Tribes announced it would open a new student center in downtown Rapid City, SD. "We're coming to the Black Hills," said Vice President Phil Baird, at an event during the Lakota Nation Invitational in Rapid City. The intent was not to compete with existing educational programs, but to broaden educational opportunities for Native American students in the region.

*Rapid City Journal, Dec. 21, 2012*

**2012-12-28:** Social media use by Native people and Native students in the area was illustrated by the flash mob that materialized at a local shopping mall. About 100 people gathered bearing signs with slogans in support of "Idle No More," singing songs of encouragement and playing hand drums. INM emerged among Canada's First Nation's People to peacefully support indigenous sovereignty and protection from environmental exploitation. UTTC students were well represented in the flash mob, which dispersed without incident.

*United Tribes News, Feb-Mar. 2013, p.18*

## 2013

**2013-01:** UTTC's Teacher Education Dept. began recruiting applicants for Project CEDAR, to prepare American Indian students for teacher certification. A four-year award of \$1.3-million from the U.S Dept. of Education focused on creating bachelor degree graduates in Elementary and Special Education. Summer institutes to enrich the learning experience were a special feature. The CEDAR acronym stood for Collaboration for Educator Development and Retention.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2012-Jan. 2013, p.15; United Tribes News, Feb-Mar. 2013, p.15*

**2013-02-01:** UTTC's Tribal Environmental Science Department hosted an informal open house on the second floor of the new Science and Technology Center (STC) on the college's south campus. The new facilities included modern classrooms and labs for environmental

instruction, research and analysis, and office space for expanding the teaching staff. The STC centralized the department, expanded its capabilities in environmental education and demonstrated the college's long-term commitment to STEM education programs for Native students.

*Jen Janeczek-Hartman interview, OPI, Feb. 1, 2013, UTTC Archive; History of Science and Land Grant Programs at United Tribes Technical College, Dr. Jeremy Guinn, Feb. 20, 2019*

**2013-02-19:** United Tribes hosted the first in a series of roundtable discussions with North Dakota U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp about reauthorization of the "Violence Against Women Act." Gathered were officials, law enforcement officers, community leaders and advocates in the field of domestic abuse and violent crime. The bill allowed for tribal governments to prosecute non-Indian perpetrators who commit crimes against women on Indian land.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 2013, p.30*



Powwow Chairperson Julie Cain with husband Don and grandchild in the United Tribes Parade of Champions.

Dennis J. Naumann - United Tribes News

**2013-02-25:** *Tribal College Journal* carried an update on the success of UTTC Teacher Education students involved in the college's Sweet Grass Project. The teacher preparation project was in its final year and had supported 10 teacher candidates. Three of the participants attended the National Indian Education Association conference where they conducted a session describing the project.





Shyanne Schmalz (Standing Rock), Jodene Uses Many (Cheyenne River) and Rolenthea Begay (Diné) were the first to complete the project. They were considered highly qualified educators and had met all requirements for teacher licensure in North Dakota. Sweet Grass was funded by the Office of Special Education in the U.S. Department of Education. Teacher Education Dept. chair Lisa J. Azure directed the project.

*Tribal College Journal, Feb. 25, 2013, Volume 24, No. 3, Spring 2013*

**2013-02-28:** UTTC's Financial Aid staff conducted another successful "College Goal Sunday" sign-up at the Jack Barden Center. Using the computer lab, 20 volunteers helped high school seniors and returning college students with their Free Application for Federal Student Aid, otherwise known as FAFSA. A local radio station broadcast live from the event, generating interest and enthusiasm.

*United Tribes News, Apr-May 2013, p.6*

**2013-03-26:** The United Tribes of North Dakota Board approved the financing arrangements for constructing a six-story hotel on the United Tribes campus. Three Affiliated Tribes provided the equity commitment necessary to proceed with development and construction. "With UTTC near the Bismarck airport, it makes great business sense," said Three Affiliated Chairman Tex G. Hall. The estimated cost was approximately \$33 million.

*United Tribes Press Release, Apr. 29, 2013; Bismarck Tribune, Apr. 30, 2013, p.1; Tribal College Journal, Aug., 11, 2013, Volume 25, No. 1, Fall 2013*

**2013-04:** The North Dakota Dept. of Health added United Tribes to its list of "Infant Friendly" organizations and employers in the state. The college's Wellness Circle helped institute values known to advance early childhood development. In particular, the college promoted breastfeeding and designated clean, safe and private places for the purpose.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2013, p.31*

**2013-04-09:** The North Dakota Association of Tribal Colleges released a report showing that tribal colleges generated \$182-million in economic activity in the state in 2012. The economic contributions of the state's five tribal colleges were calculated using the North Dakota Input-Output Model employed in studies of state university system schools.

*United Tribes Press Release, Apr. 9, 2013; United Tribes News, Apr-May 2013, p.1; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 11, 2013, Volume 25, No. 1, Fall 2013*

**2013-04-25:** Pedaling on campus became free and easy thanks to a "Bike Share" program. Bronze colored cruiser-style bicycles were made available for use anytime by all students and staff. The program was promoted through the Wellness Circle and supported by Land Grant and a contribution from Capital Electric Coop, the college's electric utility provider.

*United Tribes News, June-July 2013, p.7*

**2013-06-17:** UTTC's Teacher Education staff arranged for world-class Native presenters for the "Prairie Traditions" workshop. The lineup included award-winning beadwork artist Mr. Emil Her Many Horses, associate curator of the National Museum of the American Indian, and anthropologist and author Herman J. Viola, curator emeritus of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. They joined with UTTC's own Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk Jr. and Dakota Goodhouse to provide culturally relevant presentations as part of Project CEDAR, training American Indian educators.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2013, p.13*

**2013-06-21:** During a meeting of the United Tribes Board, North Dakota Congressman Kevin Cramer apologized for an incident that raised questions about his willingness to work on tribal issues. During a meeting in the spring, Cramer had engaged in a verbal clash with a domestic violence coordinator at Spirit Lake. Leaders were troubled that he reportedly disparaged tribal government and tribal court systems. A contrite Cramer took responsibility for "any perceived offense" and pledged to make himself more available to help with issues confronting tribes.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2013, p.2*

**2013-07-01:** With the beginning of North Dakota's new fiscal year, the state's tribal colleges benefited from a new type of funding from the state. The 2013 Legislature enacted a law providing \$5-million specifically for workforce training programs at tribal colleges. The measure created a pathway for workers on reservations, where unemployment was high, to take part in the state's energy boom. It was administered by the N.D. Dept. of Commerce

***"With UTTC near the Bismarck airport, it makes great business sense."***





Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

The UTTC Criminal Justice simulator in use by student Brett Smith.

and viewed as a significant step forward in state support for tribal colleges.

*Bismarck Tribune, May 1, 2013; United Tribes News, June-July 2013, p.35; United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2013, p.14*

**2013-07-13:** Two Native men in traditional dress led a procession of Catholic priests in a grand entry to open a celebration of St. Kateri Tekakawitha. More than 200 worshipers from parishes on reservations in North and South Dakota attended the gathering at United Tribes. Many of those had long prayed for canonization of the Mohawk woman who lived from 1656 to 1680.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2013, p.10*

**2013-07-17:** A Native actor from the "Twilight Saga" series visited United Tribes and literally stood on his hands to entertain. Andrew Orozco (Salt River Pima) posed for photos and talked with students in the college cafeteria. Showing his skills, he did a little break-dancing that included some hand-stand moves.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2013, p.31*

**2013-08:** Dr. Cheryl Kary (Standing Rock) Bismarck, former United Tribes research director, was selected for a Bush Foundation Fellowship. Her research on the local Native population was called the GUIDE Project -

Gathering Urban Indian Data and Experiences. "Their socio-economic realities and negative community perceptions separate them from full participation in the community," she wrote explaining the study.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2013, p.14; United Tribes News, Dec. 2013-Jan. 2014, p.26; United Tribes News, Fall 2014, p.7*

**2013-08-14:** The governor of South Dakota and the city mayor were among dignitaries who attended a grand opening for the United Tribes Black Hills Learning Center in Rapid City. UTTC partnered with developer Hani Shafai to locate at the former National American University campus in the city's downtown. As fall semester got underway, Laurette Pourier (Oglala Lakota) coordinated the center's online offerings as a distance learning site of the main UTTC campus in Bismarck.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2012-Jan. 2013, p.34; United Tribes News, Feb-Mar. 2013, p.3; United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2013, p.4;*

**2013-08-19:** As Theodore Jamerson Elementary School entered its 40th year of service, it recognized one of its longest serving board members. Warren "Red" Koch (Standing Rock) was ready to retire from the board having served on it for 18 years, almost half of his 41



years at the college. The well-liked and ever-friendly campus transportation director said he ran for the school board because he thought a parent had been treated unfairly. Once elected, he realized the parent was wrong. He became an advocate for the school and adopted the motto: "Children Come First."

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2013, p.32; United Tribes News, Dec. 2013-Jan. 2014, p.1*

**2013-08-26:** Workforce training in Heavy Equipment Operation and Commercial Drivers Licensing got rolling as part of the college's DeMaND Program. The 16 week training programs made good use of electronic simulators before students got behind the wheel.

*United Tribes News, Aug-Sept. 2013, p.6*

**2013-09-04:** The annual Tribal Leader's Summit commemorated the 50th anniversary of Robert F. Kennedy's visit to Bismarck. Then the U.S. Attorney General, RFK spoke of the struggles facing Indian People and the pledges his brother, President John F. Kennedy, had made to American Indians. In the summit audience was at least one witness to the Kennedy visit, Tilly Walker (Three Affiliated) who attended the 1963 NCAI Conference in Bismarck.

*Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 5, 2013; United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2013, p.12*

**2013-09-07:** Japanese installation artist Tsubasa Kato directed a "Pull and Raise" project near the UTTC Skill Center. Two-hundred volunteers tugged on long ropes and hoisted upright an oversized wooden teepee. The effort illustrated that it takes working together to raise one another to achieve goals and dreams. The project was introduced to campus by D.J. Two Bears of Standing Rock, a friend of Kato.

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2013, p.23*

**2013-09-22:** United Tribes students and staff joined the protest against white supremacists in the tiny town of Leith, North Dakota. A group of 150 Native People stood against a take-over of the village by Craig Cobb and members of the National Socialist Movement. "Leith is well within the 1868 Treaty territory," said activist attorney Chase Iron Eyes during a stand-off with the neo-Nazis. "We're here to defend women and children in our homeland from aggression. That's all we've ever done since the days of Sitting Bull."

*United Tribes News, Oct-Nov. 2013, p.2*

**"Children  
Come  
First."**

**2013-09-26:** Dave Archambault II was elected Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The former director of UTTC's DeMaND Program succeeded Charles W. Murphy, who did not run for re-election.

*KFYR-TV News, Sept. 26, 2013; Bismarck Tribune, Oct. 1, 2013*

**2013-10-04:** The website BestOnlineColleges.org ranked the online early childhood education programs of two tribal colleges among the best in the United States. Bay Mills Community College, Brimley, MI, and United Tribes Technical College were listed in the top 50 programs in the field. Those rated had to be accredited, offering degrees recognized and approved by state boards of education. The UTTC program offered an associate of applied science degree in early childhood education. Students could also minor in special education. The website gave greater weight to those programs with certification tracks, providing graduates with better opportunities to find employment as teachers.

*Tribal College Journal, website post, October 4, 2013*

**2013-11-09:** UTTC Cross Country athlete Wyatt Madplume (Blackfeet) competed in the NJCAA Cross Country Championships at Fort Dodge, IA. The 18-year-old freshman from Browning, MT finished 189th in the field of 298 runners. His coach, Dan Molnar, said Madplume had the talent "to become a very good runner."

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2013-Jan. 2014, p.36*

**2013-11-13:** United Tribes Technical College President David M. Gipp spoke at the 5th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, DC. Gipp described how former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy set a new course for American Indian policy that helped strengthen Native nations and their political, economic and educational sovereignty. Following Gipp's speech, Attorney General Eric Holder thanked the UTTC president and underscored the Obama Administration's commitment to the same ideals articulated by Kennedy 50-years earlier. Following the day, North Dakota U.S. Senators Heidi Heitkamp and John Hoeven ushered a resolution through the Senate proclaiming the week of November 18, 2013, as National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week. The measure recognized the vital role played by TCUs in the preservation of Native cultures and languages, and that they meet the educational needs of students from







more than 250 federally recognized tribes. *Tribal College Journal, website post, November 12, 2013*  
*Tribal College Journal, Nov. 20, 2013, Volume 25, No. 3, Spring 2014; Tribal College Journal, website post, November 29, 2013*

**2013-11-21:** United Tribes became the first tribal college in North Dakota to be a “Tobacco Free” campus. College president David M. Gipp signed the new policy on the anniversary of the 38th annual “Great American Smoke Out.” The policy prohibited tobacco use on campus, in campus-owned vehicles and at institution sponsored off-campus functions. Exempted was traditional or sacred use of tobacco, continuing UTTC as “tobacco honoring” for Native American spiritual and cultural ceremonies.

*United Tribes Press Release, Nov. 21, 2013; Associated Press, Nov. 21, 2013; United Tribes News, Dec. 2013-Jan. 2014, p.20*

## 2014

**2014-01-21:** The long-time leader of United Tribes transitioned into a new role. The United Tribes Board appointed David M. Gipp into the position of UTTC Chancellor. Gipp had been executive director and president for nearly 37 years, one of the longest-serving college presidents in the country. As chancellor, his mission was to cultivate stable and reliable funding alternatives in a time of declining government support. The board selected Phil Baird to take over administration of the college as interim United Tribes President. As vice president of Academic, Career and Technical Education, Baird had served UTTC for 28 years.

*United Tribes Press Release, Jan. 22, 2014; Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 23, 2014, p.6B; United Tribes News, Feb-Mar. 2014, p.3*

**2014-02-06:** A team of health insurance experts made a house call at United Tribes to help with signups under the Affordable Care Act. Health insurance navigators from the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board assisted two-dozen clients from the campus community. Following the one-day session, signups continued at the wellness center during scheduled visits by a navigator from Standing Rock.

*United Tribes News, Spring 2014, p.16*

**2014-02-17:** United Tribes inducted a notable group of outstanding former athletes and athletic leaders into the Thunderbird Hall of Fame. One entire team and individuals who

contributed to the success of UTTC athletics were honored: the 1984-85 Thunderbird men’s team, the first in NJCAA play; athletic director Dave Archambault Sr.; coach Kevin Finley; activities coordinator John Thunder Hawk Sr.; athletic adviser Butch Thunder Hawk; T-Bird men players Val Finley, Perry White Owl and Barry Webster; and T-Bird women Kristen Bearstail and Jenna Skunk Cap. Also recognized were players previously inducted: Alan Spoonhunter, Tanner Albers and Jason Logg. More than 200 attended a banquet and recognition ceremony coordinated by athletic director Hunter Berg.

*United Tribes News, Feb-Mar. 2014, p.36; United Tribes News, Spring 2014, p.37*

**2014-02-28:** North Dakota tribal leaders attended a listening session at United Tribes with the top administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Gina McCarthy was accompanied by North Dakota’s U.S. Senators Heidi Heitkamp and John Hoeven. The session was organized by Heitkamp to hear about environmental concerns in Indian Country.

*United Tribes News, Spring 2014, p.2*

**2014-03-15:** Twenty-one vendors laid out their wares in the wellness center for the first “Winter Market” at United Tribes. The theme was locally made, from foods and clothing to the work of local artists and artisans. UTTC co-sponsored with the Bis-Man Food Coop and the “Go Bismarck-Mandan” campaign.

*United Tribes News, Spring 2014, p.39*

**2014-05:** The Journal of Food Composition and Analysis published the peer-reviewed paper “Nutrient Composition of Selected Traditional Northern Plains Native American Plant Foods.” The research involved the collection and analysis of 10 wild plants traditionally foraged by Native People on the Northern Great Plains. Tribal elders at Turtle Mountain, Three Affiliated and Standing Rock gathered and prepared the plants for a research team that included UTTC Nutrition and Foodservice educator Wanda Agnew, Ph.D. The work built upon one of the first UTTC/USDA/TCU research grants, started in 2003, concerning the antioxidant properties of Native-foraged plants. The results, supporting the reintroduction or increased consumption of foraged plants, were provided to the collaborating tribes and made available to the USDA for its National Nutrient Database.

*United Tribes News, Fall 2014, p.11*



**2014-05-06:** The director of the U.S. Census, John Thompson, was briefed at United Tribes about the problems tribes have with the census. Representatives from North Dakota tribes explained the issues, including the typical problem of undercounting Native People.

*United Tribes News, Summer 2014, p.12*

**2014-05-20:** Laramie Keplin made history for becoming the first United Tribes golfer to qualify and play in NJCAA Division II National Golf Tournament. Keplin won the regional tournament in Mandan in 2013 and finished 94th out of 126 golfers at the finals in Plymouth, Indiana. "It's hard to get your rhythm back after taking so much time off," said the Tribal Environmental student about his play.

*United Tribes News, Dec. 2013-Jan. 2014, p.37; United Tribes News, Summer 2014, p.36*

**2014-06-05:** U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. was keynote speaker for the fourth annual Tribal Consultation conference at United Tribes. It was the first time a sitting attorney general had visited the state since Robert F. Kennedy addressed the National Congress of American Indians in Sept. 1963. Perhaps as important as his talk to tribal leaders, Holder also met with a group of young Native men to talk about violence against women. "You can't be a man if you mistreat women," he said in a private gathering in UTTC's Wellness Center Healing

Room. "If you mistreat women, you're not a man. You're a punk." The talk was part of the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative to guide young men and boys of color onto a path of success.

*The Washington Post, June 6, 2014; Bismarck Tribune, June 5, 2014; Reprinted with permission in United Tribes News, Summer 2014, p.16*

**2014-06-13:** North Dakota tribal leaders and tribal college presidents were in attendance when President Barack Obama visited the Flag Day Celebration in the Standing Rock village of Cannon Ball, ND. The President and First Lady Michelle Obama were special guests at the powwow grounds for a program focusing on Native young people. "There's no denying that for some Americans the deck is stacked against them, sometimes for generations," said the President to an audience of 2,000 crowded in and around the dance arena. "That's been the case for many Native Americans. But if we're working together we can make things better. We can break old cycles. We can give our children a better future." The Obama's were hosted by Standing Rock Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II and his wife Nicole Thunder Hawk.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 14, 2014; United Tribes News, Summer 2014, p.1; Tribal College Journal, Aug. 14, 2014, Volume 26, No. 1, Fall 2014*



David Swenson, Mike Glatt - Makiche' recording Company

United Tribes 2014 International Powwow.







Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

Attorney General Eric Holder, center, with United Tribes Interim President Phil Baird and North Dakota U.S. Attorney Tim Purdon.

**2014-06-19:** The UTTC Wellness Circle was selected for the “Public Health Team of the Year Award” from the North Dakota Public Health Association. The honor recognized the group’s work in establishing a tobacco-free college campus and the college’s commitment to the health and wellbeing of the more than 1,000 students, faculty, staff and children who are on the campus daily.

*United Tribes News, Summer 2014, p.14*

**2014-08-15:** United Tribes Technical College Chancellor David M. Gipp was appointed to a national panel involved in the educational component of the Cobell trust reform settlement. The American Indian College Fund named Gipp as their representative on the Cobell Board of Trustees. The \$3.4-billion government settlement with Native landowners set aside up to \$60-million in scholarships for Native American students. The class-action lawsuit named for Blackfeet Tribal citizen Elouise Cobell of Browning, MT, was filed in 1996 over the government’s historic mismanagement of royalties on Indian lands.

*Associated Press in Bismarck Tribune, Aug. 15, 2014*

**2014-08-15:** Coordinators of the ever-popular softball tournament held during the UTTC powwow upped their game in 2014. The double elimination tourney became the first national division tournament held by United Tribes. Gold Medal Olympian Billy Mills was scheduled for the opening ceremony. A home-run contest was slated, along with a co-ed 40-and-over legends game. The event took the name “Diamond Legends” softball tournament, later shortened to “Legends.” Lead planners were Leah Hamann, Steve Shepherd and Joetta McLeod.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 15, 2014*



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

United Tribes “Legends” Softball Tournament

**2014-08-28:** The recently remodeled and expanded United Tribes cafeteria was dedicated and named the “Al Stockert Dining Hall” for a long-time food service employee. Stockert began with the college at its start in 1969 and became a friendly and devoted employee, working in and supervising the cafeteria for nearly 40 years.

*United Tribes News, Fall 2014, p.16*

**2014-09-04:** Two unconventional contests were introduced as entertaining, competitive events during the 45th annual United Tribes International Powwow. The Hat-N-Boot category featured dancers outfitted in some Native regalia mixed with western cowboy attire, including hats and boots. The Horse Drum Contest featured songs related to horse dancing. Both were intended to emphasize the role of the Native horse and horse culture in tribal life.

*United Tribes News, Fall 2014, p.1*

**2014-09-05:** In the popularity category at the powwow it was a slam-dunk for Shoni Schimmel. The hoop-shooting star from the Umatilla Confederated Tribes in Oregon was an Indian Country role model. Just off her first season of pro ball in the Women’s NBA, Schimmel was much admired during a two-day visit to UTTC. More than 3,000 fans stood in line for an hour or more to make a selfie with the MVP of the 2014 Women’s NBA All Star game.

*Associated Press, Bismarck Tribune, July 20, 2014; United Tribes News, Fall 2014, p.39*





Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

Leander R. McDonald, top row at center, became the new United Tribes Technical College President in October 2014, in time to preside over the college's fall graduation ceremony.

**2014-09-20:** The United Tribes Board conferred "emeritus" status on the longest-serving and most influential president in the college's history. David M. Gipp was named President Emeritus for his involvement and leadership of the organization. "The time for me has been a total of 40 years," said Gipp about his long tenure. "I was fortunate to have served with some of the first generation of tribal leaders. There were no tribal colleges at the time. There were few or no options for training or education in the 1960s and early '70s." As president emeritus, Gipp earned no salary but did not say goodbye. He continued to volunteer his help and advice saying, "I will see you down the road."

*United Tribes News, Fall 2014, p.4*

**2014-10-04:** Plant breeder Frank Kutka coordinated the harvest of 80 different varieties of traditional maize (corn) from an experimental plot in UTTC's Dragonfly Garden. Some varieties had not been grown for hundreds of years. The project involved volunteers from Fort Berthold Community College, Turtle Mountain Community College, Stone Child College and United Tribes.

*KFYR-TV News, Oct. 6, 2014; United Tribes News, Winter 2015, p.23*

**2014-10-22:** Youngsters in the "We Will" generation were thrilled to meet "Thunder" the new United Tribes mascot, at a Unity Day rally. The TJES students showed their resolve to stand against bullying by signing a banner that said: "The End of Bullying Begins With Me." The pledge was part of a national campaign against discrimination and harassment.

*United Tribes News, Winter 2015, p.40*

**2014-10-22:** The United Tribes Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) program expanded the training experience for students with help from the North Dakota Department of Commerce. The state agency authorized a \$532,372 grant to add new equipment to the training fleet. The funding allowed the college to add five heavy-equipment units, broadening the scope of the training experience. Each unit was immediately recognizable by its yellow color and the "CAT" label. The Caterpillar Corporation provided digitized instructional materials for operations and maintenance. Funding came from a pool of workforce development grants authorized for North Dakota's tribal colleges.

*United Tribes Press Release, Oct. 16, 2014; Tribal College Journal, website post, Oct. 22, 2014*

**2014-10-24:** A new college president was chosen for United Tribes. After advertising nationally,



the College Board selected Leander “Russ” McDonald, an Army veteran and former chair of the Spirit Lake Tribe. The 51 year-old McDonald was experienced in higher education. He had been VP of academic affairs at Cankdeska Cikana Community College at Fort Totten. At UND, he taught and guest lectured, administered grants and conducted research in several departments. His PhD was in Educational Foundations and Research and much of his published research involved Native health. His leadership background included experience in forming budgets for the Great Plains tribes. “The future of the college needs a president that is tuned-in to the budget process,” said board chairman Tex G. Hall. “He really stood out in the interview process having that skill as a former chairman.” McDonald concluded his first full day on campus by sitting-in with the Wise Spirit Singers, rendering songs for a masquerade powwow.

*Bismarck Tribune, Nov. 20, 2014; United Tribes News, Winter 2015, p.1; Tribal College Journal, website post, Nov. 1, 2014*

**2014-11-04:** Two students were turned-away from casting ballots in the General Election at the UTTC Skill Center polling site. Cat Kirkaldie (Three Affiliated) and Kolt Grey Cloud (Standing Rock) were students in the college’s welding program and both lived on campus.

The two were among many college students statewide who were blocked from voting due to legislative changes in voter ID requirements. The rebuff did not deter the two. Kirkaldie and Grey Cloud regrouped and obtained a certificate from the UTTC registrar and were able to cast their ballots in the election.

*United Tribes News, Winter 2015, p.26*

**2014-11-14:** UTTC students and staffers circled-up on the basketball court for a group photo showing solidarity in the fight against diabetes. All wore the appropriate color, in step with the theme “Go Blue” for World Diabetes Day.

*United Tribes News, Winter 2015, p.27*

**2014-11-19:** UTTC’s Tobacco-Free Campus policy was renewed by the new college president. Russ McDonald signed a proclamation approving the tobacco ban established a year earlier for all uses except ceremonial. The endorsement came during a campus Wellness Circle meeting, at which McDonald was briefed about ongoing work of the committee.

*United Tribes News, Winter 2015, p.3*

**2014-11-21:** UTTC’s Land Grant staff hosted an open house to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the start of USDA Land Grant College and University programs at the nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities. The event recognized the progress at UTTC other TCUs



United Tribes hosted the weigh-in event for boxer Virgil Hill’s “One Last Stand” fight in Bismarck.

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News



made possible through research, extension and education programs funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Land Grant Director Pat Aune coordinated the program that celebrated the program's success and thanked the many people and organizations involved.

*United Tribes News, Winter 2015, p.18*

## 2015

**2015-01-08:** Dave Archambault II, chairman of the Standing Rock Tribe, spoke to a joint session of the North Dakota Legislature. It was the 16th "State of the Tribal-State Relationship" address since the series began 30-years earlier. The formal talks started in 1985 from an idea devised by peace activist Brian Palecek. United Tribes and the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission advanced the practice as a way for tribal leaders to communicate on a government-to-government basis with state leaders.

*United Tribes News, Spring 2015, p.8*

**2015-02-03:** The North Dakota Dept. of Transportation and United Tribes announced plans to collaborate on workforce training. Discussions focused on providing a pathway for trained drivers and heavy equipment operators to fill transportation jobs with the state. DOT would advise on the training curriculum to ensure grads were prepared for careers in transportation and students would receive hands-on experience from DOT personnel.

*ND-DOT Press Release, Feb. 3, 2015, United Tribes News, Spring 2015, p.3*

**2015-02-08:** During National Tribal Colleges Week, President Russ McDonald led a group from UTTC in the Nation's Capitol. Events and meetings were coordinated by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. North Dakota U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp helped with a congressional resolution recognizing "TCUs Week."

*United Tribes News, Spring 2015, p.10*

**2015-02:** A new team of UTTC administrators was in place early in the new year. Lisa J. Azure was Vice President of Academic Affairs. She had taught at UTTC for 21 years, starting at the elementary level and moving to postsecondary in the field of Early Childhood Education. She held a doctorate in Teaching and Learning. Kathy Johnson (Three Affiliated) was Vice President of Student Services. She had been with the college since 2004 in student

and campus services leadership positions, including interim vice president in 2014. Bill Gourneau (Turtle Mountain) was Vice President of Campus Services. He was a former UTTC employee and Bush Fellow who held a doctorate in Educational Leadership. Twice he served in senior leadership capacities at Turtle Mountain Community College.

*United Tribes News, Spring 2015, p.14*

**2015-02-27:** United Tribes hosted the weigh-in for boxers competing in Virgil Hill's "One Last Stand" fight in Bismarck. Fans packed the college gym to witness the pre-fight ritual for Hill and 15 other competitors, who met in the ring the following day. Hill introduced a special guest, Evander Holyfield. Both were medalists in the 1984 Olympic Games.

*United Tribes Press Release, Feb. 25, 2015; United Tribes News, Spring 2015, p.32*

**2015-03:** UTTC President Russ McDonald was appointed to serve on a committee to facilitate the choice of a permanent nickname for University of North Dakota sporting teams. Eleven volunteered to help narrow the choices for replacing the college's former nickname retired in 2012. McDonald was a UND alumnus and former employee.

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 4, 2015; United Tribes News, Spring 2015, p.15*

**2015-03-20:** UTTC's new and improved weight-training center was on display during an open house and dedication. Space in the lower level of the 'old gym' had been updated and renovated for free-weights and weight machines. A steady stream of users made the center popular. It was part of the Strengthening Lifestyles Program directed by John Keller.

*United Tribes News, Summer 2015, p.17*

**2015-04:** Student leaders of UTTC's chapter of American Indian Business Leaders set their sights on attending the National AIBL conference. They achieved that and more. The club was very active with volunteer campus and community events, hosting fundraisers, staffing booths and serving as campus ambassadors. They created a cultural food event called "Tradishes." It all paid off at the national meeting, earning first place in the Portfolio Competition and a \$1,000 cash award for future projects. Chapter officers were: Heather Demaray, Jon Berryhill, Lydale Yazzie, Marian DeClay and Teresa His Chase. Chapter adviser was Eric Cutler.

*United Tribes News, Summer 2015, p.14*







**2015-04:** Kimberlee Blevins (Standing Rock) was selected Ms. AIHEC during the American Indian Higher Education Student Conference in Albuquerque, NM. Ms. Blevins was in UTTC's Pre-Engineering degree program and the Native American Leadership degree program. She was also elected AIHEC Student Congress Historian at the conference.

*United Tribes News, Summer 2015, p.25*



Kimberlee Blevins

United Tribes Technical College Archive

**2015-04-19:** UTTC Automotive Technology achieved a goal when student Michael Montclair (Standing Rock) earned a bronze medal in the North Dakota Skills USA event. "This is the first time one of our students has medaled in the competition," said instructor Scott Graeber with pride. "It's quite an achievement. It's something we aim for." Montclair took third in the post-secondary division of the annual auto skills testing event held at BSC.

*United Tribes News, Summer 2015, p.25*

**2015-04-21:** United Tribes raised \$6,770 for the fight against cancer during the college's first-ever "Mini Relay for Life." Working in teams, donations to the American Cancer Society were raised over the course of three months. The amount eclipsed the college's previous annual contribution by tenfold. The campaign was expertly coordinated by Leah Hamann, Teacher Education instructor.

*United Tribes News, Summer 2015, p.30*

**2015-06-02:** United Tribes was a grateful recipient of financial support from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. The tribe based at Prior Lake, MN, awarded \$250,000 for information technology upgrades in the college's new Science and Technology building and elsewhere on campus. It meant new computers and smart-room wireless technology. A portion was applied to the college's long-running "Opportunities in the

Making" scholarship campaign. "Sharing is fundamental to our Dakota culture," wrote Shakopee in its award letter. "We are happy to make donations that improve the lives of others across the country."

*United Tribes News, Fall 2015, p.24*

**2015-07:** United Tribes suspended educational services and training at its Black Hills Learning Center in Rapid City, SD. Budget constraints forced the decision to close the site-based distance learning center opened two years earlier. The college continued to offer accredited online classes for those affected through the convenience of home access or other online locations.

*United Tribes Press Release, Sept. 21, 2015; United Tribes News, Fall 2015, p.32*

**2015-08-05:** A team of ambassadors from the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce brought goodwill and the ribbon and scissors for the public opening of a new section of United Tribes Trail. The concrete addition bordered Burleigh Avenue and was supported by a U.S. DOT grant coordinated by the North Dakota Dept. of Transportation. The dedication also celebrated the work on campus of nine AmeriCorps Volunteers. The team helped maintain and renovate trees and shrubs along the trail and became familiar with Native culture and traditions. Their 10-day visit was coordinated by UTTC's Land Grant programs and the college's Facilities Committee and campus planner.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 1, 2015; United Tribes News, Fall 2015, p.27*

**2015-09-10:** The United Tribes Powwow Committee chose to have a host drum for the 46th annual gathering. They picked "The BOYZ," a well-known and popular group from St. Paul, MN. Youngsters from local schools, on campus for Youth Day, cheered wildly and did an audience "wave" around the dance arbor as a warm up for grand entry. Total prize money awarded in 27 singing and dancing categories was \$96,000. Art work by student Gene DeClay (White Mountain Apache/Pima) was the official image for 2015.

*United Tribes News, Fall 2015, p.1*

**2015-09-17:** United Tribes was slated to receive a claim in the settlement of a long-running contract support lawsuit. The so-called Ramah case was a 25-year-old class action initiated on the Navajo Reservation. UTTC was to receive



\$4.2-million in the negotiated settlement involving 640 tribal entities nationwide. For years, the government had contracted with tribes to run programs but failed to pay the full amounts required by law.

*United Tribes News, Fall 2015, p.9*

**2015-10:** A newly reconstituted campus committee began taking a broader view of culture at United Tribes. Formerly called the “culture committee,” it became known as the “Diversity Council.” The scope took in the substance, delivery and documentation of cultural instruction and events on the campus and in the community. Initial members were Angelique Gillis, Christina Colon, Devero Yellow Earring, Kara Greenwood, Melvin Miner, Robert Fox and Jody Archambault.

*United Tribes News, Fall 2015, p.25*

**2015-10:** UTTC Native American Studies instructor Dakota Goodhouse wrote an introduction for the newly released book “The War with the Sioux: Norwegians against Indians 1862-1863” by Karl Jacob Skarstein. Goodhouse’s study and research of winter counts, pictographs and oral history brought a new and important tribal dimension to the study of regional history, including the battles, fights and conflicts of the early 1860s.

*United Tribes News, Fall 2015, p.15*

**2015-10-23:** UTTC maintenance workers were in the process of moving Student Services employees into the renovated upper level of the Jack Barden Center. The relocation was an organizing move to bring the staff together in a one-stop-shop location for the convenience of students.

*United Tribes News, Winter 2016, p.8*

**2015-10-30:** The new chancellor of the North Dakota University System visited UTTC to explore common interests in higher education. Mark Hagerott shared ideas and received briefings about the campus and its history and the college’s student-focused services. He said he was very interested in the example of tribal communities, where Native identity had not been erased through assimilation. Hagerott referred to identity as an essential question of our time.

*United Tribes News, Winter 2016, p.11*

**2015-11-04:** New yellow-topped recycling bins around campus signaled the start of single-stream recycling. UTTC joined with other local concerns in co-mingling recyclables in the same

collecting bins. City residents had effectively used the method for two years. “We expect an upswing in the amount the college recycles,” said Jana Millner, Land Grant Nutrition educator and a member of the college’s Healthy Community Coalition.

*United Tribes Press Release, Nov. 4, 2015; United Tribes News, Winter 2016, p.3*

**2015-11-05:** An icon of Indian activism, Clyde H. Bellecourt, 79, visited the UTTC campus on a trip to Bismarck. He mingled with staff members and students, posed for photos and gave an impromptu talk of encouragement. One of the founders of the American Indian Movement, Bellecourt remained active directing the AIM Interpretive Center in Minneapolis, MN, where the movement began.

*United Tribes News, Winter 2016, p.40*

**2015-11-09:** United Tribes found out how many trees were on the college campus. As part of a tree inventory, Community Forestry Specialist Joel Nichols of the North Dakota Forest Service arrived at the answer. He used GPS technology to fix the location of every tree and assess its condition. It turned out that the 105-acre main campus was home to 1,278 trees. The campus tree assessment was initiated as part of UTTC’s Land Grant Agro-Ecology Program. As expected, older trees were in decline and needed maintenance. Nichols further calculated the appraised value of UTTC’s community forest at \$4.5-million. His findings were contained in a written report with maps, graphs and plans for managing this important campus resource.

*United Tribes News, Winter 2016, p.34*

**2015-11-30:** Rae Gunn became the new Human Resources Director at United Tribes Technical College. She was with UTTC since 2012 in various capacities, including assisting and then directing the TCC DeMaND Workforce Program, an \$18.9-million Trade Assistance Act project involving four TCUs in North Dakota and Montana. She held a Bachelor of Science degree from Dickinson State University and an MBA from the Gary Tharaldson School of Business at University of Mary.

*United Tribes News, Vol.25, Winter 2006, p.14*

**2015-12-17:** Tim Thomas received a room full of holiday warmth and encouragement during the United Tribes holiday party. A standing ovation was a gesture of affection for him. A stroke in early September left Thomas partially paralyzed, ending five years of service for





the well-liked member of the professional maintenance staff.  
*United Tribes News, Winter 2016, p.14*

## 2016

**2016-02:** The UTTC Office of Public Information was busy producing regularly scheduled radio programs on two local stations. Townsquare Media provided a one-hour slot on its public service series "Free-For-All-Friday," on Super-Talk 1270 AM. OPI Media Specialist Alicia Hegland-Thorpe (Spirit Lake) hosted live interviews and discussions with United Tribes students and staff members. Also in production was a series of one-hour programs on KDAK 102.5 FM, the new community access station. "United Tribes News-Radio" was a pre-edited program from talks and discussions by Native presenters recorded at the college.

*United Tribes Press Release, Feb. 8, 2016; UTTC Digital Audio Archive*

**2016-02-10:** The United Tribes Welding program was certified as an accredited test facility of the American Welding Society. The endorsement followed an industry inspection and audit validating the program's equipment, training, quality and practices. It earned UTTC the

distinction of being the only AWS accredited test facility in the state of North Dakota.

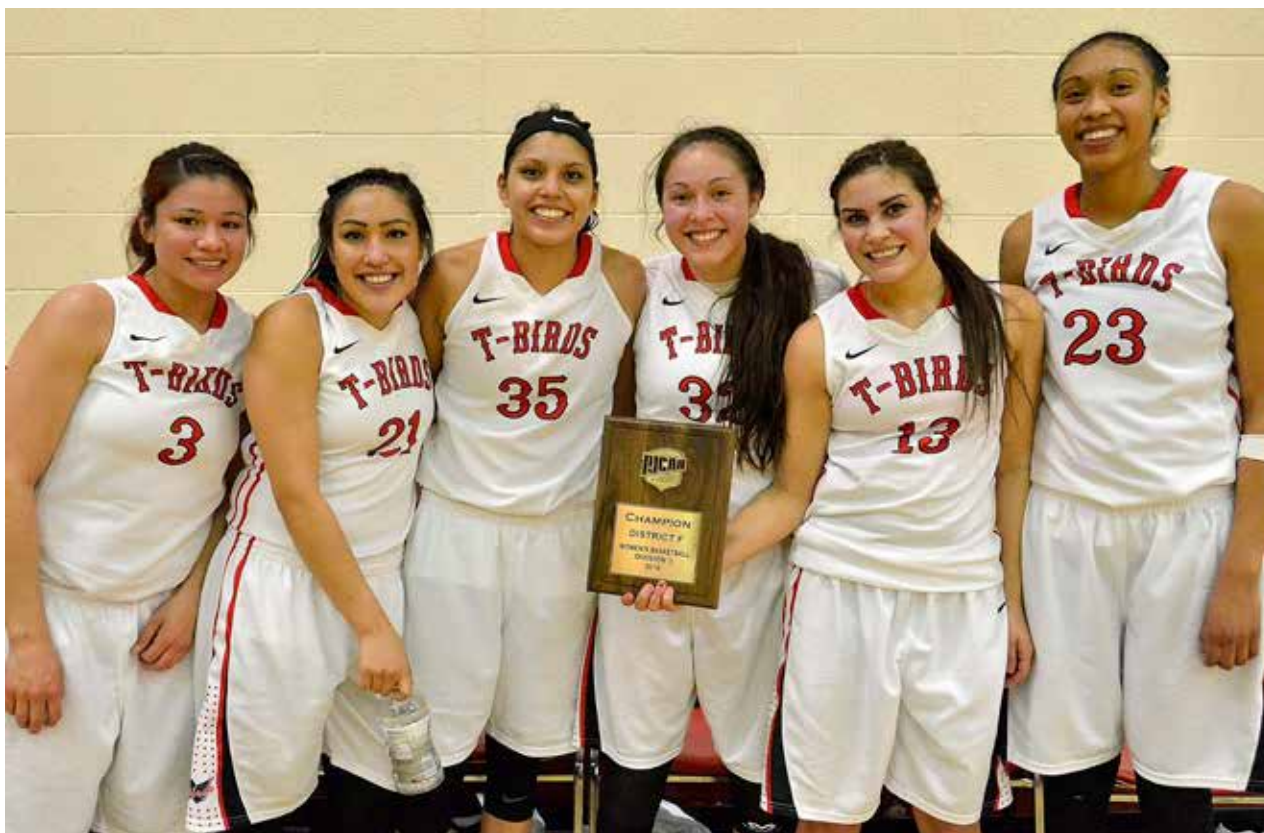
*United Tribes Press Release, Feb. 10, 2016*



Shawn Craig at left and Tervor Shavehead

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

**2016-02-24:** The Thunderbird men came within one steal of pulling off another basketball feat like the one nearly 30 years earlier when the T-Birds beat NDSU Bottineau with only three players at game's end. This time it was the same opponent, Dakota College at Bottineau. Again, fouls subtracted from the only five players on the UTTC roster. It turned into a high-scoring affair that went overtime. Tribes played the entire first OT 4-on-5 and managed to send it to a second overtime. Only two 'Birds' remained for the final minute of



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

2016 Region 13 and District F Champs, from left, Shelby Greeley, Sisseton, SD; Kaylea Skunkcap, Browning, MT; Jessica Starr, Twin Buttes, ND; McKayla Peltier, Dunseith, ND; Gia Davis, Belcourt, ND; and Terae Briggs, Pryor, MT.





Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

2016 dancers in UTTC Powwow arena

the second OT. Point guard Shawn Craig and teammate Trevor Shavehead came within one play of beating the odds, losing the ball on a turnover. What became known as the '2-on-5' game ended with Bottineau on top 156-154, bringing an end to the Thunderbirds season. "I thought about that game when we got down to four guys," said Tribes coach Pete Conway, of the 1988 game. "I was hoping we could repeat history."

*Forum News Service, Feb 24, 2016; Townsquare Media, February 25, 2016; Associated Press, Feb. 27, 2016; United Tribes News, Fall 2016, p. 34*

**2016-03-02:** UTTC's Practical Nursing program hosted an accreditation site visit from a team representing the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Program Chair/ Instructor Evelyn Orth coordinated the review for continuing accreditation of the college's Associate of Applied Science degree program.

*United Tribes Press Release, Feb. 8, 2016*

**2016-03-07:** Following approval by the Higher Learning Commission, United Tribes announced the offering of four new programs starting in the fall. Included was a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science and Research. The other three were two-year, Associate of Applied Science degrees: Human and Social Services, Information Processing Specialist, and Information Technology. It brought to 20 the number of programs at the college.

*United Tribes Press Release, Mar. 7, 2016; United Tribes News, Fall 2016, p.18; Tribal College Journal, website post, Mar. 9, 2016*

**2016-03-15:** The United Tribes Women's basketball season went all the way to the NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championships in Overland Park, KS. It was the first appearance for UTTC women in the national tournament. They were led by first-year head coach Kia Herbel. Fans at home viewed both games of the number 16 seed on a NCAA website.

*United Tribes Press Release, Mar. 9, 2016; United Tribes News, Fall 2016, p. 34*

**2016-05-06:** United Tribes Technical College became the first tribal college in the country to receive designation as a "Tree Campus USA." The distinction came at a program on campus on North Dakota Arbor Day. "United Tribes really stands out," said State Forester Larry Kotchman who presented the award. He confirmed that UTTC met the standards for developing healthy trees and promoting student involvement.

*United Tribe Press Release, Apr. 6, 2016; United Tribes Press Release, May 7, 2016*

**2016-04-14:** United Tribes announced the start of a tuition waiver in the fall for Native students who were enrolled members of federally-recognized tribes. A one-year pilot program was approved by the college's governing board. It intended to make it easier for Native students to start college. UTTC had ended participation in the federal student loan program because it didn't work for families that are without savings accounts or access to credit. "We





United Tribes Technical College Archive

Thunderbird Classic Criterium bicycle racing

serve a population that has the lowest annual income averages in the United States,” said Russ McDonald, UTTC president. “It’s our obligation to offer realistic financial assistance to help them start on a path that will change their lives.”

*United Tribes Press Release, Apr. 14, 2016; United Tribes News, Fall 2016, p.16; Tribal College Journal, website post, Sept. 5, 2016*

**2016-06:** Four Tribal Environmental Science students were selected for “Building Sustainable Pathways” fellowships from the American Indian College Fund. They were Bonita Claymore, Marlee Finley, Tahnee Herrera and Jonathan Holmes. The awards provided financial assistance, an internship, research opportunities and faculty mentoring as they pursued their degrees. The goal was to promote environmental sustainability in tribal communities for systematic change.

*United Tribes News, Fall 2016, p. 36; Tribal College Journal, website post, Sept. 16, 2016*

**2016-06-11:** The Batmobile, one of the best-recognized and most popular automobiles in entertainment history, cruised the streets of United Tribes as a fundraiser for the college. Rides in the 1960s TV icon created excitement on campus and raised funds for student scholarships.

*United Tribes Press Release, May 27, 2016; United Tribes News, Fall 2016, p. 26*

**2016-08-09:** The Bismarck City Commission held one of its regularly scheduled meetings on location at United Tribes. The gesture of inclusion by Mayor Mike Seminary was the first time the elected city body had convened a meeting at UTTC. President Russ McDonald welcomed commission members, described benefits the college brings to community and previewed powwow week following Labor Day in early September.

*Bismarck City Press Release, Aug. 2, 2016*

**2016-08-11:** United Tribes hosted the 2nd annual Tribal-Local Foods Conference to inspire greater agricultural involvement by tribal people. The event highlighted food systems, sources, co-ops, and resources and included a tour of campus gardens. Talks by Mary Louise Defender Wilson (Dakotah) and Wesley and Yvonne Fox (Sahnish) focused on growing and gathering food on the reservation.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 2, 2016*

**2016-09-06:** On the first day of the United Tribes Tribal Leader’s Summit, Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault II hosted a briefing and public discussion about issues surrounding the Dakota Access Pipeline. The 20th annual gathering of tribal leaders coincided with legal steps and public resistance challenging the pipeline as a threat



to the future of Standing Rock's main source of water. The population of encampments along the Cannon Ball River near the pipeline route swelled into the thousands, joined daily by tribal and non-tribal supporters and activists from around the country.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 26, 2016; United Tribes News, Fall 2016, p.1; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 7, p.1A*

**2016-09-08:** Dr. Harriett Skye (Standing Rock), Vice President Emeritus of United Tribes, was inducted into the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor. She was recognized for educational leadership in the inaugural group of seven individuals honored by the State of North Dakota. Skye's legacy spanned nearly 50 years of service and advocacy promoting the advancement of Native People.

*United Tribes News, Fall 2016, p.17; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 6, 2016, p.5A; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 9, 2016, p.2B*

**2016-09-09:** A veteran's memorial was dedicated with help from Color Guard and Auxiliary units of UTTC's governing tribes. Located near the campus entrance, the display of flags and military branch seals recognized and honored veterans, including, and especially, Native American Veterans, who served in every conflict and war and in numbers greater per-capita than other ethnic groups. Special guest at the ceremony was 100-year-old Harold Bruschwein of Bismarck, a World War II Army Captain who began his service as a commissioned officer at Fort Lincoln.

*United Tribes Press Release, Sept. 2, 2016; Bismarck Tribune, Sept. 10, 2016*

**2016-09-10:** Perched on the roof of Lone Star Arena with his large camera and a black cloth over his head, photographer Shane Balkowitsch of Bismarck made old-time photos of "a sea of beautiful faces" in the dance arena. He made the images of dancers in regalia on glass using a late 19th Century method of photography for his series, "Northern Plains Native Americans: A Modern Wet Plate Perspective." The technique countered the widespread use of digital photography. "This entire generation, trusting their iPhones and digital cameras is going to be lost on the world, because there's no way those images are going to find their way into the future," he said, emphasizing the lasting quality of ambrotype photography.

*UTTC Powwow Permission Agreement, Sept. 2, 2016; Shane Balkowitsch e-mail correspondence, Sept. 12, 2016; KXMB-TV News, Dec. 14, 2017*

**2016-09-28:** United Tribes was awarded \$2.5 million from the National Science Foundation for expanded instruction and research in Tribal Environmental Science. The five-year award increased Native student education in science, technology, education and mathematics. "Tribes face numerous threats to natural resources and environmental health," said Jeremy Guinn, TES Program director. "Yet Native Americans remain underrepresented in the STEM fields."

*United Tribes Press Release, Sept. 28, 2016*

**2016-10-01:** The streets of UTTC proved to be perfect for closed-circuit bicycle racing. The "Thunderbird Classic Criterium" was lap-style racing on All Nations Circle, the paved avenue that rings the powwow grounds. Fast-paced racing tested the skill and fitness of men, women and junior cyclists. The Strengthening Lifestyles Program sponsored the criterium under the direction of Christopher Knoll.

*United Tribes Press Release, Sept. 27, 2016*

**2016-10-07:** Dakota Goodhouse presented a scholarly-researched indigenous view concerning the route of the Dakota Access Pipeline. In a keynote speech during First Nations Day, the UTTC Native Studies instructor presented overwhelming evidence of many tribal uses of the Cannon Ball River area that was selected as the route of the Dakota Access Pipeline. "There is a continuous cultural occupation along this Missouri River tributary reaching back to circa 1300 through tribal histories of the Mandan, Arikara, Cheyenne, Yanktonai Dakota and Hunkpapa Lakota," he told an audience at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Much of the historical record that detailed Native use of the area was absent from the historical review process for routing the pipeline.

*United Tribes Press Release, Oct. 11, 2016*

**2016-10-25:** A group from central Asia was interested in tribal sovereignty, government and business when visiting UTTC. Individuals from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were on a U.S. tour with the Dacotah Territory International Visitor Program. The college had hosted previous groups from Russia and Germany, providing host families and lodging for a more personal experience in the community.

*United Tribes Press Release, Oct. 19, 2016*







**2016-10-28:** As if the century-old old brick buildings of Fort Lincoln weren't scary enough, the college arranged to make one even spookier. UTTC teamed up for the "World of Darkness" haunted house in the fort's abandoned hospital building. The pre-Halloween event began an annual series of fundraisers for the college. "This will have more frights per-square-foot than any haunted attraction around," said experienced horror-show producer Tom Braun, who pulled together 90 volunteers for the haunting.

*United Tribes Press Release, Oct. 17, 2016*

**2016-11-04:** United Tribes hosted a "Prayer for Peace" gathering in light of ongoing community friction over the Dakota Access Pipeline. Native and non-Native people united in prayer for a peaceful resolution to events associated with the pipeline controversy. A free meal followed, along with screening of the documentary "Awakened: The Spiritual Destiny of First Americans."

*United Tribes Press Release, Nov. 2, 2016*

**2016-12-15:** United Tribes went with technology to serve worksite wellness. The college logged-on with WellSteps, a Utah-based company that provided services online to companies and organizations nationwide. The program relied on tracking personal fitness data to assist and motivate individuals to take an active role in their own health improvement. The company delivered support-services and tools online, guiding employees to "improve health behaviors, lower health risks and reduce medical costs."

*United Tribes Press Release, Dec. 15, 2016*

**"This will have more frights per-square-foot than any haunted attraction around."**

said McDonald, who believed he was selected because of his advocacy for children when he served as Chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe.

*United Tribes Press Release, Jan. 18, 2017; Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 23, 2017; Heitkamp Press Release, May 1, 2017*

**2017-03-01:** Over the course of several days, the United Nations Special Rapporteur (Reporter) on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples visited North Dakota to learn how energy development had affected tribes and tribal people. One stop for Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz was a regional consultation meeting at United Tribes. She heard testimony from individuals, including Jodi Archambault Gillette (Standing Rock) a former official in the Obama White House and Interior Dept. On the topic of the Dakota Access Pipeline, Tauli-Corpuz concluded that the concerns and rights of Native People had not been adequately addressed.

*United Tribes Press Release, Feb. 21, 2017; Associated Press in Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 3, 2018; UN Press Release, Mar. 3, 2017; Washington Post, Mar. 3, 2017; South Dakota Public Radio, Mar. 6, 2017; United Tribes*

*News-Radio, Mar. 10, 2017*

**2017-04-20:** United Tribes renewed its Native American Tuition Waiver program for the 2017-2018 academic year. Launched on a trial basis, the program helped students avoid relying exclusively on student loans. Waivers sparked an enrollment increase of over 22 percent during Fall Semester 2016. They also had a positive effect on GPA, class completion and retention rates. "Students who received the waiver turned out to be more successful in these areas compared to their counterparts," said DeLana Wendland, UTTC Vice President of Student Services.

*United Tribes Press Release, Apr. 20, 2017; Indian Country Today Media Network, May 29, 2017*

**2017-05-12:** Word was out that United Tribes was hiring. It was for the Student Work Repayment program, for current and former students with an outstanding debt. Temporary work would help settle unpaid bills that accumulated while attending UTTC. The college provided meals at no cost and dormitory housing if needed, along with a wage of \$25 per-hour that would go specifically toward erasing the obligation.

*United Tribes Press Release, May 8, 2017*

## 2017

**2017-01-17:** President Barack Obama appointed United Tribes President Russ McDonald (Dakota/Arikara) to serve on a federal commission to evaluate government programs that serve Native children. The "Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children" was to conduct a comprehensive study of programs at the federal, state, local and tribal levels. "The goal is to enhance the safety of Native children and improve the programs that serve them,"



**2017-05-12:** United Tribes Technical College joined the Healthier Campus Initiative (HCI) of the Partnership For A Healthier America, chaired by former first lady Michelle Obama. UTTC was represented at the organization's Healthier America annual summit in Washington, DC by the college's Land Grant Extension Nutrition Educator Mara Yborra, RD, LRD. The HCI effort sought to create a healthier food and physical activity environment at tribal colleges and minority serving institutions across the country. One strategy was a set of guidelines to help students form healthy lifelong nutrition habits.

*PR Newswire, 15 May 2017, A Healthier America website, <https://www.ahealthieramerica.org/our-partners/united-tribes-technical-college-203>*

**2017-07-21:** United Tribes joined Achieving the Dream, Inc., a network of more than 220 colleges in 39 states dedicated to improving student success. The UTTC effort was called "Project Success." It was a data-driven initiative to help pinpoint strengths and areas for improvement.

*United Tribes Press Release, July 21, 2017*

**2017-07:** To ensure that out-of-state students on Medicaid received basic medical assistance on campus, United Tribes became a certified third-party biller. Wellness Director Stephanie Isaak and Billing Specialist Martina Dia successfully enrolled the college as a third-party biller and had the staff certified. Students no longer had to travel to the nearest IHS facility in Fort Yates for medical care and the college was authorized to receive reimbursement.

*Bismarck Tribune, July 13, 2017*

**2017-09-07:** Dr. David M. Gipp (Standing Rock), President Emeritus of United Tribes Technical College, was inducted into the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor. He was recognized for more than 40 years of service to Indian people, through his leadership in American Indian higher education and his advocacy for Native rights.

*North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission Press Release, June 7, 2017; UTTC Digitized Audio Archive, Sept. 7, 2017*

**2017-09-08:** Exciting "Battle Royale" dance-offs made for heightened audience involvement in the United Tribes Powwow. The method for selecting elimination round winners was the volume of audience applause for individual dancers.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 2, 2017*



U.S. Marine Joey Little Bird danced in uniform during a Veterans Dance Special in 2017

Greg Bollert - United Tribes News

**2017-09-10:** It was as if the deeds of 100-years earlier had happened only yesterday. Proud Native families filled the UTTC powwow arena to recognize their gone but not forgotten servicemen as the nation marked the centennial of the U.S. entering the "Great War" in 1917. The names of 350 World War One-era Native servicemen from the college's governing tribes were reverently announced during an honor song. Family members carried old photos and cherished medals. Native Color Guard and Auxiliary units hoisted flags and banners in a tribute to those who served and sacrificed during the war in Europe. Representatives of the State and National WWI Centennial Committees participated. The honoring was followed by a Veterans Dance Special.

*United Tribes Press Release, Aug. 2, 2017; Tribal College Journal, Nov. 8, 2017, Volume 29, No. 2, Winter 2017*

**2017-10-24:** A talk about bats brought a sizable audience of local college students to the United Tribes Science and Technology building. As part of a lecture series, Mandy Guinn presented "Out of the Darkness: Shedding Light on North Dakota Bat Species." She was a UTTC instructor





and member of the science research faculty. Guinn's work on bats was in the forefront of research into bat populations in the state, their benefits and economic value.

*United Tribes Press Release, Oct. 16, 2017*

**2017-10-26:** United Tribes President Russ McDonald was appointed to the AARP North Dakota Executive Council. The panel worked with staff and other volunteers to provide direction for state activities in support of AARP priorities. McDonald's appointment was for a two year term.

*AARP Press Release, Oct. 26, 2017*

**2017-11-28:** United Tribes celebrated Native American Heritage month with a presentation from an experienced and respected cultural-keeper from Standing Rock. LaDonna Brave Bull Allard's talk, "Honoring Our Culture, Ancestors and Prophecies," touched on regional history, tribal traditions, and practices and insights passed down for generations. Allard was a former Standing Rock historic preservation officer and historian. In April 2016, she formed the Sacred Stone Camp, the first assembly along the Cannon Ball River to host water-protectors gathered to resist the Dakota Access Pipeline.

*United Tribes Press Release, Nov. 27, 2017*

**2017-12-05:** The U.S. Dept. of Interior's Bureau of Indian Education briefed tribal educators about a draft strategic plan for BIE-funded schools nationwide. The meeting at United Tribes was the third of five tribal consultations around the country to introduce the agency's first-ever strategic plan. Twenty educators attended from schools serving Cheyenne River/Eagle Butte, SD and United Tribes, along with representatives of the North Dakota Dept. of Public Instruction.

*United Tribes News-Online, Dec. 5, 2017*

## 2018

**2018-03-08:** The American Indian Higher Education Consortium's annual student conference was held in Bismarck. More than 1,000 students and staff from the nation's 37 tribal colleges and universities attended. United Tribes and staff from the other tribal colleges in North Dakota hosted the events headquartered at the Bismarck Event Center.

*Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 30, 2018; Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 13, 2018*

**2018-03-23:** United Tribes was spared from losing federal funding by a provision in an omnibus spending bill passed by Congress and

signed into law by the President. The college was at risk of losing Pell Grant eligibility due to high student loan default rates in 2014. North Dakota U.S. Senator John Hoeven drafted a provision to protect colleges with the problem that were located in high poverty areas. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp and Rep. Kevin Cramer supported the measure, patterned after legislation by Sen. Mitch McConnell to help a Kentucky community college facing a similar loss of federal funding. UTTC President Russ McDonald was grateful for the help. Loss of Pell Grant eligibility would have been devastating, he said. UTTC offered federal student loans from 2008 to 2016, ending the program as a proactive step to correct the issue.

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar 23, 2018*

**2018-04-18:** After two years as a trial, United Tribes made its tuition waiver program a permanent offering. The waiver covered the cost of tuition through the entire academic year. Qualifying students were enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe, seeking a full-time degree and meeting academic standards. Since the fall of 2016, the GPAs of students under the waiver increased by nearly half a grade level and class completion rates rose 10 percentage points.

*Bismarck Tribune, Apr 19, 2018, p.1B*

**2018-05-22:** United Tribes hosted a visit from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. North Dakota tribal leaders hoped to build a working relationship with the former Montana Congressman during his trip to North Dakota. "We're happy to give him a heads up about what the challenges are in Indian lands here," said David Flute, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Chairman. Prior to Zinke's visit, John Tahsuda III, principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, toured the campus and visited Theodore Jamerson Elementary School.

*United Tribes Press Release, May 22, 2018*

**2018-05-24:** United Tribes received help from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as part of a funding package to improve water and wastewater infrastructure across the country. The college received an \$846-thousand grant and a \$1-million loan to construct a storm water system on the campus. The funding came from USDA's Rural Development Water and Waste Water Disposal Loan and Grant Program and was supported by the state's congressional delegation.

*Bismarck Tribune, May 24, 2018*





**2018-06-27:** Beautiful star quilts were created during classes at United Tribes taught by Cheryl Danks (Three Affiliated/MHA Nation). She shared her expertise with 14 students and staff, most who had never sewn before. It was the first in a series of quilt-making classes funded by an AICF Native Arts and Knowledge grant.

*United Tribes Facebook*

**2018-06:** United Tribes Technical College refined its single-stream recycling program, making it easier to recycle on campus. Working through the college's Land Grant Program, AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer Max Rebhun from New York studied the system and connected the campus with the appropriate resources. A grant from "Keep America Beautiful" and the Coca-Cola Foundation added new capacity to the original six dumpsters and 20 indoor receptacles. Fourteen new bins were placed in high traffic areas with signs outlining what can and cannot be recycled. In addition, Rebhun tweaked the location and arrangement of receptacles, making it more convenient to recycle and thereby encouraging students and staff to become environmentally conscious.

*UTTC Land Grant newsletter, June 2018*

**2018-08-18:** The Missouri Valley Historical Society dedicated building T-23 at Buckstop Junction. The wood-frame structure was a World War Two-era temporary barracks from Fort Lincoln Internment Camp, site of United Tribes Technical College. Volunteers directed by Mike Beck of Bismarck had reassembled a portion of the building as an historic display for the pioneer town in east Bismarck.

*Bismarck Tribune, June 4, 2018, p.1A; Buckstop Sentinel, Aug. 2018, p.1*



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes News

Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk Jr.

**2018-09-05:** A reception was held at the Capital Gallery in Bismarck for the opening of an art show featuring artist Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk, Jr. (Standing Rock). Works by

the United Tribes Tribal Arts instructor were paired with those of Three Affiliated artist Monte Yellowbird for the public showing. UTTC President Russ McDonald recognized and honored Thunder Hawk for his 45 years of service to United Tribes.

*United Tribes Facebook*

**2018-09-06:** North Dakota First Lady Katheryn Helgass-Burgum delivered a message about ending the stigma of addiction during the Youth Summit of the United Tribes Tribal Leader's Summit. "The simple solution is to talk," she said. "Everyone who is talking about addiction is saving lives."

*United Tribes Facebook*

**2018-09-07:** At the outset of the annual powwow, United Tribes dedicated the newly renovated powwow dance arena at the center of campus. UTTC President Emeritus David M. Gipp cut the ribbon for the re-named "Lone Star Veterans Arena." It featured new roofing and seating for the arbor, an updated announcer's stand, and a new location on the east side of the circle for entering the dance arena during grand entry.

*United Tribes Facebook, KFYR-TV News, Sept. 8, 2018*

**2018-09-21:** United Tribes was awarded a \$2.6-million grant to establish an Intertribal Research and Resource Center. The goal was to improve natural resource and agricultural sustainability in Indian Country. The National Science Foundation grant recognized UTTC's long history of serving as a resource for tribal nations throughout the Great Plains. Dr. Jeremy Guinn, chair of the Environmental Science and Research Program, said the funding would reach beyond academic programs and serve communities directly.

*United Tribes Press Release, Sept. 20, 2018*

**2018-10-27:** Actor and political activist Mark Ruffalo visited United Tribes for a tribal voter education rally in the gym. The event was a non-partisan, non-candidate effort to emphasize the importance of the Native vote. Ruffalo visited and posed for photos and took in the singing and dancing of UTTC's 2018 Masquerade Powwow. He was accompanied by Prairie Rose Seminole (Three Affiliated) a cultural advisor and community organizer with the Dakota Resource Council.

*United Tribes Facebook, United Tribes Facebook Video*

**2018-12-08:** Cecil "Pete" Conway (Blackfeet) was honored during a home basketball game in the





Thunderdome. UTTC's athletic director and head men's basketball coach was honored by the college president on his induction into the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame. Conway was an outstanding high school and college player in Montana. He coached at Little Big Horn Community College before coming to UTTC in 2015.

*United Tribes Facebook*

**2018-10:** Two grants to UTTC's Land Grant Programs from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture heralded the coming of a new degree program on campus. One was a competitive award in NIFA's "Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program." The other came through the "Native American Agriculture Fast Track Fund" established as part the Keepseagle settlement. Together, the two awards supported creation of a sustainable agriculture degree program. Designed as an interdisciplinary effort, it focused on indigenous food sovereignty, using campus-based instruction and training supplemented by collaborations with disciplines in the campus community. Not-for-credit workshops began in spring 2019 with for-credit classes to start in the fall.

*United Tribes Land Grant Programs Newsletter, October 2018, UTTC website*

**2018-11-29:** The United Tribes 50th Anniversary Subcommittee began meeting regularly to plan and prepare for marking the golden anniversary of United Tribes Technical College. President Leander R. McDonald entrusted the group with providing the leadership and motivation for celebratory projects and events throughout the year 2019 involving members of the campus and community. Officers elected were Kathy Dye-Chapin, chairperson; Daniel Henry, vice-chairperson; Melvin Miner, secretary; and Lisa J. Azure, treasurer. Other members were Jolene DeCoteau, Leander R. McDonald and Dennis J. Neumann.

*United Tribes Technical College 50th Anniversary Subcommittee Bylaws and Meeting Minutes*

**2018-12-11:** UTTC's Sheridan McNeil (Standing Rock), Career and Technical Education Director, rode the first leg of the Dakota 38 + 2 Memorial Ride from Lower Brule, SD, to Fort Thompson, SD. The total 330-mile ride proceeded to Mankato, MN, where 38 Dakota men were hanged on Dec. 26, 1862. It was the largest single-day, mass execution in U.S. history.

*United Tribes Facebook*

**2018-12-14:** A United Tribes staff member shared an ironic story on National Public Radio. Barnie Botone (Kiowa) remembered at age 22 when he told his grandmother about his job as a locomotive engineer. Botone was descended from a Kiowa leader, who was taken in 1875 by train with other leaders and imprisoned by the U.S. Army. "She said, 'My great-grandfather was a chief. And the government took him off in a livestock car...and now my grandson comes and tells me he's on the railroad.' She cried with a moan....because of the irony. It was too much to bear. And that's when I told her that I would be the very best I possibly could be." Botone's story was recorded in Bismarck in an interview for StoryCorps, the award winning listening enterprise that preserves and shares humanity's stories.

*National Public Radio, Dec. 14, 2018*

## 2019

**2091-01-03:** Chairwoman Myra Pearson of the Spirit Lake Tribe emphasized cooperation when she delivered the State of the Tribal-State Relationship speech in Bismarck. Pearson's address to a joint session of the State Legislature renewed a 30-year tradition, started in 1985, of hosting a state tribal leader on a government-to-government level. The speech was deleted two years earlier from the start of the 2017 session because of protests over the Dakota Access Pipeline. Tribal leaders and tribal college presidents attended the event. Pearson said tribal leaders and lawmakers should work together for the future of all the state's residents. "We have a lot of children who are counting on us," she said. She noted that North Dakota and its tribes have become a national leader in energy. It's important to learn from both bad and good experiences and build strong relationships, she said.

*Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 3, 2019; Associated Press, Jan. 3, 2019; United Tribes Archive, digitized audio holdings*

**2019-01-15:** United Tribes hosted the first in a series of four cultural talks titled "Stories of Ancestors." Self-described culture carrier Tim Mentz Sr. (Standing Rock) presented the illustrated talks drawing upon oral traditions from relatives and elders and his experience as a tribal historic preservation officer and cultural resources protector. The content revealed Lakota/Dakota/Nakota Star Knowledge that was carefully guarded from public view for

generations. Following a vigorous discussion within the culture about maintaining secrecy, Mentz said he chose to reveal the stories at a tribal college to share oral history knowledge for documentation and teaching purposes. At his request, the presentations were streamed on the internet and recorded. He said he believed the long period of hiding the traditions and stories behind them was responsible for the widespread loss of cultural connections in current generations. "Either we tell it or we're going to lose it," Mentz said.

*United Tribes Facebook; KXMB-TV News, Jan. 17, 2019; United Tribes Archive, Digitized audio, video and photo holdings*



Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes Technical College Archives

Tim Mentz Sr

**2019-01-17:** United Tribes Technical College President Leander R. McDonald used sage to bless tribal flags brought to the State Capitol in Bismarck for display for the first time. During a flag ceremony in Memorial Hall, leaders from the five Native American tribes in North Dakota formally presented their tribal flags to Gov. Doug Burgum for display outside his office during the Legislative Session. State Senator Richard Marcellais of Belcourt, an Army veteran and member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, organized the ceremony with Indian Affairs Commission Executive Director Scott Davis. Marcellais called it a historic event. "We can have meaningful government-to-government relations that

are more than just policy discussions," said the governor. "They can be built on personal connections and the deeply shared belief that we all have common goals for ourselves, for our families and for our future generations."

*United Tribes Facebook; North Dakota Governor's Office press release*



**2019-01-18:** UTTC observed the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday with a program and meal in the college cafeteria. Guest speaker Brian Palecek explained the origins and importance of the "State of the Tribal-State Relationship" speech held at the State Capitol in Bismarck. Palecek originated the idea in 1983 for North Dakota tribal leaders to address the State Legislature. Beginning in 1985, it became a permanent feature of the formalities of the opening days of each legislative session and part of United Tribes history. King Day was the first in a series of events in 2019 to feature highlights from the colleges' 50-year history. Theme of the anniversary was "Building on a Legacy of Success."

*United Tribes Facebook*

**2019-02-01:** Following a ribbon-cutting ceremony, members of the United Tribes Maintenance Dept. were the first to tour the newly renovated UTTC Administration Building. Previously home to the college's Enrollment Services Dept., Building #5 was the third location on campus for the college administration. The building had been gutted, refitted with modern utilities, weatherized and refurbished by a workforce from the maintenance department professional staff. The three-story brick structure from the Fort





Lincoln Army post era of the early 1900s took more than a year to renovate. It was the second campus building rehabbed with in-house labor. "Renovating these is a good step as we go into the next 50 years," said Leander R. McDonald, UTTC President. "Having a nice infrastructure that's energy efficient really helps to provide a professional environment." Located in the building were the College President and his support staff, Facilities Director, Notary Public, and the Finance Dept. staff, including the Chief Financial Officer and those handling Contracts and Grants, Payroll, Students Accounts, Travel, and Accounts Payables and Receivables.

*United Tribes Facebook, Bismarck Tribune, Feb. 1, 2019*

**2019-02-06:** The United Tribes Gaming Club became the newest student organization on campus. The Student Government Association approved the group as an official student club. The organizer was UTTC Housing employee Glendon Bruce. A gamer's lounge was located in the lower level of Bldg. 33.

*United Tribes Facebook*

**2019-02-07:** The United Tribes Business Resource Project hosted an open house at its offices in the college's Building 1B. The project was funded with a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency. Continuation of the work provided continuity for a long-running program that provided technical assistance for Native business development in the region. The service area for this project was the Dakotas and Nebraska. Coordinator Brek Maxon was assisted by Larry Stockert and Lacie St. Pierre.

*United Tribes Face Book*

**2019-02-14:** Three dozen UTTC students and staff members carried signs of support and marched outdoors in sub-zero weather to raise awareness about missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. The Valentine's Day event, hosted by United Tribes, was titled: "Remember the Hearts of our Women." Student speaker Darla Pikyavit described the prevalence of the under-reported disappearances as a "national tragedy." Darcy Cottonwood (Standing Rock) shared about the 2014 loss of his sister Natalie White Lightning of Cannon Ball, ND. Singer Brendan Young composed and sang a song in Lakota especially for the occasion that contained the lyrics: "Our stolen sisters, we wait for you to come home."

We miss you. We love you."

*United Tribes Facebook*

**2019-02-15:** Kasa Hohenstein (Standing Rock) was selected the 2018-19 United Tribes Technical College Student of the Year. The UTTC scholarship committee and administrators choose her for the scholarship award offered by the American Indian College Fund based on her strong leadership skills, outstanding academic achievement, and active involvement in campus organizations. Kasa was later honored during the American Indian Higher Education (AIHEC) Student Conference in Billings, MT.

*United Tribes Facebook*



Kasa Hohenstein and her grandfather, the late Carl Hohenstein, a long-time UTTC employee.

Dennis J. Neumann - United Tribes Technical College Archives

**2019-03-20:** United Tribes Technical College was the site of a U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee field hearing on law enforcement issues in Indian Country. Committee Chairman Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., presided over testimony to support legislation aimed at improving public safety on reservations and responding to the prevalence of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. The hearing was titled "To Protect and Serve: Joint Law Enforcement Efforts in Building Safe Tribal Communities and Stopping Dangerous Drugs from Entering Indian Country." Testifying were tribal leaders from the Dakotas and representatives of the FBI, DEA and Bureau of Indian Affairs. North Dakota officials advocated for locating a BIA training facility in the state to address the shortage of tribal law enforcement officers.

*Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 19, 2019; Associated Press, Mar. 20, 2019; Bismarck Tribune, Mar. 20, 2019*

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## United Tribes 50 Year Chronology Photos

United Tribes Technical College maintains an extensive hard-copy and digital photo archive, thanks to the work of many talented and committed staff members and students over the years. Digitized files of almost all of the photos in this United Tribes 50 Year Chronology are held in the archive. Most appeared in the college's official publication United Tribes News.

During the mid 1970s, the college was fortunate to have had the services of Wilford L. "Bill" Miller, a professional photographer, film-maker, outdoors naturalist and writer. Miller taught photography classes and contributed to college publications. The college's long-serving leader, David M. Gipp, was trained in the military as a photographer and public information officer. He regularly documented the college's activities, events and people through still photography.

The following individuals took photos for United Tribes News during the time of this chronology: Austin Engel, Juanita Helphrey, Wilford L. "Bill" Miller, Jim Remsen, Pat Travnicek, Karen Hilfer, Susan Braunstein, Sandy Erickson, Cheryl Hamley, Stu Shrawder, Einar Bad Moccasin, Irby Hand, Jim Lambert, Tara Steck, Linda Ashes, Darrell Shields, Joan Robinson, David M. Gipp, Dennis J. Neumann, Mark Anderson, Rhonda Breuer, Charlene Weis, Shawn Holz, Alicia Hegland-Thorpe, Greg Pollert, Kaley Schwab, Luann Poitra and Frank White Bull.

Many other friends of the college have contributed photos over the years and publications have graciously allowed the use of photos. Thank you to all. Editor



United Tribes 2018 Powwow

Frank White Bull - United Tribes Technical College Archive