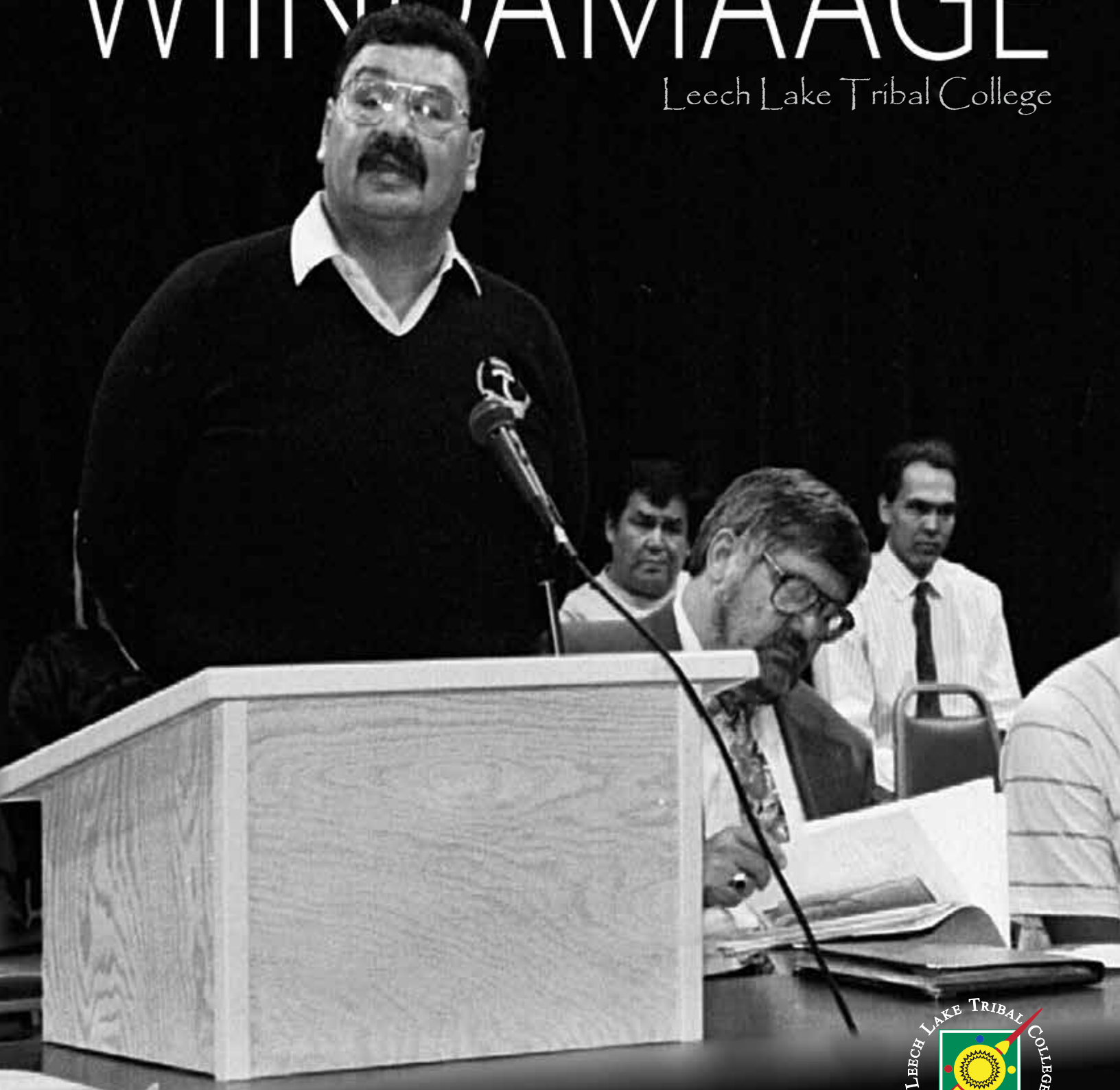


WIINDAMAAGE

Leech Lake Tribal College



25-Year
ANNIVERSARY
Established 1990



Mission:
Leech Lake Tribal College provides quality higher education grounded in Anishinaabe values.

Vision:
To be recognized as a center of academic excellence that advances the Anishinaabe world view and empowers life-long learners who are fully engaged citizens, stewards, and leaders.

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Valerie Rodriguez

2016 Valedictorian

Aaniin anishinaabedook
Boozhoo nijj gikinoo'amaaganidog
Makade-Binesikwe indigoo
Valerie Rodriguez Nindizhinakaaz
Makwa Nindoodem nimiigwechiwendam gikenimag nindoodem
Ojibwe miinawaa miigishkaan nindaw
Bagadowaaning Imaa Ga'zaagaskwajimekag ishכוןigaaning
Niindoonjiba
Ga'miskwaawaakokag idash niinda
Ga'oziskwajimekag gabekindaso wigamigoong nindazhi
gikikinwa'amaagoz.
Nimiigwechiwendam omaa iyiyaan
Azhigwa Niwii-zhaganaashiim ji-nisidotawiyeg

Read full speech on page 15

From The President's Desk

On September 10, 2001, I arrived on the former campus of Leech Lake Tribal College to begin teaching English and American Indian Literature—a Tribal College position about which I had dreamed for many years--and my introduction to the College was a memorable one! After completing my first day of teaching, I walked outside about 9 p.m., where I discovered almost every window in my car smashed. Broken glass covered the seats and floorboards of the car, and a chilling downpour of rain didn't make the prospect of driving home over 25 miles of country roads very exciting. As soon as I reported the vandalism to campus security, however, a couple of young men found enough plastic and tape to cover my car windows so that I was able to drive home without getting soaked by the rain, and what could have been a frightening incident became, instead, an immediate opportunity to experience the kindness and thoughtfulness of the LLTC community.

Since that time, I have had innumerable opportunities to observe the impact that respectful, caring faculty and staff members have also had on LLTC students and on the Leech Lake community at large. In fact, many of the 550+ LLTC graduates listed on pages 16-17 now have successful careers in fields such as education, tribal government, law enforcement, construction, business, science, and the medical and legal professions.

To the many others who have also played a significant role in sustaining the work of LLTC these past 25 years—past and present members of the Leech Lake Tribal Council and the LLTC Board of Trustees, community members, hundreds of faithful donors and grantors, and organizations such as the American Indian College Fund (AICF) and American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)—LLTC wants to extend our deepest gratitude as we continue to work together to provide higher education in tribal communities.

Presidential Search

The presidential search has concluded and the College have selected Erma Vizenor as the next president of the Leech Lake Tribal College. She is a Bush Leadership Fellow who holds an undergraduate degree in elementary education, a master's degree in guidance and counseling, and a specialist degree in education from University of Minnesota Moorhead. She also earned her doctorate in administration, planning, and social policy from Harvard University.

The College is pleased to welcome Dr. Vizenor to the lead us into the next 25 years.

A special thanks to Dr. Ginny Carney for serving as the Interim President. Dr. Carney has demonstrated commitment and love for the College way beyond the scope of duty. We wish you a joyful retirement in North Carolina.



Dr. Ginny Carney, Interim President



Dr. Erma Vizenor, Incoming President



Leadership and Commitment to Education

Leech Lake Tribal College is governed by an elected seven-member Board of Trustees and a honorary member. The Board has policy responsibilities for system planning, academic programs, fiscal management, personnel, admissions requirements, tuition and fees, and rules and regulations. The Board of Trustees act on the benefit and interest of the community and the College to ensure quality higher-education for future generations.

Miigwech to all past and present Board of Trustees members for providing leadership for the College to succeed and grow. The College's 25-year history is due in part of leadership and visionary guidance of these individuals.



Arnold Dahl-Wooley
Chairperson

Mr. Dahl-Wooley is a Native American business owner from the Bena area. He has immense knowledge of the local area and advance business knowledge to guide the College in most practical avenue.

Mr. Dahl-Wooley is involved in many social causes and is a strong advocate for human rights and social justice for all people.



Gary Charwood
Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Charwood is a spiritual leader in the Leech Lake Nation. His involvement with the community and as an elder help guide the Board of Trustees to ensure the ture values of the grandfather teachings are practiced in the grand outcome of decision making.

Mr. Charwood is deeply invested in the youth of Leech Lake and active member of area youth programs.



Rochelle Pemberton
Secretary

Ms. Pemberton has extensive financial knowledge and background in higher-education which help guide the College to make financially sound decisions.

Ms. Pemberton is engrained in the community, taking part in many charitable events for the benefit of the Leech Lake area.

Ms. Pemberton earned her Associates Degree from LLTC, Bachelors of Science in Accounting from Bemidji State University. She is currently pursuing her Masters with Capella University.



Rebecca Graves
Treasurer

Ms. Graves experience as the LLBO Internal Audit Director allows for critical insight in financial management and sustainability of the College. Her knowledge in this area helps ensure the Board operates at optimal standards.

She has her associate's degree, bachelor's degree, and a master degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Her academic and professional experience make her an asset for the College and the community at large.



Lenny Fineday
Member

Mr. Fineday earned his Juris Doctorate from Hamline University School of Law. With such designation, he brings forth great wealth of technical legal experience pertinent to the College growth. Mr. Fineday is not only an asset to the Board, but tribal nations throughout.

Mr. Fineday is a practicing lawyer using his knowledge to represent and assist tribal nations accross Minnesota.



Patricia Broker
Member

Ms. Broker is a long-time educator and a global citizen. She has a Ed.D in Education and is the current LLBO Education Director. Her part on the board will ensure cohesiveness between K-12 and higher-education for the band and local communities.

Ms. Broker works tirelessly for the benefit of the Leech Lake people. She is responsible for all educational programs on Leech Lake and works to create a pathway from grade-school to higher education.



Yvonne Wilson
Member

Ms. Wilson is an life-long learner who taught elementary students for the past 25 years. She is an active member with the Leech Lake Powwow Committee and coordinates the local King's elementary school's annual gathering.

Ms. Wilson recieved her B.A. from Macalester College, B.S. and a Masters in Elementary Education from Bemidji State University.



Dennis Banks
Honorary Member

Mr. Banks is a spiritual leader and recognizable member of the Board. He brings insight of culture and values to the Board. He is an honorary member of the Board to provide guidance and reflection of the Anishinaabe values.

1990-1994	1994-1998	1998-2002	2002-2003	2003-2005	
Dan Brown Jim Michaud Alfred Fairbanks Gladys Drouillard Myron Ellis	Alfred Pemberton Jim Michaud Myron Ellis Jack Seelye Alfred Fairbanks	Eli Hunt Linda Johnston Myron Ellis Jack Seelye Alfred Fairbanks	Eli Hunt Linda Johnston Peter White Lyman Losh Richard Robinson	Roger Aitken Edward Fairbanks Esther Bogda Vernon Barsness	Yvonne Wilson Clarice White Nadine Chase

2005-2008		2009-2012	2012-2016; Present
Yvonne Wilson Vikki Howard Lenore Barsness Shari Bebeau-Cavitt	John Herrera Judy Hanks Dennis Banks	Pracilla Day* Bonnie Rock Bernice Pemberton Gary Charwood Dennis Banks	Jerry Morgan* Shari Bebeau-Cavitt* <i>Rose Robinson</i> <i>Deonne Pansch</i> <i>Bonnie Fairbanks-Stangel</i> Arnold Dahl-Wooley Gary Charwood Rochelle Pemberton Rebecca Graves Patricia Broker*

Students From All Backgrounds

The Leech Lake Tribal College consists of students from diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, our faculty and staff are both from the local community and throughout the nation.

LLTC has one of the highest Native American student enrollments in an area surrounded by five different colleges and universities. We serve as a pathway for Native American students to gain an accredited education and become familiar with the academic environment.

The College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, ensuring continued learning opportunities for alumni. Many of our alumni have continued to earn their bachelors, masters, and some, their doctorates. For such a small college, LLTC has been producing some high-contributing community members.

Even though Native Americans make up the majority of the student body, we encourage all learners, both Native and Non-Native, to get an education and reconnect with the culture of the Anishinaabe people.

“Tell me and I’ll forget.
Show me, and I may not
remember. Involve me,
and I’ll understand.”

Unknown Native American Proverb

“The College is a
beacon of light for
our community, which
continues to provide
education opportunities
to those who seek it.”

Stacey Lundberg
Director of Enrollment Services



Students’ Tribal Affiliations

Total Enrollment: Main Campus and Red Lake Campus				Credit Total		Credit Load Average		Gender 2015				Gender 2016		
	PT	FT	TOTAL	PT	FT	PT	FT		PT	FT	TOTAL	PT	FT	TOTAL
Fall:	93	255	348	589	3566	5.79	13.98	Male:	27	93	120	15	83	98
Spring:	72	204	276	383	2840	5.31	13.92	Female:	66	162	228	57	121	178
Total:	165	549	624	972	6406	11.1	27.9							

The Leech Lake Tribal College consists of students from diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, our faculty and staff are both from local the community and throughout the nation.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe	Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Chippewa Indians
White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians	Red Cliff Band of Ojibwe	Northern Arapaho Tribe	Blackfeet Tribe
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians	Lower Sioux Indian Community	St. Croix Chippewa Indians	Lac du Flambeau
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Ho-Chunk Nation	Cheyenne Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Wahpeton Sioux Tribe - Sisseton	Assiniboine Sioux Tribe of Fort Peck	Couchiching First Nation	
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	Pima Maricopa	Moose Cree First Nation	

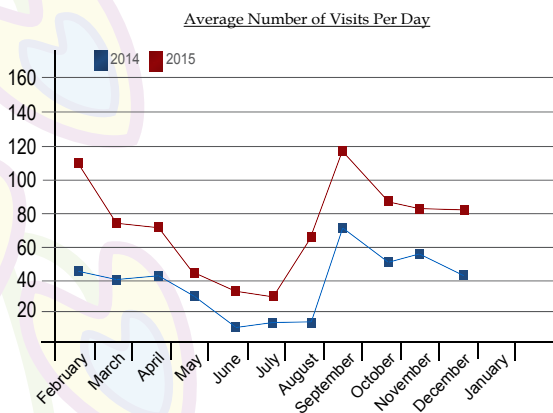
Larry P. Aitken Library

Bezhigoogahbow Agindaasowigamis

Hannah Buckland, Director of Library Services
Marie Lowry, Library Assistant
Jennifer Hauschildt, Library Assistant

In February of 2015, LLTC opened its new library, an 8,000-square-foot building dedicated to serving not only LLTC students and employees but also all residents of the Leech Lake Reservation. During this first full year of having its doors open to the community, the library has seen substantial increases in the number of people it serves.

As library staff develop programs and services to meet community needs, literacy services for children have been a focal point. During the spring 2016 semester, the library made substantial progress in this area, securing several grants, adding hundreds of books, and hiring a new library assistant—Jennifer Hauschildt—who has already started providing outreach story times at several Head Starts on the Reservation.



“The new library is great because of location, accessibility, and the helpful and knowledgeable staff.”

Micheal Auginaush
Alumni



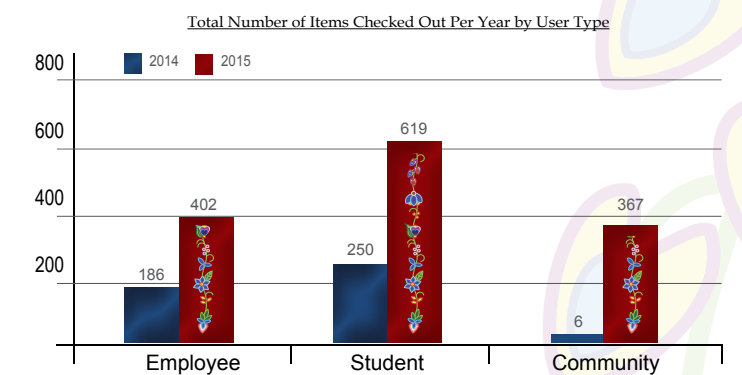
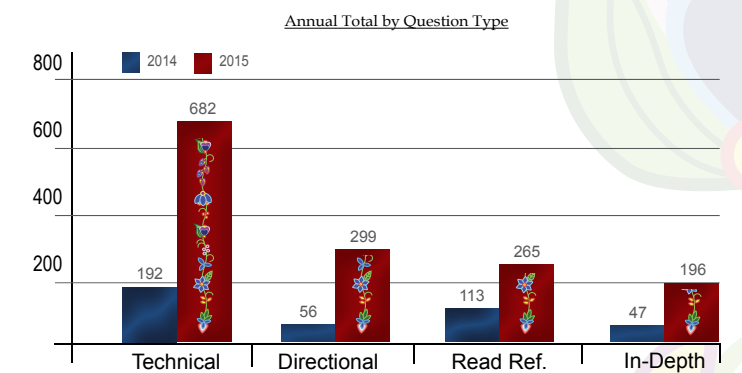
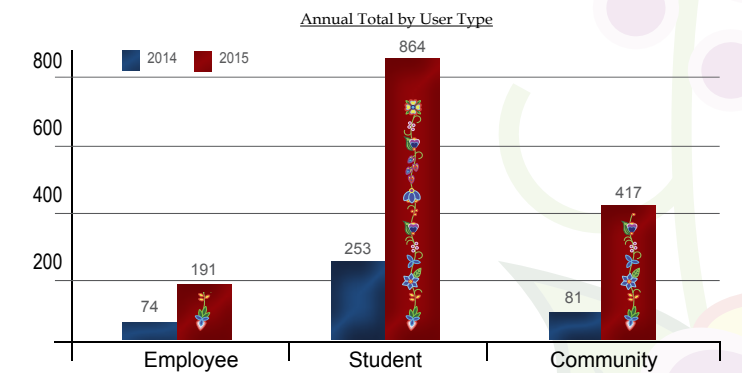
Through an ongoing partnership with Lisa Von Drasek, Curator of the Children's Literature Research Collections at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, the library has increased its children's collection from fewer than 200 books to nearly 1,500 in under a year. All of these donated materials are brand new, making them ideal additions to the library.

Thanks to an incredibly generous donation from Ann and Jay Boekhoff of Apple Valley, MN, the library has added a special area for children to develop early literacy skills through books and activities. The space includes Ojibwemowin matching games, puzzles, and a small puppet theatre. Before providing or installing any of these components, the Boekhoffs traveled to Cass Lake to learn more about the library and its specific needs. This space, which would not exist without their thoughtfulness, will be used for future story times.

During June and July, Jennifer will visit three Reservation community centers to host iCamp, a series of free workshops for middle school students. During these workshops, students will use the library's iPads to explore and create digital 2-D art, 3-D art, cartoon animation, and stop-motion animation. At the end of the summer, the library will showcase the students' work at an exhibition open to all participants and community members. This project has been made possible, in part, by funding from the Minnesota Department of Education through a Library Services and Technology Act (LS-00-15-0024-15) grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Through the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), the LLTC Library has been selected as a 2016 Bookapalooza winner. The Bookapalooza program will provide the library with about 1,000 brand new items—including books, DVDs, and audiobooks—for children ages fourteen and under. As the library's children's shelving fills up, library staff look forward to sharing some of these new books with Reservation community centers, Head Starts, and elementary schools.

In conjunction with ALSC, Candlewick Press selected the LLTC Library as the winner of the 2016 Light the Way grant, kickstarting the library's Agindaasodaa! project. Using these funds, the library will create and distribute an Ojibwe language board book to children living on the Leech Lake Reservation.





Wellness Center

Matt Hanson
Valerie Smith
Esther Humphrey

“What we have here on campus is a life-saver... physically, mentally, and spiritually. The Wellness Program has helped myself and others through a lot.”

Petra Rodriguez
Student LLTC

In following the seven grandfather teachings and supporting the vision of the college, the mission of Mino-ayaawigamig is to improve the overall health of our students while providing a safe and confidential place to be heard, ask questions, and seek advice.

Wellness is not just about being physically healthy; it is your overall well-being, which includes every part of your daily life. Helping each student find a balance that encourages and supports them in maintaining their mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical health is our goal. Knowing that no two paths are quite the same, we respect and honor our opportunity to walk alongside students as they seek to live their life in a good way.

At the heart of Leech Lake Tribal College is the conviction that our students are uniquely prepared and empowered by an institution that is fundamentally grounded in Anishinaabe culture and values. Since no two student's paths to LLTC are quite the same, the college has often sought to provide services that support them on their distinctive paths. The Mino-ayaawigamig Wellness Center stands as just one of the resources available on campus, providing support to students, as well as seeking to improve campus-wide health.

Mino-ayaawigamig was originally born out of a desire to encourage and support parents on campus. In recent years, it was not uncommon that student parents averaged nearly 60% of Leech Lake Tribal College's total student population! With few resources available to them and no designated place on campus to attend to their children, the Wellness Center was a welcome addition in 2011 for parents, providing respite and support as they realized their educational dreams. Now in its fifth year, Mino-ayaawigamig remains as a support to student parents and has expanded to maintain an open door for the rest of the student body and campus as well. Coupled with the seven values, Mino-ayaawigamig follows a holistic wellness approach of mind, body, and spirit as they serve those who come for services. This methodology is followed by staff at Mino-ayaawigamig and is interwoven throughout their programs and direct services.

Shortly after Mino-ayaawigamig's doors first opened, Dawn Plumer, the former Director helped guide LLTC through a two year effort to become a commercial tobacco-free campus. In 2014, with the support of college administration and the Leech Lake Band Chairwoman, the campus adopted the policy, which is as innovative as it is unique. What sets this policy apart from others, is that it not only prohibits commercial

tobacco (i.e. cigarettes, chew, and vaping) use on all campus grounds, but also voices strong support for the sacred and ceremonial use of asemaa (tobacco) on campus. In 2015, through the work of Mino-ayaawigamig, LLTC became the first tribal college in the nation to join a Partnership for a Healthier America's "Healthier Campus Initiative", a three year commitment to nutrition, physical activity, and improved programming guidelines. As we reach the halfway point, the college is in very good position to reach all of the goals!

Through the efforts of Mino-ayaawigamig, this past school year LLTC not only provided nutritious meals at our weekly Ashandiwin and Dewe'igan (Monday Drum) gathering, but they all included local, indigenous foods! The one year healthy eating pilot project through the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota was very well received, with campus survey data expressing that the weekly meal improved from the unhealthiest (last year) to the healthiest meal in their opinion! Mino-ayaawigamig was also incredibly grateful for the support provided through this project, as through their efforts and other collaborators, the second annual Aabita-biboon Round Dance was able to be held at the Cass Lake Boys and Girls Club in February.

Looking to the future, the Mino-ayaawigamig Wellness Center anticipates that sustainability efforts will continue to bear fruit, providing new and expanded opportunities to serve the LLTC campus community for years to come. Though Mino-ayaawigamig provides vital services to many on campus, mino-bimaadiziwin (the good life) is truly found through the collective efforts of the many incredible students, staff, faculty, and community stakeholders who invest of themselves at Leech Lake Tribal College. Miigwech for the role that you play here.



Commercial Tobacco Free Campus

As an institution that seeks to honor and embrace its culture, Leech Lake Tribal College (LLTC) works diligently to model Anishinaabe values. In August 2014, LLTC officially became commercial tobacco-free, prohibiting use of all commercial tobacco products on campus other than for ceremonial use. A distinction between ceremonial and commercial tobacco was critically important to the policy, as honoring heritage includes embracing medicines such as ceremonial tobacco as sacred gifts to all people. In Minnesota, five of the six leading causes of death among American Indians—including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and stroke—are related to commercial tobacco. According to the American Indian Cancer Foundation, among Indigenous peoples, rates of lung, colon, and stomach cancers are all higher than that of their Caucasian peers (83%, 162%, and 490%, respectively). Within the state of Minnesota, 59% of American Indians currently smoke, compared to 14% of all Minnesota adults. Given the prevalence of commercial tobacco use at LLTC, the College chose to educate and transition the campus throughout a yearlong process, rather than to instantly mandate a rigid policy. During the 2013/14 school terms, the college hosted educational listening sessions, supported opportunities for traditional ceremonial tobacco use, and offered tobacco cessation support to those who wanted

to quit smoking. LLTC's decision to engage the campus prior to establishing the policy proved to be a wise choice, as the gradual shift made for a smooth implementation in 2014. Provisions within Minnesota's Freedom to Breathe Act, which prohibit smoking indoors, leave sovereign tribal lands to their own discretion. Without proactive measures in place, all are subjected to secondhand smoke without the freedom to choose otherwise. Creating an environment at LLTC that was free of the dangers of commercial tobacco was seen as a pledge to the wellbeing of students and staff, as well as to our future generations. The two-year process took vision and determination to properly implement, and the college community has largely supported the effort. Recent assessment evidence suggests that the policy is supporting LLTC's efforts to encourage healthier futures. Surveys that were conducted before and after the policy went into effect showed that the percentage of students who used commercial tobacco dropped from 49% to 41% in just one year! Leech Lake Tribal College is proud to support the community through the efforts of this initiative. It is our hope that the positive inroads made by LLTC and other like-minded tribal colleges and universities will pave the way for many more schools to join the movement, leading to healthier students and Native communities

Lunch and Learn

Mino-ayaawigamig hosts a series of Lunch and Learns throughout the school year. Come get a free healthy lunch and listen to a variety of guest speakers. Topics range from: student-led presentations, chemical dependency, elders teaching about traditional tobacco uses, healthy relationships, AIDS/HIV rapid testing, tobacco facts bingo, financial aid, academic advising, and indigenous foods.

Traditional Tobacco Education

Mino-ayaawigamig is committed to promoting and focusing on the traditional Anishinaabeg use of Asemaa on campus. Mino-ayaawigamig has sponsored elder speakers to come on campus and talk about the respect and care that is to be given to aseema. We have also offered fun events such as tobacco facts bingo, we are running ads on KOJB 90.1 (The Eagle), and we are also planning a traditional garden. In addition we are a sponsor of the Anwebiwin Niimi'ding (Spring Pow-Wow), and are running an exciting Quit and Win challenge.

Parent Study Group

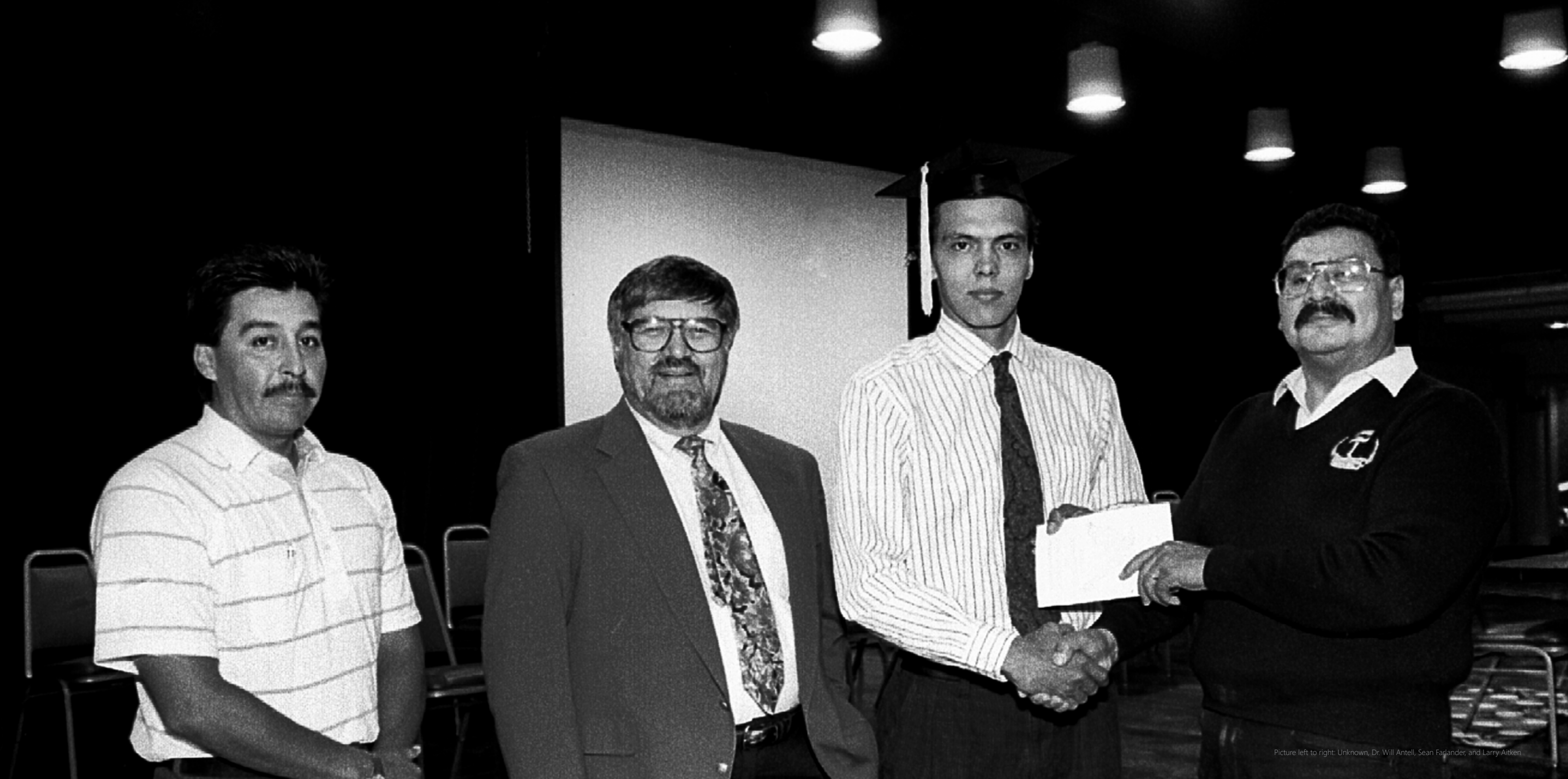
Mino-ayaawigamig sponsors a weekly Talking Circle led by Leech Lake elder Nancy Kingbird. Students and Community members are encouraged to come share a meal and then talk in a safe, confidential environment about school, parenting, grief, addictions, or anything you need guidance on.

Parenting Classes

Mino-ayaawigamig presents Toddler Time parenting classes: Do you have a toddler? Come to a fun and supportive parenting class that will assist you in answering those tough questions, help you keep your cool, and enjoy life. The class focuses on the needs and development of toddlers.

Snow Shoeing

Mino-ayaawigamig sponsors Snow Shoeing on Thursdays November thru March. Come at noon and learn to snow shoe around the LLTC campus. Snow Shoes are provided.



Picture left to right: Unknown, Dr. Will Antell, Sean Farlander, and Larry Aitken

The First Graduate

Sean Fahrlander

Leech Lake Tribal College's first graduate, Sean Farlander, pictured here with Dr. Will Antell and Larry P. Aitken, was part of a 25-year mission to provide higher-education. The College has graduated 525 students since its inception. Despite being a small-town college, LLTC has produced many talented and productive individuals. Most have positively impacted their local communities and attained further academic accomplishments in their own right.

Mr. Fahrlander, his wife Brooke Ammann, and family resides in Hayward, Wisconsin. He is deeply involved in cultural preservation and community growth. He is involved in fundraising activities in support of education, Ojibwemowin immersion school, and local youth organizations. Culturally, Sean is practicing board member of the local tribally operated radio station and a member of the Big Drum Society. He is also an active traditional story teller. Mr. Fahrlander has gone a long way to represent LLTC and tribal communities the importance of education and culture for indigenous people everywhere.



The College has undergone many transformations through the years. From its start in a church, to a state-of-the-art facility at its new location, the College has grown to become a source of pride for Leech Lake.

The College is fully accredited and was ranked as one of the top two-year colleges in the nation. This is due to the unique perspectives and mission of the College to provide quality higher-education grounded in Anishinaabe values.

"LLTC is more than just a college, it is a place of opportunity and hope for the future. Education provides opportunity for our people, a means for our people to make their own way to benefit themselves and our nation."

Rachel Goggleye
Alumnus



25 Years of Education

What started as a vision to help the people of Leech Lake, has become a place of pride and honor to the community in which it serves.



Congratulations

Class of 2016



Generations of Graduates

The Leech Lake Tribal College has graduated over 525 students in the past 25 years. From its first graduate in 1993, Sean Fahrlander, to this year's 2016 graduation class of students who earned their certificates, diploma, and degrees, the College has held forth its mission to provide accredited education grounded in Anishinaabe values.

As the College embarks on the next 25 years, we would like to recognize all past graduates that helped us grow into the institution that LLTC is today.

Yodi Blomgren*, Maryjane Bobolink, Andrea Brown**, Linda Bryan, Marilynn Budreau*, Leann Charwood, Anita Cloud, Janice Dahmen, Steven Ducheneaux II, Clinton Fairbanks, Bonita Goggleye*, Micheal Graves Auginash*, Kristina Isham, Kelly Kingbird*, Torrey Kingbird*, Josie LaDuke*, April Larson*, Michael Liberty*, Vincent Morris*, Mariah O'Brien, Roxanne Papasodora, Valerie Rodriguez***, Raven Roybal, Krystal Smith*, Sharon Beaulieu*, Norine Beaulieu*, Brianne Brun**, Taylor Donnell*, Travis Dow*, Sheila Erickson*, Kyle Fairbanks*, Marla Fairbanks, Edward Good, Melissa Jourdain, Jamie King, Shelby Lussier***, Sherilyn Neadeau-Benais*, Krysta Needham*, Alaina Parkhurst*, Stephanie Pemberton, Robyn Pemberton*, Beverly Pemberton*, Robert Pemberton, Jr., Misty Smith*, Angelica Stillo*, Darchelle Strong*, and Eunie Walker*

Aggarwal	Ramona
Alger	Millissa
Allen	Jamie
Andersen	Jason
Anderson	Sarah
Anoka	Bruce
Archambault	Bryan
Arima-Cissell	Michiko
Armstrong	Yvonne
Armstrong	Richard
Auginash	Amber
Auginash	Michael
Avery	Matthew
Badboy	William
Barrick	Stacey
Beaulieu	Beverly
Beaulieu	Lisa
Beaulieu	Gloria
Beaulieu	Robert
Beaulieu	Kelly
Beaulieu	Robert
Bebeau	Wanda
Beckett	Royce
Bellanger	Wanda
Bellanger	Viola
Bellanger	Anita
Bitz	Wayne
Blackowl	Cheryl
Blue	Jacqueline
Bobolink	Marian
Bobolink	Marian
Bobrowski	Jessica
Boswell	David
Bowstring	Lois
Bowstring	Benjamin
Bowstring	Melissa
Bradseth	Maggie
Bratvold	Lucas
Briscoe	Shaunda
Briseno	Mary
Brown	Gerald
Brown	Kristin
Brown	Curtis
Brown	Darrick
Brown	Vincent
Brown	Sophia
Brown	Johnny
Brown	Daniel
Brown	RuthAnn
Brown	Tara

Brown	Bernard
Brown	James
Brown Flores	Darla
Browneagle	Angela
Bruce	Debra
Bruce	Connie
Brun	Brett
Brunette	LeRoy
Bryan	Glenda
Bryan	Doug
Bryan	Linda
Buckanaga	Nicole
Budreau	Alice
Budreau	Robert
Bugg	Athena
Bunker	Marlys
Bunker	Russell
Burnette	Michael
Burnette	Amanda
Butcher	Corey
Cain	Diane
Carlson	Carol
Carlson	Barbara
Chanthorn	Amarin
Chase	Laura
Chase	Rebecca
Church	Dale
Clark	Shayna
Cloud	Myron
Cloud	Annette
Cloud	Ashley
Cloud	Loretta
Conner	William
Connor	Charlene
Connor	Dawn
Crawford	Corinne
Croaker	Marcus
Cronquist	Lawrence
Cummings	Helen
Curry	Danika
Dahl	Jody
Daugherty	Nancy
Davidson	Donald
Davis	William
Davis	Sage
Day	Phyllis
Day	Sherry
Day	Donna
Day	Nicole
Decker	Jason

DeFoe	Donald
Desjarlait	Cory
Desjarlait-Pemberton	FaLeisha
Devault	Beverly
DeVault	Penny
DeVault	Daniel
Dick	Leann
Dickson	Kim
Dolson	Charles
Donnell	Lucy
Donnell	Mike
Doty	Mark
Drouillard	Burnham
Drumbeater	Marilyn
Ducheneaux	Steven
Duoos	Kayla
Ellis	Denise
Ellis	Gary
Erickson	Melanie
Ethier	William
Fairbanks	Cynthia
Fairbanks	Rebecca
Fairbanks	Kyle
Fairbanks	Michael
Fairbanks	Brenda
Fairbanks	Thomas
Fairbanks	Danielle
Fairbanks	Lynal
Fairbanks	Robert
Fairbanks	Kathleen
Farr	Dawn
Fasthorse	Michael
Fineday	Christine
Fineday-Wright	Diane
Finn	Kevin
Finn	Tamie
Finn	Jewell
Fisher	Glen
Fleming	Shea
Flores	Enriqueta
Folstrom	Francis
Forga	Rachel
Fowler	Joseph
Fox	Nicholas
Frazer	Kathy
Frazer	Michael
Frazer	Patricia
Frazer	Mary Jo
Frazer	James
French	Loren

Gale	Sylvia
Garbow	Ernest
Gazelka	Daniel
Gerold	Edward
Geving	Deborah
Goggleye	Jeremy
Goggleye	Rachel
Goggleye	Donald
Gonier	Bonita
Goodbear	Marcia
Goodteacher	Ronald
Goodwin	Mark
Goodwin	Cheri
Goodwin	Audianna
Gotchie	Milton
Graves	Grant
Graves	Patty
Graves	Sheila
Grayhawk	Julitta
Hafner	Lance
Hale	Dana
Hale	Deborah
Hammock	Tonya
Hanson	Mark
Hanson	Antonio
Hardy	Geraldine
Hardy	Yvonne
Hardy	MaryLou
Hare	Roger
Harper	Laurie
Harper	Sydney
Harper-Liberty	Leslie
Hart	Jennifer
Haubrich	Ronald
Headbird	Jess
Headbird	Jami
Headbird	Gina
Hemachandra	Lisa
Hensel	Graham
Hopen	Jessica
Hough	Jawnie
Howard	Stanley Sr
Howard	Willa
Howard	Wanda
Howard	Sharon
Howard	Eugene
Humphrey	Annette
Humphrey	Wallis
Humphrey	Esther

Hunt	Matthew
Hunter	Jeremiah
Hurd	April
Isham	Kelly
Isham	Mari
Jackson	Clara
Jackson	Helen
Jackson	Louise
Jackson	Pamela
Jackson	Norma
Jackson	Cynthia
Jackson	Steven
Jackson	Laura
Jackson	Wade
Jackson	Charles
Jacobs	Lois
Jamros	Joe
Jaspers	Robert
Jenkins	Natasha
Jenkins	Raymond
Jenkins	Elizabeth
Jenkins	Janelle
Johnson	Bruce
Johnson	Kenneth
Johnson	Barbara
Johnson	Anne-Marie
Johnson	Chrissy
Johnson	Paris
Johnson	Darnell
Johnston	Pauline
Jones	Richard
Jones	Michael
Jones	Malissia
Jourdain	Veronica
Jourdain	Theresa
Jourdain	Karen
Jourdain	Daniel
Jourdain	Mark
Jourdain	Becky
Jourdain	Krystal
Karayel	Zahari
Kegg	Linda
Kendall	Michelle
Kimbrell	Betty
King	Frances
King	Danielle
King	Alexander
Kingbird	Sharon
Kingbird	Nancy
Kingbird	Flower
Kingbird	Veronica
Kingbird	Torrey
Kohler	Michael
Koutsy	Diane
Kuykendall	Robert
LaCroix	Clarence
LaDuke	Chryle
Lafleur	Gordeaux
LaFriniere	Lisa
Landa	Clayton
Lanham	Delores
Large	Tallie
LaRoque	Franklin
LaRose	Tammy
Larson	Jasmin
Larson	Samantha
Lasley	Deanna
LeBlang	Coleen
Lemon	Gina
Liberty	Michael
Lightfeather	Sonia
Littlewolf	Faith
Littlewolf	Regina
Littlewolf	Rita
Littlewolf	Gilbert

Littlewolf	Wenona
Littlewolf	Rebecca
Litzau-Staples	Dawn
Locke	Kevin
Lord	Amber
Lord	Kalia
Lord	Faryn
Losh	Duane
Losh	Toby
Lovelace	Fred
Lueck	Brian
Lufkins	Thomas
Lussier	Rose
Lussier	Linda
Lussier	Leighshell
Lyons	Daryl
Lyons	Birdena
Lyons	Myron
Mainville	Kevin
Manypenny	Maxine
Marcell	Rita
Martell	Clifford
Masten	Lashelle
Masten	Cheryl
McArthur	Wakinyan
McDaniel	Willow
McDermott	Michael
Mesarina	Ingrid
Meyer	Jennie
Miller	Todd
Mistic	Brad
Mitchell	Kenneth
Mitchell	Linda
Moore	Lorine
Moreno	Carlos
Morgan	Florenstine
Morgan	Reagan
Morgan	Crystal
Morgan	Florenstine
Morgan	Eric
Morin	Alyssa
Morris	Davine
Morris	Vincent
Morris	Dynell
Morrison	Lynda
Morrow	Ardith
Moss	Jeremy
Mountain	Barbara
Mulbah	Joanne
Munnell	Gina
Murray	Randall
Nadeau	Annette
Nason	Barbara
Nason	Celestial
Navarra	John
Neadeau	Robert
Neadeau	Jeremy
Needham	Michael
Needham	Pamela
Nelson	Dustin
Nevitt	Brett
Newago	David
Nichols	Nathan
Norby	Katrinka
Norcross	Phyllis
Northbird	Rebecca
Northbird	Cathy
Northbird	Shannon
Northbird	David
Northbird	Leila
Northbird	Darryl
Northbird	Sierra
Norton	Victoria
O'Brien	Katherine
O'Brien	Janel

O'Brien	Jeromy
O'Connor	Rubie
Odden	Paul
Ogema	Joseph
Ornelas	Barbara
Ortega	Davina
Ortiz	Neil
Partridge-Gotchie	Candace
Pemberton	Garr
Pemberton	Rochelle
Pemberton	Rita
Pemberton	Jolene
Pemberton	LeRoy
Pennington	Rebecca
Peralta	Maureen
Perkins	Janine
Peters	Tracey
Plumer	Lisa
Porter	Margaret
Porter	June
Powers	Nichole
Rabbit	Holly
Raines	Barbara
Raines	Kenneth
Rainey	Clayton
Raisch	Judith
Raisch	Sharon
Raisch	Christine
Rea	Elaine
Rea	Maria
Rea	Wally
Red Day	Joshua
Reimer	Jennifer
Reuter	Jacob
Reuter	Heather
Reyes	Lori
Reyes	Mario
Reynolds	Michelle
Richardson	Alea
Rivers	Carol
Roberts	Jeffrey
Robinson	Debra
Robinson	Dorothy
Robinson	Mari
Robinson	Mary
Robinson	Erin
Robinson	John
Robinson	Lillie
Rooney	Sarah
Roy	Shelly
Roy	Shane
Roy	Misty
Roybal	Roberta
Roybal	Kristopher
Rushman	Debra
Sargent	Tanya
Schaaf	Eileen
Schoenborn	Jennifer
Schulman	Lisa
Seelye	Justin
Shabaiaash	Christopher
Sherer-Nason	Henry
Sherman	Genevieve
Shotley	Spencer
Shotley	Sylvester
Skinaway	Ronald
Smith	Dawn
Smith	Shirley
Smith	Valerie
Smith	Belinda
Solee	Ryan
Soukup	Kevin
St. Cyr	Victoria
St. Cyr	William
St. John	Kimberly

Stangel	Brenda
Stangler	Randall
Staples	Joann
Staples	Deborah
Staples	Leon
Staples	Nicole
Staples	Jamie Lee
Staples	Danielle
Strong	Marvin
Strong	Rexford
Sumner	Stuart
Swan	Vicki
Swan	Beverly
Swan	Cindy
Swanson	Kyle
Tanner	Gina
Tanner	Alexandra
Tapio	Joni
Taylor	John
Taylor-Johnson	Christian
Therriault	Laura
Therriault	Supaya
Thompson	LaVonne
Town	Logan
Turney	Patti
Usher	Gordon
Van Wert	Lawrence
Van Wert	Roberta
Vande Kamp	James
VanGrinsven	Theodore
VanNett	Renee
Wade	Patricia
Wakonabo	Elizabeth
Wakonabo	Myron
Walton	Amanda
Washington	Karianne
Washington	Kenneth
Washington	Patty
Washington	Valerie
Washington	Joni
Westbrook	Marilyn
White	Eva
White	Frank
White	Josette
White	Mary
White	Shilo
White	Lois
White	Leota
White	Daniel
White	Timothy
Whitebird	Julia
Whitebird	Wendy
Whitefeather	Steve
Whitefeather	Victoria
Williams	Shiloh
Wilson	Daniel
Wilson	Judith
Wilson	Eva
Wilson	Tera
Wimme	Roxanne
Wind	Roberta
Wind	Levi
Wind	Dora
Wind	Jennifer
Wind	Joshua
Winslow	Derek
Wittner	Lulu
Wittner	Raymond
Wright	Carol
Wright	Lejana
Yanez	Serina
Yerbich	Diana



“As we all take off in different directions and continue on with our education – we all share one thing in common – our love for our community. Venture off into the world with fearlessness and bravery as you pursue your dreams. Share your knowledge and make an impact on these children’s lives and inspire them to go forth and build something with it.”

Valerie Rodriguez
Alumnus, 2016

Ms. Rodriguez is a graduate of Cass Lake-Bena High School and a recent graduate of the Leech Lake Tribal College. She gave the Valedictorian Address at the graduation ceremony.

She plans to continue her education, building on her experiences and knowledge gain from LLTC to better herself to help others in the future.

We wish the best for Ms. Rodriguez in her future endeavors.



Valedictorian Address

By Valerie Rodriguez, Class of 2016 Valedictorian

Good evening everyone, for those of you that didn’t quite understand what I just said, my name is Valerie Rodriguez; my spirit name is Makade Binesikwe, which means Black Thunderbird Woman. I take great pride in both of my indigenous roots as I am part Aztec and part Ojibwe. I was born and raised here on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in a small town by the name of Ball Club and I currently reside in the town where eagles soar, Cass Lake. I’m very honored to speak on behalf of the class of 2016 from the Leech Lake Tribal College as Valedictorian. After this evening, I can proudly say that I am a graduate from this amazing college with an Associate’s Degree in Business Management.

Before I commence my speech, I’d like to send a special thank you to my life givers, my parents, Sharon Wilson and Roberto Rodriguez, as they inspired me and pushed me to chase my dreams and to set a pathway for our future generations to follow. Without your loving support, I wouldn’t be standing here today. I’m forever thankful to have both of you as my parents. Also, I would like to thank one of my instructors for always challenging me and encouraging me throughout the school year, Miss Audrey Thayer – she taught me how to view the world differently and encouraged me to speak up and use my voice. Audrey always went above and beyond in the classroom in order for students to succeed. She truly is an inspiration and is one of my role models I look up to and seek advice from.

And, to all of the parents, guardians, grandparents, family and friends sitting in this room this evening -Without your loving support that impacted our lives so heavily, we wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for you. As empowered as we now are by the education and wisdom we have received here, at both Leech Lake and Red Lake Nation colleges, we greatly appreciate and recognize that we could not have become who we are today, without your support

Nimiigwechiwendam omaa iyiyaan – I’m very thankful and very blessed to be standing here, in front of all of you this evening. Today, my classmates and I have accomplished a huge milestone in our lives. Thank you all for attending and witnessing as we flip the page and mark an end to this long chapter of our stories. As we celebrate today with our diplomas, we know that we have so much more to do- as this is only the beginning to a brighter future, not only for ourselves, but for our families and for everyone across Indian country. Our people are becoming more educated and aware of the two worlds we live in – we are now realizing what we must do in order to succeed and to keep our culture alive.

This chapter of our lives was not easy as there were tremendous obstacles we all faced while attending college. No matter the circumstance that came our way, we all maintained our focus on the bigger picture and progressed through each semester with strength and determination. With the school’s philosophy and values of our 7 grandfather teachings, we also gained courage, respect, truth, love, humility, wisdom, and honesty, which will stay with us and guide us for the rest of our lives.

It’s a proud feeling seeing our Native people rising up – and making it in this world as there are many struggles we as Anishinaabe have faced

and our facing to this day. Historical trauma lives within the lives of each generation and our people are hurting. The 7th generation is here and they are witnessing everything that’s going on around the world and mostly, what’s going on in our own communities. These young children are watching us. These young children watch us every day, as we endure the ups and downs of our daily lives.

And it’s our job as a nation, to keep our children safe on the motherland and to guide them in the right direction because they are our next leaders. It’s very important to educate them about the 7 grandfather teachings, our history, our language and our culture- so they can carry that on for the next generations to come. It’s also important to educate them about the two worlds that we live in today so they are prepared to lead our nation strongly and fearlessly.

Each and every one of us is more than capable of guiding these children and we are setting a great example today by achieving such a powerful goal that nobody can take away from us. We are role models and are setting great examples for these children!

Our children learn from us and they do as they see- so let’s show them how important it is to have an education – let’s raise these children as our next leaders, so we can change the course of the historical trauma that lives within us today. Be that role model that you wish you had when you were younger – so they don’t have to experience things that we had to experience.

Our people are rising up and our voices are being heard all across the world. It’s an amazing feeling seeing our indigenous people be successful and on the path to accomplish empowering goals. Be proud of who you are and where you came from. But mostly, be proud of how far, as we Anishinaabe have come and how far we are going to go.

My fellow classmates, this is only the beginning. After today, many adventures and opportunities await us. As we all take off in different directions and continue on with our education – we all share one thing in common, our love for our community. Venture off into the world with fearlessness and bravery as you pursue your dreams. Share your knowledge and make an impact on our children’s lives and inspire them to go forth and build something.

We all see what’s going on within our communities and it’s heartbreaking to watch our loved ones go down the wrong path- so it’s time to step forward and be role models for the children because they are seeing the same things – that we are seeing and it’s time that we break the cycle.

The future is in our hands. Let’s do extraordinary things and show the world what a fearless, strong and educated Anishinaabe can do!

Congratulations to the class of 2016 – Take pride in how far you have come, and have faith in how far you can go.

Mii I’iw Miigwech bizindawiyeg!

Faculty of the Year

"Neah's devotion and commitment to helping students is clearly visible. She takes time to tutor students, to ensure students achieve their potential."

Michelle Marion
Student LLTC

Neah Goodwin

The Leech Lake Tribal College is proud to announce Neah Goodwin as the recipient of the 2016 Faculty of the Year award. Neah is a valuable member of the faculty family and has dedicated herself to ensure students get the education they deserve.

"I believe that passion is our fire inside that leads us to do great things. Mathematics is one thing that I am extremely passionate about, and working with Native people has always been another," said Goodwin.

Neah is an instructor of developmental mathematics and a professional mathematics tutor. Her tutoring program has serviced between 40% and 60% of the enrolled mathematics students at LLTC for the past three years. She is dedicated to teaching her students math, and focuses on leading them to find a true appreciation for mathematics.

"I absolutely love mathematics, so being able to share this with a population who statistically struggles with this area of study is very

important to me. Mathematics builds the brain and teaches you how to think precisely, decisively, and creatively. Studying math enhances our higher order thinking skills and opens us up to more opportunities in the job world. This is the reason why my job is important to me as a way to contribute to the betterment of my people and our communities," said Goodwin.

Neah is an White Earth Ojibwe, who grew up in Bemidji, Minnesota where she attended grade school and college. She is a mother of two boys, a mathematics teacher, and a horse racing enthusiast. She is a lifelong learner and an advocate of those who follow their dreams and passion.

The College appreciates her dedication and passion to our students and is honored to have her as part of the faculty.

Staff of the Year

"Kris is a very friendly person to be around. He has always helped me with the most redundant problems with a smile. I really appreciate what his attitude brings to the College."

Kim Gourneau
Financial Aid Director

Kris Kolkin

The Leech Lake Tribal College is proud to announce Kris Kolkin as the recipient of the 2016 Staff of the Year award.

Kris has been a valuable member of the LLTC family for many years as the desktop and network technician. He can be found roaming the halls and classrooms troubleshooting problems with a smile, regardless of how mundane and repetitive the problems may be.

He is a native of Cass Lake, Minnesota, graduating from the local high school and later, Bemidji State University. Kris was also a member of the United States armed forces where he served for several years.

Kris and the rest of the IT Department are a lifeline of the College. They allow for technology to increase learning and productivity. The work that he and the rest of the team do is vital to the success of so many functions.

The College will be offering live-stream virtual classrooms, in collaboration with Red Lake Nation College, White Earth Tribal and Community College, and University of Minnesota Duluth. The room will expand the capabilities of what the campus has currently, which only houses upto six learners. The new room will accomodate over 30 with space to spare. To ensure success, Kris is vigilantly working to confirm that the infrastructure, platform, interfaces and devices are in working and communicating with each other.

The world of IT can be frustrating to to most, but Kris is able to solve problems and fix issues while reserving integrity of those who do not have the knowledge.

Because of his hard work ethic, attitude, integrity, and respectful nature, he is awarded the Staff of the Year award.

Kris is an asset to the College and we are grateful for his service.

Outstanding Leadership and Commitment

“Elaine displays her passion for teaching Anishinaabe history and culture. We as students are grateful to have such an elder teaching us here at the College. She’s an inspiration to us all.”

Adriana Kingbird
Student LLTC

Elaine Fleming

The Leech Lake Tribal College is proud to announce Elaine Fleming as the recipient of the Outstanding Leadership and Commitment award.

Elaine once held a position of leadership as the mayor of Cass Lake. Today, she holds a position of leadership in the academic arena. She is an inspirational and cultural leader on campus, liked by many students, faculty and staff alike.

The work Elaine has done to help learners of all ages connect with the College’s cultural roots has inspired them to take on the responsibility of preserving the culture, environment, lands, and those within it.

Elaine is a force of nature in our community by way of her service in the U.S. Army, as the first Anishinaabe Mayor of Cass Lake in 2005, as a dancer, as a beader, as a storyteller on the radio, as a teacher and Department Chair of Arts and Humanities at the Leech Lake Tribal College, and most importantly as a mother and grandmother.

She is an inspiration to us. Her approach is simple; she models a good way to live. Her own desire for knowledge is what makes her a valuable teacher. She challenges us and encourages us to shine as the shining people we are. These are the leading qualities for being awarded the 2016 Outstanding Leadership & Contribution Award.



Michelle Marion

Michael Kohler



American Indian College Fund

The American Indian College Fund: Student of the Year was awarded to Michelle Marion at AIHEC and recognized at the LLTC 2016 Awards Banquet.

Michelle is a talented individual who started college has to immerse herself in academics and local culture. As a world-traveler, she have experienced the vast differences of many cultures and the commonalities as well. Nevertheless, she returned home to be with her family and loved ones.

She has excelled at LLTC. Her essay was featured in a recent issue of the Tribal College Journal. The essay describes her experiences from her travels to returning home. She has won many accolades in academics and her part in College academic competitions.

Michelle is a peer-tutor for other students, spending a lot of time in the Learning Center on campus.

Congratulations Michelle on your accomplishments. The College, community, and the Indigenous peoples are proud of you.



The Coca-Cola Student of the Year was awarded to Michael Kohler at AIHEC and recognized at the LLTC 2016 Awards Banquet.

It's never too late to get a fresh start! After working in construction for many years, Mike returned to college, enrolling at Leech Lake Tribal College in the fall of 2013. He is currently pursuing two Associates of Applied Science degrees at LLTC: Forest Resources and Integrated Residential Builder. His interests are in sustainable building and sustainable use of our forests. He wants the children growing up today to have a chance to see the forest as he did years ago.

Mike has made the LLTC President's list 2 semesters while a student here and he has also completed several internships. Two summers ago, he worked with the Leech Lake Heritage Sites locating and documenting cultural sites and artifacts on the reservation. Last summer, he spent time with the Leech Lake Forestry Department. Mike has successfully balanced his home life and school. He has the responsibility of raising children and grandchildren in his home while maintaining his studies as a full-time student. Leech Lake Tribal College is honored to have Mike Kohler represent us as this year's Coca-Cola Scholarship recipient. Just one student from each Tribal College is accepted for this honor.

"Michelle is an embodiment of an Anishinaabe woman's mind, heart, and soul."

Amarin Chanthorn
Director of Institutional Advancement

"Michael is a very hard worker. I often see him in the library studying and preparing for his classes."

Hannah Buckland
Director of Library Services

Washington D.C. Tribal College Week at the Capitol

Woodland's Tribal College Concortium Visits U.S. Capital

In February, students and staff from Leech Lake Tribal College, Red Lake Nation College and Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College took part in an excursion to Washington D.C. to participate in the annual Tribal College Week at the capitol.

The "Woodland Tribal College Concortium" was established to promote education on reservations and surrounding areas. Representing Leech Lake Tribal College were Adriana Kingbird (freshman), Bryce Premo (freshman), Dr. Ginny Carney (President), and Arnold Dahl-Wooley (Chair-Board of Trustees).

The ambassadors spoke with senators and representatives from the state of Minnesota and other Native American education policy makers to garner support for Tribal Colleges and Universities throughout the United States.

The group also had opportunities to tour the nation's capitol and other famous landmarks and historical sites. Among them was the National

Museum of American Indians, where they were able to observe the nation's collection of Native American exhibits.

Many students came back with internship offers to work within the offices of Representatives from Minnesota.

"It was a great opportunity for all of us to let the policy makers hear our concerns and needs in our tribal nations. I've met so many people who are fighting the same fight as we are and it brings me hope to our cause to help improve Native education systems," said Adriana Kingbird, student.

Tribal College and Universities are the lowest funded higher-education system compared to other minority groups. However, our ambassadors, political leaders, and organizations such as AIHEC are working diligently to improve funding and support for Tribal Colleges and Universities across the nation.



left to right: Bryce Premo, Veronica Skinaway, Warren Mountain (FDLTCC), Aurora Villiard (FDLTCC) Representative Rick Nolan, Adriana Kingbird, LLTC President Dr. Ginny Carney, FDLTCC President Larry Anderson, RLNC President Dan King, LLTC BOT Chair Arnold Dahl



37 Tribal Colleges Gather in Minneapolis

In March, the Woodland's Tribal Colleges hosted the 2016 American Indian Higher Education Consortium Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. 37 Tribal Colleges from across the nation gathered to represent their institutions and tribal nations in this annual festive event.

Students were able to practice and compete on subject areas learned in the classroom. It is a source of pride for the institution as they measure up against their fellow tribal college institutions.

The Leech Lake Tribal College competed in many categories including speech competitions, knowledge bowl, science presentation, science bowl, and much more. The conference purpose is to unite tribal colleges and recognize the importance of education to the tribal nations.

Leech Lake Tribal College has competed very well in past conferences specifically, the Knowledge Bowl team, which places in the top ten consistently. Students practice and prep year round for the event to represent LLTC and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe at one of the largest Native American gatherings in the state of Minnesota.

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium is the collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation's 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)—a unique community of tribally and federally chartered institutions working to strengthen tribal nations and make a lasting difference in the lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives

"It was great to see all of our Tribal College brothers and sisters gather in one place. I am so proud of our students!"

Elaine Fleming,
Chair of Arts and Humanities Department



Speech-Informative

2nd Place Michelle Marion
7th Place Thea Ogema

Speech-Oral Interpretation (serious)

3rd Place Logan Cloud

Knowledge Bowl

6th Place Michelle Marion
Adriana Kingbird
Amanda
Youngrunningcrane
Sheila Northbird

Science Bowl Poster Presentation

1st Place Sheila Northbird

Student Attendance:

Sheila Northbird
LeAnn Charwood
Michelle Marion
Thea Ogema
Brian Dow
Logan Cloud
Adriana Kingbird
Amanda Youngrunningcrane
Ciara Fineday
Bryce Premo
Christopher Stauffer
Michael Kohler



American Indian Higher Education Consortium Conference

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Hosted by the
Woodlands Tribal Colleges

Leech Lake Tribal College
White Earth Tribal and Community College
Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College
Red Lake Nation College
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College



Natural Science and Technology

Eric Kuha
Kelly Nipp
Neah Goodwin
Stacie Lyon
Steve Smith

The LLTC STEM Program has been conducting amazing work within the College and throughout our communities. The latest development includes the creation of a “2 + 2 Program” in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Duluth. The program allows for students in the area who attends LLTC to earn credits towards a four-year degree at UMD.

The program is designed to provide access for students who may not be able to relocate to the Duluth area. Students will earn their Associate’s Degree in the first two years at LLTC. Once finished, students may enroll at UMD and attend classes in Duluth, or at the LLTC campus, via our brand new state-of-the-art interactive classroom. All credits earned in the first two years will transfer directly to UMD.

This program is great for students who are seeking to continue their education and develop knowledge in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Traditional Plants Research Project

LLTC student, Sheila Northbird, was awarded a grant to conduct scientific research on raspberries and emperical relations to traditional Ojibwe stories. The research has the potential to be ground breaking as there is limited to no scientific research on this topic area.

This specific grant through the National Science Foundation allows funding for internships, material costs, and other associated costs. The research will use the LLTC campus as its hub.

The Natural Science and Techonology department continues to empower learners to find their own path to understanding the balance between traditional cultural stories and the science behind them.

Earth System Science

The program is designed for students to receive an Associate in Science Degree upon completion of the requirement. This program will provide students with a basic understanding of the Earth Systems and their management with an emphasis on the earth systems of the Leech Lake Reservation, using both Western science and Indigenous American knowledge. Earth Systems include the lithosphere (geology), the hydrosphere (hydrology), atmosphere (meteorology), and the biosphere (biology). ESS students will gain an understanding of how the individual systems of the Earth interact, including the influence of humans on these systems. A strong emphasis on environmental monitoring is included in the program to prepare students for careers in the Earth Systems sciences.

Liberal Arts - STEM

The program is designed for students to receive an Associates in Arts Degree in Liberal Education with a STEM Emphasis upon completion of the requirements. The program will provide students with an opportunity to customize their educational background to fit the student’s future four-year STEM major of choice. This degree allows for flexibility, whether pursuing a concentration in any STEM area, or a broad overview of the STEM field.

Graduates of the Associate in Arts Degree in Liberal Education with a STEM Emphasis can transition into a four-year STEM Bachelor of Science degree.

Forest Ecology

The program is designed for students to receive an Associate in Science Degree (A.S.) upon completion of the requirements. Gikenimindwaa Mitigoog translates to ‘getting to know the trees,’ an apt description for a program which provides graduates with broad-based field knowledge of forest lands, the organisms inhabiting them and the systems (soil, water, air) that support them. Students complete course work designed to develop an understanding of natural systems, examine human impacts and interactions, and practice relevant field and technical skills. Students who chose this option are prepared for employment at the technician level upon completion of this degree, or they may choose to continue on into a four-year program. The Forest Ecology program is intended for students with an interest in plant communities, water, forestry, wildlife and fisheries and/or recreation management.



The Leech Lake Tribal College STEM Program hosted a special event “Across The Universe” on campus. Students, family and community members partook in a fun educational event.

The event was in partnership with Head Waters Science Center, and University of Minnesota Duluth.



Arts and Humanities

Elaine Fleming
Audrey Thayer
Bob Jourdain
Dewey Goodwin
JoAnn Stute
Nyleta Belgarde



Students of the Arts and Humanities department partook in the harvest of *manoomin* early last fall in area lakes. Participants were able to take out handmade canoes and some of the manufactured types to experience the harvest process first hand. Pictured left, Michelle Marion and instructor Bonnie Holmes, roast the rice in large metal pots over a fire with their paddles. The hand processed rice was shared by all on campus as part of the Monday drum feast, which takes place every Monday throughout the school year in the Benny Tonce Drum Room.

The rice harvest is an example of how LLTC involve real-world interactions in the student's learning process. We at LLTC believe there are many pathways for students to learn. Through experience and interaction, the students will keep knowledge far longer than memorizing fact and figures in preparation for exams. We allow for engagement and hands-on learning to fully activate all methods in which student's learn.

Students can also immerse themselves into the Ojibwe arts and other art forms. Students are free to express themselves and create what they feel is important. The results of expression liberty are students who discover they have natural talents for the arts. Talents that can be transformed into skills, which can be taught to another; furthering the preservation of Ojibwe arts for future generations. Arts and Humanities is the very core of LLTC and sets us apart from other colleges and universities. We are purposely unique, culture-focused, to deliver traditional knowledge in an modern academic structure.



Liberal Arts

The program is designed for students to receive an Associate of Arts Degree, Liberal Education. This Degree Program is a two-year course of study designed intentionally as an exploration of and exposure to many disciplines, development of a wide breadth of understanding of liberal education and preparation for transfer to four-year institutions. The Degree Program is centered and infused with culturally relevant material. It is the intention of this course of study to provide students an exposure to the Ojibwe language and allow them the opportunity to understand Anishinaabe values and how these values can provide a foundation for lifelong learning and community involvement. The credits a student earns at Leech Lake Tribal College are accredited and will transfer to colleges of the student's choice, depending on transfer equivalency guidelines.

Indigenous Leadership

The program is designed for students to receive an Associate in Arts Degree, Indigenous Leadership. This Degree Program is a two-year course of study designed intentionally as an exploration of and exposure to many disciplines, but in particular to Ojibwe language and culture, history, governance, and land base. Based on Ojibwe values, these educational and cultural opportunities provide students with skills to identify community concerns and then engage in community service. It also prepares students to transfer to four-year programs of study at other colleges and universities. The credits a student earns at Leech Lake Tribal College are accredited and will transfer to colleges of the student's choice, depending on transfer equivalency guidelines.

Upon completion of the requirements, this program is designed for students to receive an Associate in Arts Degree in Indigenous Leadership. This program focuses on the people of the Leech Lake Reservation, their world view, culture, and knowledge. It also addresses the same categories for the Indigenous American (Anishinaabe) of North America in a global context.

Specifically, the program provides skills to identify community concerns and then engage in community service.

"Learn to associate with the White man, learn his ways, get an education. With an education you are his equal; without it, you are his victim."

Aleek-Chea-Ahoosh
Crow Chief, (1848-1932)

Career and Technical Education

Rochell Carpenter
Dan Walker
Bonnie Holmes
Steve Hagenah
Ryan O'Leary



The Career and Technical Education department offers vocational programs in Business Management, Integrated Residential Builder, Residential Carpentry, Construction Electricity, Early Childhood Development, and Law Enforcement.

This year, the Integrated Residential Builder's program, in partnership with the Leech Lake Housing Authority, constructed two buildings to be used for reservation's needs. Students were able to work hands-on with projects that will directly impact the community. We believe this is the beginning of a great partnership between LLBO Housing and the College for the benefit of our communities.

The College would like to acknowledge the passing of our long-time friend and faculty member, Steve Hagenah, who surcumbed to cancer this past Spring. Despite his health, he continued his dedication to the College and the Law Enforcement Program as he has for many years. We are proud to have had Steve with the College and appreciate greatly for the work he did. The Law Enforcement Program is one of the most successful programs on campus, producing graduates who are employed directly in the field of public service and government.

The Career and Technical Education Department will continue to offer programs that will have a direct impact on the community. Real training, real results, real impact.



Rochell Carpenter and Michael Auginash at the construction site on campus

Business Management

The program is designed for students to receive an Associate in Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.) in Business Management upon completion of the requirements. The Associate in Applied Science degree in Business Management provides the opportunity for students to study more in-depth in one subject area such as Business Management.

Students who choose this option are not primarily interested in transferring into a four-year degree program, but in entering the job market immediately upon completion of the A.A.S. degree. However, some of the business and accounting courses will transfer into a four-year degree program.

Integrated Residential Builder

This program integrates building science applications for energy performance (Passivhaus, zero energy ready home-DOE, Energy Star Rated) and multidisciplinary approaches from ecology, agriculture, architecture and construction into a two-year program.

This program prepares you to design, build, integrate, and maintain renewable and traditional energy systems. You'll develop an in-depth understanding of inhabitant science concepts along with orientation, use, and energy auditing skills, which allow you to perform site assessments.

Graduates of this program have working knowledge of a variety of sustainable energy technologies including solar, permaculture design, building envelope, and heating/cooling system alternatives. Our mission to design sustainable human environments puts human social and economic benefits on par with our aesthetic and environmental aims.

Residential Carpentry

This program prepares the student with skills and knowledge for a career in residential carpentry. The program coursework will provide the student with a mix of technical and general education, theory and hands-on learning experiences. The student progresses from basic skills to those required of a carpenter's apprentice. General areas of study include building codes, blueprint reading, estimating, site building-science layout, concrete, framing, and interior & exterior finish.

The Residential Carpentry diploma program provides graduates with skills required of a carpenter in a variety of building construction settings common in rural, metro or reservation settings.

Construction Electricity

The LLTC construction electricity program is certified by the Minnesota State Electrical Board, and courses are designed to meet the educational standards of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry for a two-year construction electrician diploma. Likewise, the program is designed to meet the requirements for union apprenticeships upon completion of the student's studies.

The learning experience includes both technical and general education courses taught through theory and hands-on practice.

Early Childhood Development

This program is designed for students to receive an Associate in Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education. The program will provide students with an opportunity to customize their educational background to fit the student's future four-year Early Childhood Education major. Leech Lake Tribal College offers a combination of culturally relevant course work, general liberal arts courses, interactive education classes, and practical experience with young children.

Instructors provide individual assistance and classroom experiences that address many individual learning styles.

Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Associate in Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.) is part of the Professional Peace Officer Education Program requirement for the Minnesota Peace Officer licensing standards. All course work is certified by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and meets the mandated learning objectives.

The degree also applies for those interested in other areas of the justice system. However, this program is NOT designed to be a two-year transferable program.

"I love the carpentry program. We get to work on actual projects that will be used by our people."



LAKERS
BASKETBALL



Building A Dynasty

The Leech Lake Tribal College Athletics Program is proud to have Brady Fairbanks returning as the Men's Head Coach. In the program's inaugural season, Coach Fairbanks led the team to a 16-8 record and won the Northern Intercollegiate Athletics Conference "Coach of the Year" award.

In his absence, Coach Northbird took over the men's team and left a promising young team for the upcoming season. The team will have returning players as well as other new recruits to help bring the Lakers back to contention. The Lakers compete in the NIAC and non-conference opponents from all over the country, ranging from low to top-tier junior college programs. The Lakers also compete in national Native American College and Universities tournaments.

Coach Fairbanks completed his bachelors degree in American Indian Studies at Haskell Indian Nation University, one of the most prominent tribal college and university in the nation.

"I want to show our student-athletes that I can walk-the-walk. We have so much talent in our area, and I want to channel that into our program," said Fairbanks.

About the Coach

LLTC
16-8 Record
Coach of the Year Accolades

Bemidji State - Player
12.0 ppg (second on team)
20th overall in scoring NSIC
.438 3-points percentage

Cass Lake-Bena - Player
30 ppg (first in state)
MN State All-Tournament
All-Northland Conference
MVP
Second Team All-State
McDonald All-American Nominee
High School Player of Year

Biography:

Coach Brady Fairbanks is a former Cass Lake-Bena High School standout. He is the son of Bonnie Staples-Fairbanks. He is a proud enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.



Jeremy O'Brien
NIAC All-Conference Player

Jeremy earned NIAC All-Conference player for his efforts on the court. He was this year's captain and team leading scorer.



Ciara Fineday
NIAC All-Conference Player

Ciara earned NIAC All-Conference honors in her first year on the team. Ciara excelled on the court and in the classroom as well.

Justine Jourdain
NIAC All-Conference Player

Justine earned All-Conference honors as a sophomore. Justine has been huge to the Lakers winning streak during the season.



Northern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Trinity Bible College • Ellendale, ND
Turtle Mountain Community College • St. Johns, ND
Red Lake Nation College • Red Lake, MN
Leech Lake Tribal College • Cass Lake, MN
Association Free Lutheran Bible School • Plymouth, MN
Oak Hills Christian College • Bemidji, MN

Interested in joining the program? Contact the Athletic Department by phone at (218) 335-4200 or visit our website at www.lltc.edu
For monetary and/or in-kind support, please Contact Amarin Chanthorn, Director of Institutional Advancement by phone at (218) 335-4262 or by email at amarin.chanthorn@lltc.edu

Brady Fairbanks

Scholarships Supporting Our Future

Case for Support

It is our goal to maximize public and private support, promote fulfillment of the college's goals, and benefit the communities we serve.

Your support enables our ability to educate future generations of students. Through financial support and continued advocacy, the Leech Lake Tribal College will be able to provide the next generation of students accredited education grounded in Anishinaabe values.

Challenges

The Leech Lake Tribal College has seen great improvement since its inception 25 years ago. In 2005, LLTC relocated from its former campus in downtown Cass Lake, to its current location on Little Wolf road. The new campus is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, classrooms and amenities; including a new library, which also serves the greater community. Currently, we are over 30% underfunded from the level authorized by law. This means we need your support to cover that gap and give our students the best education possible.

LLTC's campus is located on trust land, which is ineligible for state bonding funds which are received by state colleges and universities counterparts. The vast majority of LLTC students come from families near or below the poverty line; they need your continued support for scholarships to enable them to develop the education and skills they need to create a better life for themselves, their families, and most importantly our community.

If you wish to support the College and our mission, please send your gift to the following address, or visit us at www.lltc.edu, click on the "donate" button.

Make Donations Payable To:

Leech Lake Tribal College

Office of Institutional Advancement
Leech Lake Tribal College
6945 Little Wolf Road NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633

2016 Scholarship Winners

LeRoy Staples Sr. and LeRoy B. Fairbanks Scholarship
Sadie Cooper

Benny Tonce Memorial Scholarship
Adrianna Kingbird

LeAnn Dick Memorial Scholarship
Daniel Fredrickson

Student's Miigwech

Adriana Kingbird

Benny Tonce Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Dear Family of Benny Tonce,

My name is Adriana Kingbird and I am the 2016-17 recipient of the Benny Tonce Memorial Scholarship. I am a freshman at Leech Lake Tribal College. My major is Liberal Education with STEM emphasis. I grew up in Cass Lake and Bemidji and graduated from Cass Lake-Bena High School in 2015. I started taking an Ojibwe class at LLTC a week before I graduated from high school. Although I am Anishinaabe, I had no idea on how to speak the language. I was nervous that first week, but soon eased into the learning process. I am now finishing my third Ojibwe class and plan on helping my mentor, Bob Jourdain, teach Ojibwe I this summer.

I am also a tutor, helping people with the Ojibwe language whenever they ask. If it had not been for Bob, I wouldn't have these kind of opportunities. Although Benny Tonce passed away before I started my freshman year, I didn't get a chance to know him, but my mom was lucky enough to be taught by him and Bob during her time as a student here. She saved every handout and every notebook from her classes with Benny and passed them down to me. I carry them with me to every class. It's a valuable thing to have and I'm thankful for them.

After I graduate from LLTC next Spring, I plan to continue my education and earn a Bachelor's Degree. I want to major in Biology and minor in American Indian Studies. While furthering my education, I want to make sure I remember who I am as an Anishinaabe person and not forget everything I was taught at LLTC. When I get my Bachelor's Degree, I want to attend medical school. Going to med school has been my dream. I want to be able to come back to Cass Lake and help my community when I become a doctor. I just became a national certified Emergency Medical Technician, which will help me start a career in the medical field.

The Ojibwe language is important to me because it has helped me find my sense of place. I am glad I am learning from Bob. He's a great instructor. He has taught me everything I know about the language, and every day he teaches me something new. This scholarship will benefit me greatly by helping me purchase books for the semester and pay off any fees. I assure you this money will not go to waste.

I thank you very much for this award. This means so much to me. I am glad I was chosen and will continue my hard work and dedication to the language every day. I will try my best to pass down my knowledge to anyone willing to learn Ojibwemowin. It's an important thing to learn and keep alive in our culture.

Miigwech,

Adriana Kingbird

Adriana Kingbird



Benny Tonce Memorial Scholarship Fund

Benny Tonce was a long-time instructor of Ojibwemowin, drum and singing at the college. When he passed, a permanent scholarship fund was created to memorialize his life work and passion for the language.



Don and Priscilla Day Family Scholarship Fund

As the former president of the college, Dr. Day continues to contribute to the college by establishing the scholarship fund to support future students of the college.



Leann Dick Memorial Scholarship Fund

Leann was Valedictorian of the LLTC class of 2009. Her quest for learning led her to continue her education at the U of M-Morris, but Leann's life ended abruptly in December of 2009. This scholarship is to memorialize her dedication to education and help other students to pursue their educational endeavors as she did.



Mishtakikosh Scholarship

The Mishtakikosh scholarship awards Business Program students who intend to pursue business careers. This scholarship is awarded at the completion of the program.



Clem Nason Memorial Scholarship Fund

This scholarship award carpentry students enrolled in the IRB Program. If you would like to help us towards our goal of getting this scholarship endowed, please contact Amarin Chanthorn at (218) 335-4262.



Genawenjigejig Scholarship Fund

The Genawenjigejig scholarship awards Law Enforcement Program students with their expenses associated with the POST certified training program.



Leroy Staples Sr. and Leroy B. Fairbanks Scholarship Fund

This fund was established to ultimately empower the people of the Leech Lake community. Both Leroy Staples and Leroy Fairbanks are committed to education and have begun a movement of giving back to the community.



Susan Helen Tibbetts Sjolund Scholarship Fund

Colonel Cliff Sjolund established the scholarship in honor of his grandmother and on behalf of her three children. This scholarship is to honor his grandmother by empowering Leech Lake Band Members.



LeRoy Staples-Fairbanks

District III Representative again donated another \$13,000 to the scholarship fund as part of his pledge to education and his committment to “walk the walk” and lead by example. He wish to be an example to others to also contribute to the community in any way they can.

The College greatly appreciate Mr. Staples-Fairbanks and his family support in the long-term investment in education.

\$10,000 or more

American Indian College Fund
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Central Minnesota Community Foundatoin
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Fairbanks, LeRoy and Rebecca
George W. Neilson Foundation
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Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tax Commission
Leech Lake Gaming
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Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Che We Stores
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Everi
First National Bank of Walker
Five Wings Arts Council
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Hollingsworth, Mike
Jourdain, Bob
Leech Lake Veterans Services
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Pond, Melissa
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Reese, Walter
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LLTC Advancement Office Fact:

- 852 Donors have supported the Leech Lake Tribal College
- 75.82% of donors are individual donors.
- 65.24% of all gross monetary donations are from individual donors.

Source: Fundraiser Pro, Master Report; 1990-2016, LLTC Donation Summary.
* Does not include Federal, State, and other unsolicited grants.



25 Years of Support

Since established in 1990, the College has been garnering support for the College in both monetary and in-kind support from advocates like you.

The College has gained support for a brand new library, endowed scholarships, and general monetary support. The College has been growing since its humble beginnings. Today, the College awards associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates in diverse areas of study. This is made possible by support from our valued donors and sponsors.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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American Indian Services
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Arvig Communications Systems
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Johnston, Maxine
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LeClaire, Deborah
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Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe General Fund
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\$500 - \$999

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\$250 - \$499

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Aitken-Magaurn, Emily
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Bingham, Christopher and Carolyn
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Carpenter, Rochelle
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Fairbanks, Martha
Fifield, Gary
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Fineday, Lenny
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Hilmer, Lori
Hughes, Stephanie and Griffin, Benjamin
Iverson, Robert and Catherine
Kingbird, Flower
Korstad, Heidi
Kugel, Rebecca and Goldstein, Lawrence
Lahmers, Thomas
Lawton, Robert
Leinen, Chris and Sharon
Lenfesty, Jim
Leverentz, Kevin and Joan
Marshall, Margaret
McDonough, Judith
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Thank you to all who supported the College to make it become what it is today.

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Student Senate
American Indian Higher Education Consor-
tium
AISES

Mino-Ayaawigamig Wellness Center:
Lunch and Learn
Talking Circles
Parent Study Group
Parenting Classes

Athletics:
Men's Basketball
Women's Basketball

The Wiindamaage newsletter is a publication highlighting events, activities, and news of the Leech Lake Tribal College and associated organizations. The Leech Lake Tribal College provides accredited higher education grounded in Anishinaabe values to the Leech Lake Community and surrounding areas.

The goal of the publication is to provide students and community with information and insight into the development of the college.

Wiindamaage College Newsletter; Summer 2016 Issue. Produced by the Office of Institutional Advancement. It is published twice per year and distributed to friends, supporters, and advocates of LLTC. Please direct any comments to amarin.chanthorn@lltc.edu or (218)-335-4262.

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Learning Center (218) 335-4238	Erickson, Tammy Account Payable (218) 335-4201	Jones, Roselynn Academic Advisor (218) 335-4211	Ostlund, Susan Chief Financial Officer (218) 335-4202
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Chanthorn, Amarin Director of Institutional Advancement (218) 335-4262			



Gaa' Oziskwaajimekaag Gabe-gikendaawowigamig

11th Annual Leech Lake Tribal College Golf Classic

The 11th Annual LLTC Golf Classic was a success due to commitment from supporters of the College. The event was able to raise over \$30,000 in monetary and in-kind donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations. Congratulations to the winning teams and contest winners! Special thanks to our major sponsors: Leech Lake Gaming Division, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Red Lake Nation, Sanford Health, Marco, Everi, For You Travel LLC, and many more. We are grateful for your help and assistance in our mission to provide quality higher-education grounded in Anishinaabe values.

Miigwech to all!

Leech Lake Tribal College
6945 Little Wolf Road NW • Cass Lake, MN 56633 • (218) 335-4200 • www.lltc.edu