

## Little Big Horn College

### Montana Tribal College HiSET Student Success Project - June 2024

- **Best practices – what is working and what has not worked in building a HiSET program on your campus?**
  - What is working in our program has been developing partnerships with Billings Adult Education at the Lincoln Center and EdReady Montana to create accessibility for our students. Our LBHC program has been able to provide on-site online TABE assessments, and assist with providing age appropriate texts, books, materials, and online resources to students at our campus.
  - What has not worked in our program is not having the ability for testing on our campus. Many students have expressed their concerns about unreliable transportation, the fear of missing a test and it counting against them, scheduling a test so far in advance and having to travel so far to an unfamiliar location.
    - **What have been the lessons learned?**
      - Most of our students are bilingual with Crow/Apsaalooke being their primary language or the primary language being spoken at home and or in the community. I discovered that most of the HiSET/GED printed learning material is geared toward higher level readers. Our students tend to have lower reading levels, due to having ESL or English as a second language. I have learned to, “teach the students you have, not the students you're supposed to have.” I am ensuring to start students at the very basics and set them up for success. Using leveled materials and finding a level that they can achieve success at; then building up to a higher level.
    - **Please cite a best practice you employ or have learned about?**
      - I’ve learned how important it is to have the TABE assessment for students. The TABE tests the reading, math and language ability of each student. The results of the TABE test is a roadmap for how to work with students strengths and weaknesses.
- **How many students are matriculating (after passing the HiSET) to college?**
  - From August 2023 to June 2024 our program has assisted 3 students in completing their HiSET and earning their diploma. Of the 3 students that completed 2 students enrolled in college and the third student's primary reason was to enter the military.
    - **Are you collecting this data?**
      - Yes, we do collect this data. When applying for the HiSET, one of the application questions include: *Are you planning on going to a further training, development or educational program?*
      - We also keep track of our own records when we assist students in getting their HiSET transcripts from the state, for when they are applying for college.

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- **Are students reporting why they are pursuing the HiSET?**
  - **Is it workforce access or further education?**
    - Our application also includes the question: *What is your primary reason for taking the HiSET? Select the one which best applies: Enroll in a technical or trade program, Enter a 2 year college, Enter a 4 year college/university, get a job, keep your current job, role model for family, personal achievement/satisfaction, military entrance, early release, court order, other...* These questions on our application are adapted from the questions that students are asked when filling out the online application for the PSI HiSET EXAM.
      - A majority of the students select **further education**.
- **Do you consider your HiSET efforts to be successful?**
  - Yes, The Tribal HiSET program at the Little Big Horn College has provided a program with structure and has been very beneficial to our campus. The students attending classes become familiar with the college campus and opportunities that are available to them.
  - Being able to collaborate with other TCU's and having representation at the state level is imperative to a successful program.
  - **Are you doing what you anticipated for your community?**
    - Yes, I believe that having a GED/HiSET program on our Tribal campus is very important to our community. The LBHC HiSET Program website and monthly LBHC news letter has generated interest in the community. Our program has populated over 200+ applicants who have expressed interest in earning their high school credential.
- **Would you support continuing the funding for the project?**
  - Adult education is an area that is overlooked and underfunded. Our Native American students are from historically marginalized communities and have limited access to academic opportunities.
  - As an advocate for the students we need to make legislators aware and give adults with lower literacy skills more attention. Strict federal/state standards push adult students to earn a highschool credential within a set parameter. The expectation of such academic gains can be challenging for adult students.

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**Describe how you have used the funds to date. Provide a budget to date August 2023 - June 2024.**

<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Equipment (computers/tech equip, software, office supplies, etc)	\$ 2,500
Student/classroom supplies, textbooks, pencils, calculators, etc..	\$4,640
Transportation costs to test site \$ 0.565 x 130 miles round trip (N students x \$73.45) x 2 (two days of testing)	\$2,259
Testing fees HiSET Fee \$75 Test (\$15/subtest) Center-remote fee 87.50 (\$162.50)	\$2,059
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,458</b>

- **How many students have you served to date through HiSET prep or exam?**
  - **Number of students who have participated in HiSET preparatory courses.**
    - Number of students per cohort: 20/semester x 3 semesters
    - ~60 students participating HiSET Preparatory Courses
  - **Number of students to take the HiSET Exam form August 2024-June 2025.**
    - We will utilize 30 students per cohort. So for 3 semesters we will have roughly 90 students with a goal of 70% graduation rate.
    - Potential number of graduates over 2024-2025:
      - ~27 students / 3 semesters
- **How many students have taken the test from the award date in August 2023-June 1, 2024?**
  - We had a total of 17 students take 42 subject tests.
  - 27 subject tests were passed, out of 42 subject tests.
  - 12 subject tests were not passed, out of 42 subject tests.
  - 3 subject tests were not taken because the student didn't show up for the test.
  - **How many have passed?**
    - From August 2023 - June 2024 we had 3 completers who passed all five subtests earning their high school credential.
- **Anticipated number of students you plan to serve between June 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.**
  - Number of students per cohort: 30/semester x 3 semesters
    - We plan on having ~90 students participating in HiSET Preparatory courses.

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- ***Please review the goals you outlined in your HiSET proposal. Discuss your progress in meeting these goals.***
  - LBHC anticipates and will continue to prepare for growth accessibility by updating technological capabilities to benefit the needs of students.
    - We continue to offer students educational incentives including books/texts that align with the Essential Education-HiSET/ LMS, Ed-Ready MT- digital academy, including equipment, i.e. headphones, tablets, calculators, etc...
  - We are an active community partner and resource, accessible to all community members for personal and professional growth.
    - The LBHC HiSET Program was invited to meet with the local Tribal/BIA detention center to work on a plan to assist incarcerated students in obtaining their HiSET credential. This collaboration will provide educated individuals that will be released into the community.
  - Media (ie, website, facebook, flyers, ads) to spread awareness of the HiSET program at LBHC, promotional testimonies of success stories to encourage prospective students.
    - A website has been created in collaboration with the facebook site.
    - This website provides more structure and securely allows students to navigate what LBHC has to offer regarding HiSET. [www.lbhc-hiset.org](http://www.lbhc-hiset.org)
  - LBHC is in a rural community, the *Official HiSET testing* access has been a major obstacle for our students and the success of our program.
    - We *do not* have **onsite** testing for the HiSET exam on our campus.
    - Students must travel to the Big Horn County Library or to Yellowstone County at the Lincoln Center for testing.
- ***If you are not meeting these goals, how do you plan to adjust?***
  - We will continue to collaborate with community groups to help meet the needs of students in the process of earning their high school credentials.
  - We plan on implementing with more one-on-one support to help students define their goals/obstacles and move forward.