

Labor Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Witness Disclosure Form

Clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires non-governmental witnesses to disclose to the Committee the following information. A non-governmental witness is any witness appearing on behalf of himself/herself or on behalf of an organization other than a federal agency, or a state, local or tribal government.

Your Name, Business Address, and Telephone Number:

David M. Gipp, President
United Tribes Technical College
2215 University Drive

1. Are you appearing on behalf of yourself or a non-governmental organization? Please list organization(s) you are representing.

I am appearing on behalf of the five tribal governments in North Dakota who govern United Tribes Technical College under an Indian Self-Determination Act agreement with the Department of Interior. Thus I am appearing on behalf of tribal government.

2. Have you or any organization you are representing received any Federal grants or contracts (including any subgrants or subcontracts) since October 1, 2008?

Yes No

3. If your response to question #2 is "Yes", please list the amount and source (by agency and program) of each grant or contract, and indicate whether the recipient of such grant or contract was you or the organization(s) you are representing.

Signature:

Date: March 26, 2012

David M. Gipp
President, United Tribes Technical College

David M. Gipp is President of United Tribes Technical College, an intertribal, postsecondary career and technical college for American Indian students and their families. The college, located in Bismarck, North Dakota, is governed by the five tribes in North Dakota under an Indian Self-Determination Act agreement.

Born in Fort Yates, North Dakota, Gipp is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. His Hunkpapa Lakota name translates as A Lone Star.

He earned an education at University of North Dakota (1969) and holds a Doctorate in Laws, Honoris Causa, from North Dakota State University (1991) for his contributions in developing tribal higher education. He has been selected for numerous national and community awards.

His professional work since 1972 has been principally in the development of tribal colleges. He was instrumental in creating the first national legislation to assist tribally controlled community colleges (Tribally Controlled Community Colleges and Universities Act).

Among other posts, President Gipp is the past Executive Director (1973-1977) and President of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (1978-1980, 1991-1993, 1999-2000), past Chair of the American Indian College Fund (2002, 2003-2004, 2005) and current Chair of the University of North Dakota INMED (Indians into Medicine) Advisory Council. He was the 1995 Indian Educator of the Year of the National Indian Education Association and 1997 North Dakota Multicultural Educator of the Year.

North Dakota Governor (now Senator) John Hoeven appointed him to the North Dakota Workforce Development Council, the North Dakota State Commission on National and Community Service and the North Dakota Quarter Design Selection Commission. He served on the Bismarck Mayor's Committee on Human Relations.

President Gipp oversees all aspects of the college, which has unrestricted accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (re-accredited for the period 2011-2021). United Tribes Technical College offers 21 two-year degree, 12 certificate, and 3 bachelor degree programs. All full programs are authorized to be offered on-line.

UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE

3315 University Drive
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504
701-255-3285

David M. Gipp, President (dmgipp@aol.com)

FY 2013 Department of Education Appropriations:
*Carl Perkins Act (Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Career and Technical Institutions);
Higher Education Act (Title III); Pell Grants*

Submitted to the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee
March 16, 2012

For 43 years, United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) has provided postsecondary career and technical education, job training and family services to some of the most impoverished, high risk Indian students from throughout the nation. We are governed by the five tribes located wholly or in part in North Dakota. We are not part of the North Dakota state college system and do not have a tax base or state-appropriated funds on which to rely. We have consistently had excellent retention and placement rates and are a fully accredited institution. *Section 117 Carl Perkins Act funds represent about half of our operating budget and provide for our core instructional programs.* The request of the UTTC Board for FY 2013 is as follows:

- \$10 million for base funding authorized under Section 117 of the Carl Perkins Act for the Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Career and Technical Institutions program (20 U.S.C. Section 2327). This is \$1.8 million above the FY 2012 level and the President's request. These funds are awarded competitively and are distributed via formula.
- \$30 million as requested by the Administration and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium for Title III-A (Section 316) of the Higher Education Act (Strengthening Institutions program). This is \$5 million over FY 2012 enacted.
- *Maintain Pell Grants at the \$5,635 maximum award level.*
- *Support the proposed Community College to Career Fund.*

SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE. We have:

- A dedication to providing an educational setting that takes a holistic approach toward the full spectrum of student needs – educational, cultural, and necessary life skills.
- Renewed unrestricted accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools for the period July 2011 through 2021, including authority to offer all of our full programs on-line.
- Services including a Child Development Center, family literacy program, wellness center, area transportation, K-8 elementary school, tutoring, counseling and housing.
- A semester completion rate of 82%.
- A graduate placement rate of 83% (placement into jobs and higher education).
- A projected return on federal investment of 20-1 (2005 study).
- Over 30% of our graduates move on to four-year or advanced degree institutions.
- A current student body from 63 tribes who come mostly from high poverty, high unemployment tribal nations in the Great Plains; many students have dependents.
- 76% of undergraduate students receive Pell Grants.
- 21 two-year degree programs, twelve year certificates, and three bachelor degree programs (Elementary Education; Business Administration; and Criminal Justice).
- An expanding curricula to meet job-training needs for growing fields including law enforcement and health information technology. We have new short-term training programs for welding technology (in particular demand in ND because of the oil boom), electrical, energy auditing, and Geographic Information System technology.
- A dual-enrollment program targeting junior and senior high school students, providing them an introduction to college life and offering high school and college credits.
- A critical role in the regional economy. Our presence brings at least \$34 million annually to the economy of the Bismarck region. We have a workforce of 360 people.

- An award-winning annual powwow which last year had participants from 60+ tribes and international indigenous dance groups, drawing over 10,000 spectators.

FUNDING REQUESTS

Section 117 Perkins Base Funding. Funds requested under Section 117 of the Perkins Act above the FY 2012 level are needed to: 1) maintain 100 year-old education buildings and 50 year-old housing stock for students; 2) upgrade technology capabilities; 3) provide adequate salaries for faculty and staff (who have not received a cost of living increase for the past year and who are in the bottom quartile of salary for comparable positions elsewhere); and 4) fund program and curriculum improvements.

Perkins funds are central to the viability of our core postsecondary educational programs. Very little of the other funds we receive may be used for core career and technical educational programs; they are competitive, often one-time supplemental funds which help us provide the services our students need to be successful. Our Perkins funding provides a base level of support (about 46% of our core operating budget) while allowing the college to compete for desperately needed discretionary funds leading to additional resources annually for the college's programs and support services.

Title III-A (Section 316) Strengthening Institutions. Among the Title III-A statutorily allowable uses is facility construction and maintenance. We are constantly in need of additional student housing, including family housing. We would like to educate more students but lack of housing has at times limited the admission of new students. With the completion this year of a new Science, Math and Technology building on our South Campus on land acquired with a private grant, we urgently need housing for up to 150 students, many of whom have families.

While we have constructed three housing facilities using a variety of sources in the past 20 years, approximately 50 percent of students are housed in the 100-year-old buildings of what was Fort Abraham Lincoln, as well as housing that was donated by the federal government along with the land and Fort buildings in 1973. These buildings require major rehabilitation. New buildings are actually cheaper rehabilitating the old buildings that now house students.

Pell Grants. We support maintaining the Pell Grant maximum to at least a level of \$5,635. This resource makes all the difference in whether most of our students can attend college.

Community College to Career Fund. We support the proposed Community College to Career Fund, and understand that tribally chartered colleges will be eligible applicants. UTTC is ready with training – campus-based and on-line – to help meet the needs of high-demand businesses.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT

As you know, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in March of 2011 issued two reports regarding federal programs which may have similar or overlapping services or objectives (GAO-11-318SP of March 1 and GAO-11-474R of March 18). Funding from the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and the Perkins Act for Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Career and Technical Institutions were among the programs listed in the supplemental report of March 18, 2011. *The GAO did not recommend defunding these or other programs; in some cases consolidation or better coordination of programs was recommended to save administrative costs.* We are not in disagreement about possible consolidation or coordination of the administration of these funding sources so long as funds are not reduced.

Perkins funds represent about 46 percent of UTTC’s core operating budget. These funds supplement, but do not duplicate, the BIE funds. *It takes both sources of funding to frugally maintain the institution.* Even these combined sources do not provide the resources necessary to operate and maintain the college. Therefore, UTTC actively seeks alternative funding to assist with curricula, deferred maintenance, and scholarship assistance, among other things

We reiterate that UTTC and other tribally-chartered colleges are not part of state educational systems and do not receive state-appropriated general operational funds for their Indian students. The need for postsecondary career and technical education in Indian Country is so great and the funding so small, that there is little chance for duplicative funding.

There are only two institutions targeting American Indian/Alaska Native career and technical education and training at the postsecondary level—United Tribes Technical College and Navajo Technical College. Combined, these institutions received less than \$15 million in FY 2012 federal operational funds (\$8 million from Perkins; \$7 million from the BIE). That is a very modest amount for two campus-based institutions which offer a broad (and expanding) array of training opportunities.

UTTC offers services that are catered to the needs of our students, many of whom are first generation college attendees and many of whom come to us needing remedial education and services. Our students disproportionately possess more high risk characteristics than other student populations. We also provide services for the children and dependents of our students. Although BIE and Section 117 funds do not pay for remedial education services, we make this investment through other sources to ensure our students succeed at the postsecondary level.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.