



PAWNEE NATION College

"Indigenizing Higher Education for All"

Press Release

To all our PNC Students,

We are happy to inform you that our *classes will begin August 22, 2018*. We are still accredited via Bacone College, the oldest college west of the Mississippi which was initiated by the Creek Nation, now the Muscogee Creek Nation. The Creek government, in 1862, assigned the land and the startup 'Indian University' to the responsibility of the American Baptist Church organization. The Baptiste then selected and appointed the first board of Trustee and the first administrative personnel.

Pawnee Nation College, PNC, having started as an 'Academy', initiated its classes in 2004-05, but soon changed titles to Pawnee Nation College in 2007. It is during the 2006-2007 school year that it received its initial funding of federal dollars from the United States Department of Education. This funding allowed the college to operate since 2007. PNC is now moving into its eleventh (11) year of operations as a tribal college. We highly anticipate that PNC will be funded again in 2018.

Why a College?

When viewing Indian Education on a national scale one will see that the high school graduation rate for Native American students is averaging 65 percent of all students in high school. This is low considering the U. S. high school population is averaging a 75% graduation rate overall. So, when factoring in the low attendance rate of Native American students who did graduate high school, there is only an average of 17% of the 65% that will attend a College or University. This graduation of 17% averages less than 9% of students who will graduate with a college degree, most generally a bachelor's degree. The national average for non-Native students that will graduate from college with a bachelor's degree is 20%.¹

There are many challenges facing our Native American students, such as living in rural areas, lack of connectivity to the internet, poor attendance due to many culture or family responsibilities, and lack of proficient teachers for the local community. Additionally, many schools lack access to computers which could serve all students who need assistance with their class work; these are not just challenges from technical glitches either. Many of our Native American students will face some sort of prejudicialness due to the lack of support from racist communities and under-current prejudicialness by staff or faculty at many rural schools across America. Such biased attention not only hurts the Native American student, but it decreases the awareness of the great contributions which all Native American Nations' in America have given to the world. In total, many wonderful cultures of Native American communities have been dntrodden by the educational system in America. It takes the Native American communities and their many members to 'pump' cultural identity via tribal colleges. Therefore, the need for tribal colleges such as Pawnee Nation College and College of the Muscogee Nation, the only two in the state of Oklahoma, are continuing the effort of bringing a Native perspective and experience to college life and for Native and non-Native students.

1. GRADUATION RATES & AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION, HELEN OLIFF/*Published: MAY 16, 2017*. [www:http://blog.nativepartnership.org/graduation](http://blog.nativepartnership.org/graduation)