

SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE
Testimony in Support of HB 196—Tribal College Non-Beneficiary Bill
Presented on Behalf of Robert DePoe III, SKC President
To the Senate Committee on Finance & Claims
April 8, 2015

SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE SUPPORTS HB 196

Accreditation Salish Kootenai College provides a quality education for all students, Indian and non-Indian alike. The College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), the same regional body that accredits units of the Montana University System and the state's three community colleges. Montana's other six tribal colleges are also accredited by the NWCCU.

SKC NB Students

- SKC's annual enrollment averages 30% Non-Beneficiary (NB) students, and 70% beneficiary students.
- Of Montana's 7 tribal colleges, SKC enrolls an annual average of nearly 70% of all NB students.

SKC Student Enrollment During Fall Quarter 2014, SKC enrolled 859 students:

- 611 (71%) Beneficiary students (tribal members and first generation descendants)
- 248 (29%) NB (Montana resident students)

SKC Tuition & Fees per FTE, 2014-2015 (Revenue for 3 Academic Quarters)

Tribal Member: \$\$4,191

First-generation Descendent of Tribal Member: \$4,839

Montana Resident (Non-Beneficiary): \$6,279

Out-of State student: \$11,463

SKC Approximate Average Education Cost per FTE, FY 2015: \$11,465

Amount of Reimbursement per FTE, FY 15

- **Beneficiary FTE Student: \$6,355 (U.S. Department of the Interior)**
- **Non-Beneficiary FTE Student: \$3,024 (OCHE)**
- **NB Funding Inequity: Non-Beneficiary funding is currently less than one-half of the amount of Beneficiary funding**

SKC Degree and Certificate Programs SKC offers 40 programs of study:

- 15 Bachelor Degree programs (11 B.S.; 3 B.A.; 1 B.S.W.)
- 9 Associate of Arts Degree programs (A.A.)
- 9 Associate of Science Degree programs (A.S.)
- 2 Associate of Applied Science Degree programs (A.A.S.)
- 5 Certificate of Completion programs (C.C.)

Average Class Size 12-18 students per class

NB Scholarships and Grants During Fall Quarter of 2014 alone, SKC awarded 80 NB students \$78,221 in SKC scholarships and grant aid.

NB Graduates, FYs 2013 & 2014 During this two-year period, SKC graduated a total of 131 NB students in 31 academic or career and technical education (CTE) programs:

- 32 Bachelor degrees in 10 disciplines
- 75 Associate degrees in 14 disciplines
- 4 Associate of Applied Science degrees in 2 disciplines
- 20 Certificates of Completion in 5 disciplines

Average NB Annual Salaries, FY 2013

- Certificates of Completion--\$13 per hour--- equates to \$27,040 per year
- Associate Degrees--\$14.24 per hour---equates to \$29,619 per year
- Bachelor's Degrees--\$19.32 per hour---equates to \$40,186 per year

FY 2013 SKC NB Nursing Graduates—High Annual Salaries & Job Placement Rates

- 9 of 14 NB ASN graduates were placed in RN jobs in Montana healthcare facilities (65% job placement rate) at an average hourly wage of \$17.77; this equates to an average annual salary of \$36,962; in total, this amounts to \$332,658 in annual FY 13 ASN salaries.
- 3 of 3 NB BSN graduates were placed in advanced RN jobs in Montana healthcare facilities (100% job placement rate) at an average hourly wage of \$26.84; this equates to an average annual salary of \$55,827; in total, this amounts to \$167,481 in annual FY 13 BSN salaries.
- These combined FY 13 ASN & BSN nursing salaries total \$500,139.

Return on Investment (ROI), Multiplier Effect, and Tax Revenue Generated by SKC NB ASN & BSN Graduates Placed in Nursing Occupations, FY 2013

- **Return on Investment¹** In FY 2013, SKC was **reimbursed** by OCHE in the amount of \$572,126 for 227 NB FTEs. **Thus, FY 2013 ASN and BSN combined nursing salaries of \$500,139 alone represent 87% of the NB funds distributed to SKC in FY 2103.** Job placement numbers and salaries of all NB graduates conferred in 2013 would show that annual salaries earned by SKC NB graduates far exceed the amount of NB funds that OCHE reimbursed the College in 2013. **Based on all NB 2013 graduates' salaries, the State of Montana realized a significant return on its investment (ROI) in NB funds appropriated to SKC in FY 2013, as is true in any other year.**

- **Multiplier/Turnover Effect** According to Patrick Barkey, Director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research of the University of Montana, in rural areas such as Montana, a dollar turns over 1.5 to 2.5 times before it leaves the local area (“multiplier effect”). Accordingly:
 - ✓ **An annual 1.5 multiplier of combined ASN and BSN FY 2013 full-time salaries of \$500,139 computes to \$750,209, which generates an ROI of 131%, or a ratio of 1.31 to 1.**
 - ✓ **An annual 2.5 multiplier of combined ASN and BSN FY 2013 full-time salaries of \$500,139 computes to \$1,250,348, which generates an ROI of 218%, or a ratio of 2.18 to 1.**

- **These turnover dollars produce a huge economic benefit to local economies, as well as the economic well-being of the State of Montana.**

- **Tax Revenue Generated by NB Students** **Equally significant, tax dollars generated by NB salaries and corresponding turnover dollars further infuse needed monies into federal, state, and local tax coffers. The bottom-line is that NB students placed in jobs clearly become productive members contributing significantly to Montana economies.**

NB Student Participation in SKC's Nationally-recognized, Top-ranked Academic Programs: Nursing & *BisonSat*—SKC Satellite Funded by NASA

In addition to SKC's reputable Nursing Program, the College has also gained national recognition for building a small satellite named *BisonSat*, which is scheduled to be launched into

¹ The definition of “Return on Investment”, or “ROI,” is the rate of revenues received for every dollar invested in an item or activity. ROI is calculated by dividing the amount of revenues generated by the expense. Here, revenues generated by the 2013 NB nursing salaries total \$500,139, divided by the FY 2013 OCHE reimbursement of \$572,126, which produces an ROI of 87%, or a ratio of .87 to 1. *Google* Randy Duemyer, *ROI-Return on Investment*.

Earth orbit in August 2015 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. It is part of the U.S. Reconnaissance Office GRACE Mission.

- **SKC's *BisonSat* was selected for flight by NASA in a national competition, ranked third out of 33 selected "CubeSats" that includes satellites built by large universities, and NASA and military laboratories.**
- The ***BisonSat*** CubeSat is a small satellite in the shape of a 4-inch cube that universities, government agencies, and private businesses utilize for low-cost access to Earth orbit.
- ***BisonSat*** is solar-powered and carries an SKC-designed camera and a radio for receiving commands sent from the SKC satellite communications station and transmitting data back to SKC.
- **The primary purpose of the SKC CubeSat mission is educational, but also has a science objective of using its camera to study Earth's atmosphere and land use.**
- **CubeSats are especially effective for providing students with the opportunity to participate in a space flight mission from the beginning design phase, through building the satellite, flight readiness testing, and Earth-orbital observations and science data analysis.**
- **The *BisonSat* team has included 4 NB students working as paid interns under the supervision of four outstanding faculty mentors.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Primary Contact:

Robert DePoe III, President
Salish Kootenai College
Primary Phone: (435) 559-2141
Secondary Phone: (406) 275-4973
robert_depoe3@skc.edu

Secondary Contact:

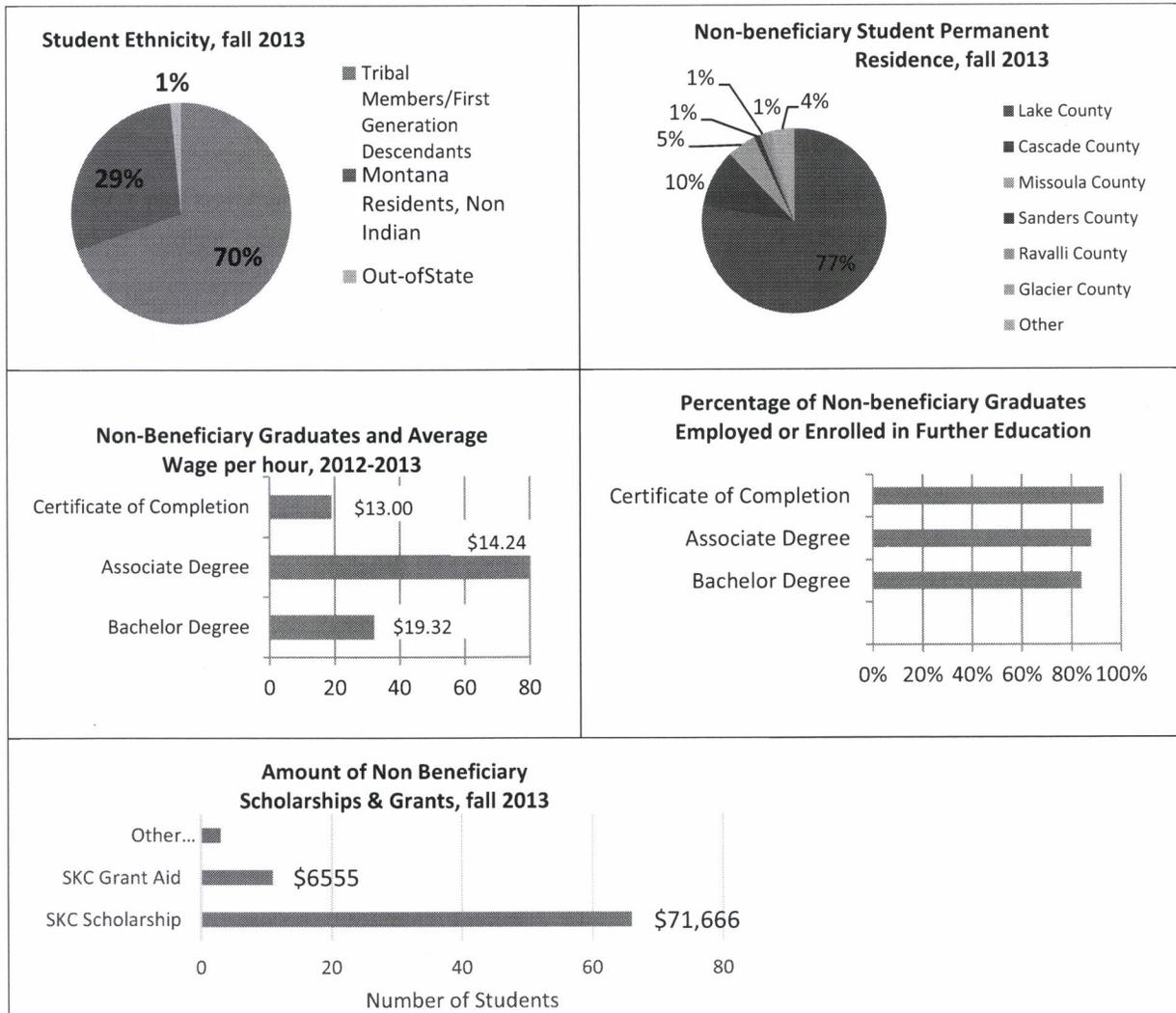
Dr. Robert M. Peregoy, Director
SKC Career & Technical Education Department
Pablo, MT 59855
Primary Phone: (406) 275-4976
robert_peregoy@skc.edu

* * *

Non Beneficiary Students at Salish Kootenai College

Each year, Salish Kootenai College provides educational opportunities to students who are Montana residents but are not Enrolled Tribal Members or First Generation Descendants ("Non-beneficiary Students").

Number of Non-Beneficiary students	Fall 2013		Winter 2013		Spring 2014		Fall 2014		Average Percentage
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Beneficiary	599	70%	598	71%	537	68%	611	71%	70%
Non Beneficiary	256	30%	250	29%	252	32%	248	29%	30%
Total Enrollment	855	100%	848	100%	789	100%	859	100%	100%



Data provided by S. Sherwin, SKC Office of Institutional Research; R. Peregoy, SKC Office of Career and Technical Services; E. McLeod, SKC Career Services Department

Salish Kootenai College degree programs are designed to meet the workforce development and continuing education needs of Lake County and the State of Montana.

Montana Resident, Non-beneficiary Graduates, 2012-13 and 2013-14

	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014		2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014
Bachelor Degrees			Associate of Applied Science Degrees		
Business	1		Dental Assisting	1	1
Early Childhood Education		1	Business Technology	1	1
Elementary Education	4	7			
Forestry	2		Certificate of Completion		
Hydrology		1	Dental Assisting	4	2
Information Technology	2		Highway Construction Training	5	3
Nursing	3	3	Medical Office Clerk		4
Psychology	1	2	Natural Resources Management		1
Secondary Education - Science	1		Office Professions		1
Social Work	1	3	Total Graduates	69	62
Associate Degrees					
Business	2	3			
Chemical Dependency Counseling		1			
Early Childhood Education		1			
Elementary Education	11	6			
Engineering Graphics	1				
Fine Arts	1				
Forestry	1				
General Science		1			
Hydrology	2	2			
Information Technology	1	1			
Liberal Arts	2	1			
Media Design	2	2			
Nursing	14	13			
Psychology	6	1			

Data provided by S. Sherwin, SKC Office of Institutional Research; R. Perego, SKC Office of Career and Technical Services;
E. McLeod, SKC Career Services Department

April 8, 2015

Honorable Llew Jones, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance & Claims
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

RE: SKC Non-Beneficiary Student Support for HB 196

Dear Chairman Jones and Committee Members:

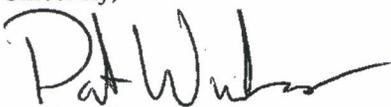
My name is Patrick Wurster. As a non-beneficiary student attending Salish Kootenai College (SKC), I express my support for HB 196. I was born in Polson, Montana in 1981 and have been a resident of the Flathead Indian Reservation my entire life. I graduated from Polson High School in 1999 and entered directly into the work force as a cabinet maker, where I worked for almost 10 years. Providing quality cabinets to the Mission and Flathead Valleys allowed my wife, Kristin and I, to start a family and buy a house with the income I earned. Things were going very well for my family and I was able to earn a respectable income, especially for this area. We were living the "American dream", until the recession began in 2007. My employer tried his best to provide me with work, however by 2009, I was permanently laid off and spent the next three years working a low wage job. This was an abrupt change to the lifestyle I had become accustomed to. I now contribute far less to the local economy as well as to the Montana Department of Revenue.

I enrolled at SKC in 2012 as a hydrology student in an effort to improve my financial situation, and am now in my junior year. I chose SKC for several reasons; tuition is more affordable than surrounding colleges, the institution is within walking distance of my house, and a degree program was offered which I was extremely interested in. Three years later, I have no regrets. Salish Kootenai College has given me the opportunity to work as a summer intern, as well as meet with water professionals working in Montana. I am very confident that I am receiving a quality education which will provide me the tools to once again be a productive member of my community. My eventual goal is to gain employment in Montana, working for a state or federal agency which sustains, and improves Montana's water resources.

I support HB 196 because I believe Tribal Colleges should be reimbursed for the services they provide to non-beneficiary students such as me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Patrick Wurster

April 8, 2015

Honorable Llew Jones, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance & Claims
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

RE: SKC Non-Beneficiary Student Support for HB 196

Dear Chairman Jones and Committee Members:

My name is Anita Diane Harrison. I am 57 years old and have been a student at Salish Kootenai College for four years. As a non-beneficiary student attending SKC, I am here today to express my support of HB 196.

When I started at the college I had survived ten years of cancer and complications do to the treatments. I was unable to turn on a computer or remember two syllable words. I had been a professional in the field of disabilities for twenty years and I wanted to see if I could rebuild myself. It was through the dedication and love of the many support structures that SKC has in place to strengthen the students on every level that I was able to succeed in ways that changed my life beyond anything I could have imagined.

The TRIO staff supported me in the tutors and emotional support that I needed and then a year later trained me to become a tutor and I have been able to support other students on their journeys. The faculty and students themselves have been priceless as well. I am a junior in the Psychology program and I also spent a year in Life Sciences. I have a life's passion for psychology however; science also has a place in my heart. The science program put me in a position to do an internship for two summers on the West Nile Virus research. I attended conferences and have presented my work on numerous occasions. I am hired again this year for the internship. I have been an honor roll student since I began college.

I can say first hand how important the non-beneficiary bill is, as I have been blessed for a year because of it. I ran out of Pell and student loan money at one point and was going to have to quit school. However, the SKC administration came to me and said they would grant me a tuition waiver, as provided in the non-beneficiary law. I spoke on behalf of the non-beneficiary students two years ago. I believe in SKC and the need for funding for tribal colleges.

If it were not for SKC, I may still be on disability doing nothing with my life. But today I am a student, mentor, and becoming a scientist. I am also working with individuals with disabilities again and making a difference in many lives.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HB 196.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Anita Diane Harrison

April 8, 2015

Honorable Llew Jones, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance & Claims
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

RE: SKC Non-Beneficiary Student Support for HB 196

Dear Chairman Jones and Committee Members:

My name is Brandon Dunkerson. My hometown is Ronan, Montana, and I am majoring in Psychology at Salish Kootenai College (SKC). As a Montana resident non-beneficiary student, I support House Bill 196.

Attending SKC has helped me personally in many ways. The College has opened many doors for me. It has enable me access to an education I never would have been able to consider due to my young family, because its location is near my home. The location of SKC also provided my fiancé the opportunity to attend as well. We could never have both attended one of our state universities, community colleges, or technical colleges due to our family needs and location. As a veteran with multiple activations to include Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Noble Eagle as well as state emergency activations and current Non-Commissioned Officer in the Montana National Guard, the military friendly atmosphere at SKC has allowed me to not only become a better educated leader, but a liaison to veterans in our community. SKC staff and faculty have shown full support in helping me bolster the veterans' programs in and around the Mission Valley. The commitment that the faculty and staff at SKC have shown to me is top notch. I believe this is leading me to be a better student. Attending SKC has enabled me to see a different worldview than I would have received at any other community college or university. By bolstering a sense of cultural awareness, I have become not only a better student, but a better person. With the fine education I am receiving at SKC, I believe that my goal of being a counselor to fellow combat veterans is fully obtainable.

As a Montana taxpayer, I believe that the Legislature should provide funding for non-beneficiary students so that we can continue to receive the quality, culturally-aware education that Salish Kootenai College provides. This funding should ultimately be at the same level as the Legislature authorizes for students attending Montana's two-year colleges. Please note that Salish Kootenai College and Montana's six other tribal colleges are accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), just like the institutions of the Montana University System and the state's three other community colleges. In short, voting in support of HB 196 is the right thing to do for Montana's tribal colleges serving non-beneficiary students.

Very truly yours,



Brandon Dunkerson

April 8, 2015

Honorable Llew Jones, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance & Claims
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

RE: SKC Non-Beneficiary Student Support for HB 196

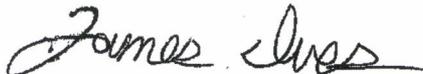
Dear Chairman Jones and Committee Members:

My name is James Ives. My hometown is Hamilton, MT. I am majoring in Elementary Education at Salish Kootenai College (SKC). As a non-beneficiary student attending SKC, I express my support for HB 196.

I am 32 years old and in 2013 I decided to transition into the career of teaching, so I enrolled at the University of Montana. A major requirement for my return to school was employment for my wife. She obtained employment at the Polson Middle School and shortly thereafter, we discovered Salish Kootenai College. I found that SKC offered everything I needed and was located close to Polson. I am so thankful that I am receiving such a high quality education at SKC. The class sizes are small, and the instructors are very professional. The teachers clearly care deeply about their students. However, the most valuable education I am receiving is the cultural experience with Montana's Tribes available to me here at SKC. I have begun to learn about the people and history of my home, which is not only valuable to me as a person, but as a future educator. This education is authentic as well. I am not learning about the Salish, Kootenai and other tribes throughout the U.S. from books, instead I have the opportunity to get to know them face to face and go through my educational experience side by side, and largely through their perspective.

I have been in construction, paying taxes for 14 years, as a member of the Montana workforce. The future of the State of Montana and the Tribes that call this place home are forever linked together, and the educational opportunities for non-beneficiary students attending Tribal Colleges exist nowhere else. Please vote to pass HB 196 to help provide reimbursement for tribal colleges for services provided to non-beneficiary students.

Very truly yours,



James Ives

**The Confederated Salish & Kootenai
Tribes of the Flathead Reservation**

Legal Department

Shane Morigeau
Staff Attorney



P.O. Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855
Email: shane.morigeau@cskt.org

Ph: (406) 675-2700, Ext. 1162
Cell: (406) 546-7194
Fax: (406) 675-4665