

## **Abstract**

Salish Kootenai College is submitting for an award from the Department of Education for Postsecondary Education – Research and Development Infrastructure, to support the initiation of a Master's of Life Sciences program and to enhance the existing Natural Resources Management and Education Master's programs. Located on the Flathead Reservation, Salish Kootenai College (SKC) serves the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreilles (Séliš, Ksanka, and Qlisp' é) people with a vision to provide quality education to Native Americans grounded in culture. Native Americans remain underrepresented in STEM and fall below their peers in K-12 education. The SKC Graduate programs impact for Native Americans is two-fold; (1) increase the success of Native Americans in graduate programs by providing robust education in a culturally relevant manner thereby increasing participation in science careers and (2) developing teaching pedagogy for indigenous populations to support Native American K-12 to increase retention and thus matriculation to higher education.

(1) Implementation of a Master's of Life Sciences program at SKC is key toward increasing institutional capacity by adding graduate level molecular based science. Native Americans are severely underrepresented in STEM and graduate science programs at universities. To bridge this gap, SKC Life Sciences will add a Master's program delivering the graduate opportunity to the Native community, providing collaborative molecular-based research to the existing Natural Resources graduate program, and thereby adding to the scientific community Native American scientists trained at the graduate level.

(2) Support in the form of a writing mentor and indigenous research instructor are proposed in this project to enhance the graduate of Education program. These resources reinforce the other programs, and provide future teachers with the tools to enhance Native American Education.



**TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

**Abstract**

**ABSOLUTE PRIORITY 1:** Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC) is chartered as a tribally controlled college by the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. An eligible Tribally Controlled College/University (TCCU), **TMCC meets Absolute Priority 1** for the Research and Development Infrastructure (RDI) effort.

**RESEARCH BARRIERS:** This RDI project, titled "Turtle Mountain Research Opportunity Center (TM ROC)," is designed to address looming gaps within the Turtle Mountain TCCU community. Turtle Mountain is challenged with high poverty (28.5%) (2022 American Community Survey), which qualifies it for waiver of the match requirement.

TMCC, an eligible TCCU (Absolute Priority 1), will proactively improve research and development activities, including infrastructure, faculty development, and undergraduate research opportunities. The TM ROC RDI project will address gaps and create processes where there have been none to achieve substantial research system change and improvement.

**OBJECTIVES:** TMCC will establish a Research Opportunity Center and research infrastructure to meet these needs (Objective 1). The TM ROC Center will house two highly qualified positions (Research Coordinator and Data Manager) who will coordinate a myriad of innovative system processes to establish research at TMCC. Faculty and student development, support, and access to opportunities (Objectives 2 and 3) will foster excitement and innovation to pursue research.

**ACTIVITIES:** TMCC will (1) establish research infrastructure (TM ROC), (2) increase faculty development and research activities (with training by indigenous researchers and other experts) , and (3) expand undergraduate research opportunities (faculty mentors, research/culture day on campus, ROC indigenous staff for support, stipends, engaging travel to research events, a broad field of research interests to engage in, and extended experiences for Student Research Assistants).

**OUTCOMES:** The TMCC RDI project has a high likelihood of resulting in significant research system change and improvement. Its alignment with TMCC's goals, innovative solutions, comprehensive planning, and focus on new strategies for faculty and student engagement in research will collectively realize successful outcomes. The solid support of the TM ROC staff will not only resolve current challenges but also position TMCC, the faculty, and students for future growth and success.

**Summary of Impacts:**

- ✓ **Research Center and infrastructure established.**
- ✓ **Faculty trained by experts in research, particularly indigenous research**
- ✓ **100+ students participate in research-skills coursework**
- ✓ **20 students participate in in-depth opportunities as Student Research Assistants**
- ✓ **TM ROC in place to continue to support research at TMCC into the future.**

# **Growing IAIA RCCNA Indigenous Research Capacity - A 4-Year Strategic Plan Implementation Project**

## **Abstract**

The Institute of American Indian Arts Research Center for Contemporary Native Arts (IAIA RCCNA) is launching a 4-Year Research Services Implementation Project to expand hiring, programming, and research activities. This initiative will open IAIA's unique collections to the world, empowering Native scholars, artists, and students in Indigenous research, contemporary arts, and cultural preservation.

Supported by the Department of Education's Research and Development Infrastructure Grant (CFDA #84.116H), the project aims to:

1. Expand RCCNA staffing;
2. Establish RCCNA programming;
3. Increase collection accessibility and resources;
4. Ensure long-term financial sustainability.

Through partnerships with our undergraduate and graduate departments, national and international organizations and Tribal communities, the IAIA - RCCNA will support and engage in research on contemporary Native art and culture, helping Native communities and students reclaim cultural narratives and share their art, history and culture research with the world. IAIA is committed and well-positioned to sustain IAIA - RCCNA operations and programs beyond the grant period through institutional, private and public funding, and making the IAIA - RCCNA a vital leader in Native arts and culture research.