

Testimony Given to the Education Joint Subcommittee on Appropriations

January 22, 2013

**By: Joseph F. McDonald, President Emeritus
Salish Kootenai College**

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth and Committee Members,

Thank you committee members for holding this hearing. I am retired from my position as president of Salish Kootenai College, but I am staying involved with SKC and the other six tribal colleges. The Montana Tribal Colleges have asked me to take the lead in acquiring funding for the non-beneficiary students attending the seven tribal colleges.

I have this handout that describes the non-beneficiary student on the first page. The following pages provide a description of Montana's seven tribal colleges. Each college is accredited with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities which is the same accredited institutional accrediting body that accredits the units of the University System.

Montana is fortunate to have these colleges serving their remote areas of the state. Each accredited; each providing a variety of educational programs; and each with open admissions. Their educational offerings are broad and meet the needs of their communities.

The tribal colleges receives assistance from the federal government for students that are enrolled members of federally recognized tribes and students who are first generation descendants of tribally enrolled parents.

The tribal colleges need financial assistance for the students that are residents of Montana and are not tribally enrolled or a descendent of a tribally enrolled parent and that we term non-beneficiary.

We have been receiving these non-beneficiary funds for the past several years and we deeply appreciate it. The amount per student is authorized to be up to \$3024 per student. We certainly want to maintain the amount in the proposed budget and we would like for you to increase to the authorized amount of \$3024.

My colleague Dr. Robert Peregoy will address our request more fully and I yield to him Mr. Chairman.

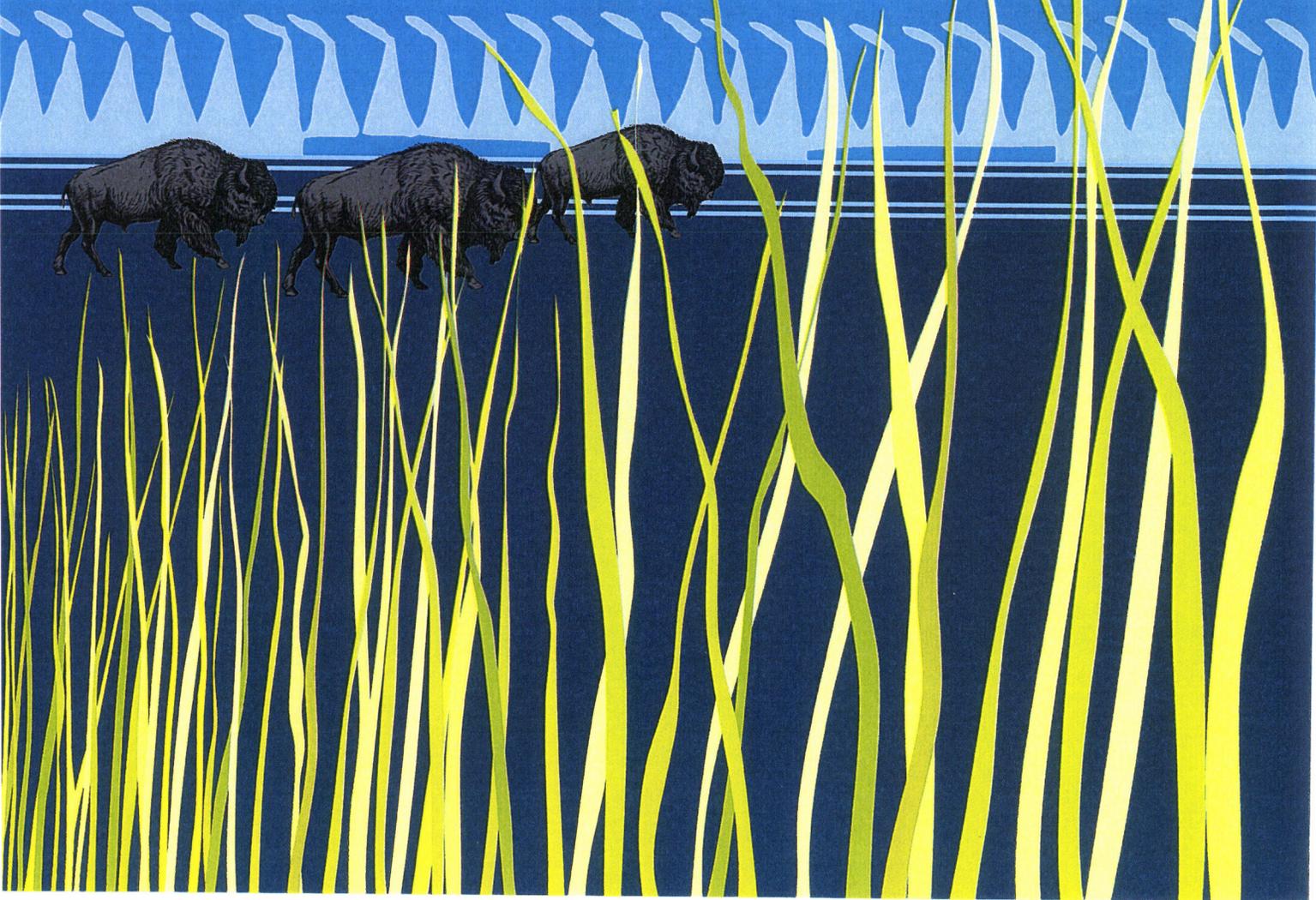
Thank you, Chairman Hollandsworth and committee members for this hearing.

M O N T A N A

*Tribal Colleges and
Universities*

Aaniih Nakoda College
Blackfeet Community College
Chief Dull Knife College
Fort Peck Community College

Little Big Horn College
Salish Kootenai College
Stone Child College



Montana Tribal College's

**Aaniih Nakoda College
Blackfeet Community College
Chief Dull Knife College
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Little Big Horn College
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Stone Child Community College**

Each of the seven tribal colleges is accredited by the Northwestern Commission on Colleges and Universities, the same Commission that accredits the units of the Montana University System.

Non-Beneficiary Student – is defined as a Montana resident student in which the federal Tribal College Act does not provide funding.

From FY 2008 through FY 2011, non-beneficiary student funding has been \$3,024, which is the statutory maximum per student.

In FY 2012, the governor's office cut non-beneficiary funding to \$2,480.66 (\$2,481 rounded) per each non beneficiary FTE.

This is a \$543 cut (18%) per non-beneficiary student. Based on this reduced non-beneficiary appropriation, tribal college funding was reduced by \$174,442 per year, or \$348,884 for the 2015 biennium.

This is a big hit for small, inadequately funded tribal colleges to absorb.

Non-Beneficiary funding is very important and vitally needed funding for the tribal colleges. This funding helps tribal colleges to provide a quality postsecondary education for all its students.



AANIIH NAKODA COLLEGE
Harlem, Montana

Fast Facts

- Year Founded: 1984
- Highest Degree Offered: Associate's (19 degree and certificate programs)
- 214 students; 54% female/46% male; 88% American Indian
- 60 total employed; 19 faculty

More than 25 years ago, a group of forward-thinking men and women from the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council, Fort Belknap Education Department, and Fort Belknap campus of Dull Knife Memorial College (now Chief Dull Knife College) recognized the need to start their own college. They saw that off-reservation programs were not adequately meeting the post-secondary educational needs of the community. In 1984 they established Fort Belknap College to provide the academic and vocational training programs and services to address social and economic needs, while preserving and promoting the A'anin and Nakoda languages, cultures and histories. In 2009, Fort Belknap College celebrated its 25th anniversary.

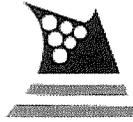
In April 2011, Aaniiih Nakoda College was named one of the top 120 community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute. Colleges were selected based on an in-depth analysis of enrollment, retention and graduation data provided by the US Department of Education. Enrollment for degree-seeking students increased by 32% between fall 2009 and fall 2010.

Academic programs continue to provide students with exciting learning opportunities. Aaniiih Nakoda College remains dedicated to a "grow your own" philosophy of developing the community's future educational leaders and has hired many talented young people from within the community.

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BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Browning, Montana

Fast Facts

- Year Founded: 1974
- Highest Degree Offered: Associate's (38 degree and certificate programs)
- 476 students; 57% female/43% male; 98% American Indian
- 117 total employed; 50 faculty

Blackfeet Community College is located in Browning, Montana, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, where terrain flows from rugged mountaintops to rolling hills of grasslands, to farmland plains. The reservation occupies an area of 1,525,712 acres adjacent to Glacier National Park, Lewis and Clark National Forest, and the province of Alberta, Canada. Browning, the largest community on the reservation, is the trade/service center for the reservation. Smaller communities include Babb, St. Mary, Heart Butte, Blackfoot, Starr School, East Glacier Park and Seville. The Blackfeet Community College campus is located on the south end of Browning, just off Highways 2 & 89. Thirteen buildings house the Administration, Student Services, Academic Affairs, and Vocational Education Departments, as well as the library, classrooms, and various programs.

In October 1974, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council chartered the Blackfeet Community College to provide post-secondary and higher educational services to the residents of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and surrounding communities. The impetus for this action grew from early Tribal efforts to provide educational opportunities to residents in a physically, climatically, and culturally isolated area. In December of 1976, extension courses were offered through Flathead Valley Community College. In 1979, BCC became an independent institution. In December 1985, BCC received full accreditation from the Northwest Association on Schools and Colleges.

Blackfeet Community College developed objectives based on goals identified by the Blackfeet Tribe: promote educational opportunities, increase the educational level, advance the knowledge and pride in Blackfeet heritage; improve Tribal management; provide community facilities for advancement in education and other Tribal institutions; and provide cultural and recreational opportunities for residents.

Blackfeet Community College range in age from 17 to 84 and come from Browning and surrounding communities on and off the reservation. Through the web site, the college reaches many more individuals outside of the program area. Approximately ninety percent of Blackfeet Community College staff and faculty employees are Blackfeet enrolled Tribal members or descendants.

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CHIEF DULL KNIFE COLLEGE

Lame Deer, Montana

Fast Facts

- Year Founded: 1975
- Highest Degree Offered: Associate's (4 degree programs)
- 433 students; 55% female/45% male; 90% American Indian
- 78 total employed; 34 faculty

Chartered in 1975 by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC) is located in the community of Lame Deer, on the 445,000-acre Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeastern Montana. Accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the college offers affordable, quality educational opportunities to residents of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and surrounding communities.

Previously known as Dull Knife Memorial College, CDKC was renamed in 2001 to emphasize the significance of Dull Knife as a chief and respected historical leader of the Northern Cheyenne people. Chief Dull Knife, also known as Chief Morning Star, fighting with great courage and against overwhelming odds, led his band of Northern Cheyenne back to their homeland to maintain the sovereignty of the tribe. Reflecting Chief Dull Knife's determination, the college's primary mission is to provide educational and cultural leadership to its constituents.

Although the original curriculum of the college was directed at training students for mining jobs near the reservation, the college has quickly expanded its offerings to include post-secondary transfer programs. The college offers a variety of associate's degree and certificate programs in agriculture, Native American studies, education, allied health, biology/pre-med, environmental studies, and computer information systems. CDKC maintains articulation agreements with institutions within the Montana University system that facilitate seamless transfer for students. With the addition of interactive television technology at CDKC, the college has also been able to expand opportunities for upper level students to complete advanced degrees online.

Chief Dull Knife College continues to experience increased student enrollment with every expectation that this trend will continue. Efforts of the staff in the Student Services department, Upward Bound program, the College's extension efforts have provided for expanded awareness and recruitment. As the student population has steadily increased, so has the need to acquire new facilities and the campus has used sustainable green-build technology to construct buildings to house adult literacy, technology, daycare, and visiting lecturer facilities. All of the facilities were designed and built using sustainable straw bale construction in cooperation with the American Indian Housing Initiative.

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FORT PECK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Poplar, Montana

Fast Facts

- Year Founded: 1978
- Highest Degree Offered: Associate's (29 degree and certificate programs)
- 452 students; 62% female/38% male; 81% American Indian
- 143 total employed; 51 faculty

Fort Peck Community College (FPCC) is located in northeastern Montana on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, which encompasses over two million acres. The college's main campus is in Poplar with a satellite in Wolf Point. Chartered by the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in 1978, FPCC's mission is to serve the people of the reservation by providing educational opportunities and community service. FPCC's philosophy is based on the belief that the opportunity for higher education must be provided locally. Many of the reservation's residents cannot leave their home communities; thus it is essential that postsecondary educational opportunities be made readily accessible to them.

FPCC provides a variety of programs to meet the career goals of its students and the training needs of the reservation. As a two-year degree-granting community college, FPCC offers associate degrees and certificates in over 30 fields of study such as automotive technology, building trades, hazardous materials waste technology, business administration, teacher education, American Indian studies, and biomedical science. Moreover, FPCC has several articulation agreements with four-year institutions that allow students to earn bachelor's degrees in selected areas of study. With the expansion of curriculum disciplines and certificate programs, students outside of the local area have shown an interest in and are enrolling in classes at FPCC.

In 2010-2011, FPCC completed construction of two faculty housing units and began construction of a new library, information technology, and community learning center facility that will be the cornerstone of the college's main campus site in Poplar, Montana. The faculty housing units, consisting of a two-bedroom duplex unit and a three-bedroom single housing unit, provide the college with a recruiting tool in providing housing options to faculty not from the region. The new, modern library, IT, and learning center facility will provide the educational environment and technological infrastructure to facilitate the learning, reading and entertainment demands of the students, community and reservation.

FPCC has a strong and innovative community focus that has established the college as an economic and social community development center for the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and northeastern Montana. One of the primary community goals of FPCC is to preserve the Assiniboine and Sioux cultures, histories, and beliefs and to promote that cultural information among its students and community members.

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LITTLE BIG HORN COLLEGE
Crow Agency, Montana

Fast Facts

- Year Founded: 1980
- Highest Degree Offered: Associate's (33 degree and certificate programs)
- 348 students; 71% female/29% male; 99% American Indian
- 103 total employed; 38 faculty

Little Big Horn College is a public two-year community college chartered by the Crow Tribe of Indians in 1980. The college is located in heart of the Crow Indian Reservation in south central Montana. The college facility has 35,000 square feet of educational space situated on two acres of wooded river valley.

LBHC offers eight associate of arts and two associate of science degree programs. The courses of study are directed to the economic and job opportunities in the Crow Indian Reservation area. The student body is composed of Crow Tribal members, members of American Indian Tribes from around the intermountain west and non-Indian residents of the Big Horn County area. Little Big Horn College has an open admissions policy and, as a public institution, welcomes enrollment from any adult with a high school diploma or GED.

The Little Big Horn College is expanding rapidly and steadily. The increase of student enrollment along with newly constructed facilities has had a major impact on the educational benefits to the reservation community. Students and community members see the new campus buildings and want to be part of the excitement of positive growth within the community and educational opportunities made available. Many students have considerable family responsibilities as parents and for caring for aging family members. Three-quarters of LBHC students speak the Crow language as their first language. The college student services and business office functions are conducted in the Crow language as are the college's Board of Trustee meetings.

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SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE Pablo, Montana

Fast Facts

- Year Founded: 1977
- Highest Degree Offered: Bachelor's (39 degree and certificate programs)
- 1,170 students; 62% female/38% male; 72% American Indian
- 346 total employed; 117 faculty

Salish Kootenai College (SKC) is a tribally controlled college chartered in 1977 under the sovereign governmental authority of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The mission of SKC is to provide quality postsecondary educational opportunities for American Indians, locally and from throughout the United States. The college strives to provide opportunities for individual self-improvement and to promote and help maintain the cultures of the Confederated Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation. While the college encourages diversity, its primary function is to serve the needs of American people.

The college offers bachelor's degrees, associate's degrees, and certificate programs in Native American studies, building trades, engineering, education, business, information technology, digital and media arts, environmental science and forestry, dental assisting technology, social work, nursing, psychology, and vocational life skills. The college reaches students at its main campus on the Flathead Reservation and at three satellite locations in Washington in Colville, Spokane, and Wellpinit.

In 2010, SKC added three new science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) programs. The Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences program prepares students for careers in biomedical research or allied health professions such as pre-dental or pre-pharmacy programs. The Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science in Hydrology prepares students for positions in tribal, state, or federal water management departments. The Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education – Broadfield Science prepares American Indian science teachers for high schools, which will increase the number of American Indian K-12 students who enter STEM fields. These programs will meet workforce needs in tribal communities and respond to the national need for more American Indian representation in the sciences. The programs are taught by highly qualified, doctorally prepared faculty members in state-of-the-art facilities.

The rich cultural, geographic, and academic environment of the SKC campus affords opportunities for faculty, staff, and student engagement in creative and intellectual activities. Additionally, targeted social, academic, athletic, and creative activities assist students in integrating into campus life. The college maintains a full range of student support, library, and cutting-edge information technology services to facilitate faculty professional work and student success.

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STONE CHILD COLLEGE
Box Elder, Montana

Fast Facts

- Year Founded: 1984
- Highest Degree Offered: Associate's (28 degree and certificate programs)
- 381 students; 59% female/41% male; 95% American Indian
- 88 total employed; 27 faculty

Stone Child College (SCC) is an accredited Tribal community college located on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in north central Montana. SCC is a young institution, originally chartered by the Chippewa Cree Business Committee on May 17, 1984. Tribal leaders acknowledged that the establishment of a Tribal community college was necessary for the preservation and maintenance of the Chippewa Cree cultural and history, Cree language, and the education and training of the tribal members.

SCC is one of seven Tribal Colleges in Montana and offers associate of arts and associate of science degree programs in general studies, human services, applied science, business, and computer science, as well as certificate programs in accounting, construction technology, customer relations, physical fitness training, pre-engineering, and pre-nursing. SCC students range in age from 17 to 72, with the average age of 30.

SCC is committed to providing opportunities for personal development through culturally rich educational programs and training to the reservation and surrounding communities. SCC administers a few grant programs to support students, including the Tribal Colleges and University Program (TCUP), the Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP), Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Coalition (STEM), Office of Education Language and Acquisition Program (OELAP) Chippewa Cree Higher Education (CCHE), and Adult Vocational Training (CAVT) scholarship programs.

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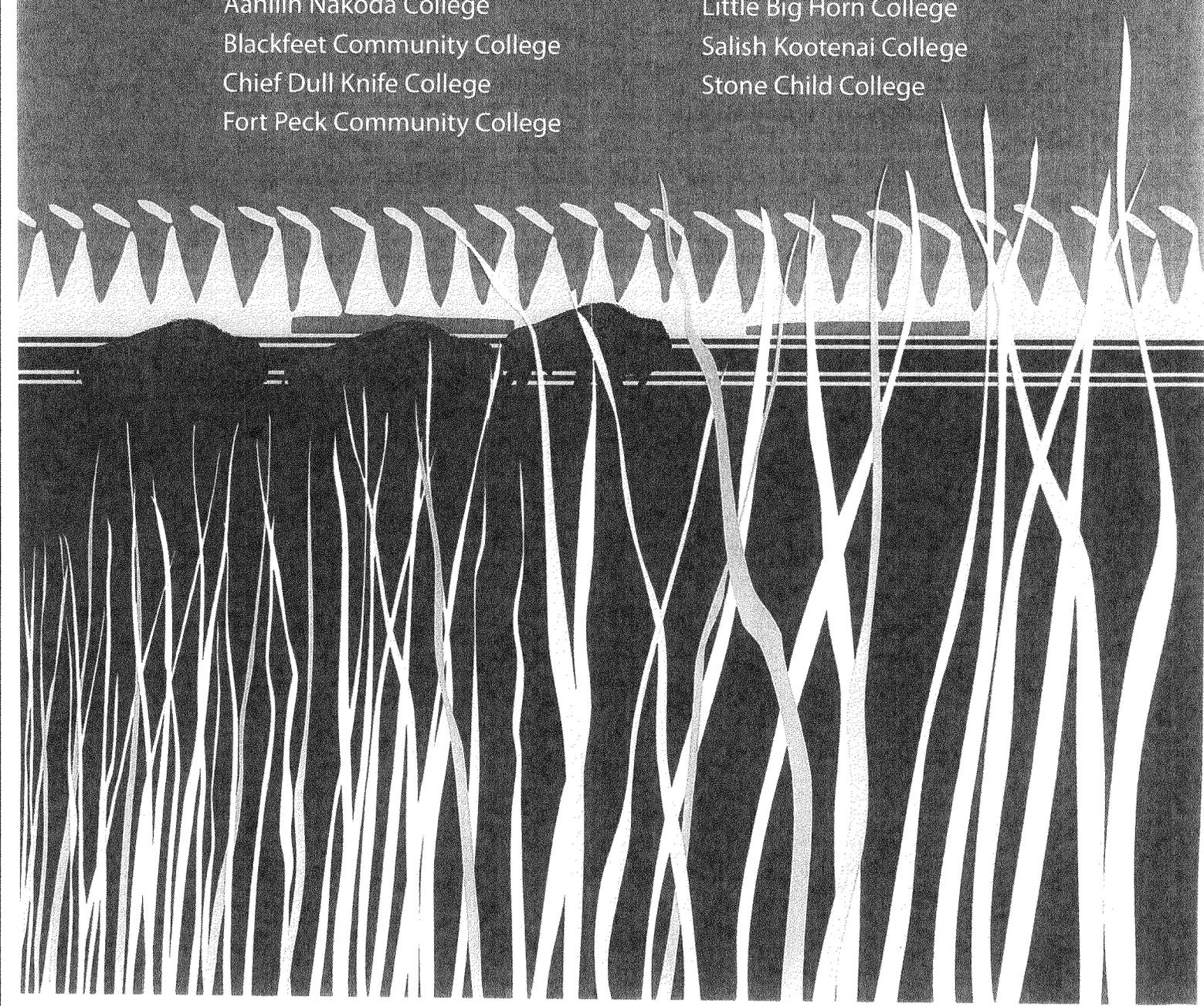


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