

Abstract Part A

Red Lake Nation College Academics

Red Lake Nation College, 15480 Migizi Drive, Red Lake, Minnesota

The Red Lake Nation is applying to Title III, Part A, Federal grant program to provide the Administrative and Faculty expertise to support Red Lake Nation College students in achieving an exceptional education grounded in anishanabee culture and values. Red Lake Nation College received candidacy for accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission in November 2016 and is functioning as an independent institution. This was a major institutional accomplishment achieved after six years of focused work from 2010 through 2016. The Red Lake Nation College is prepared to fulfill the mandates of a fully accredited institution. Including continual administrative monitoring and implementation for continual improvement of academic programs by employing experienced staff and faculty to persistently meet the Higher Learning Commission standards. Red Lake Nation College is positioned for long-term success.

Red Lake, like most reservations in Indian country, is plagued by high rates of poverty (approximately three times the national average) and significant unemployment rates (up to 66% unemployment rates based on reservation surveys held in recent years). The intense needs on the Red Lake Indian Reservation are diverse, complicated, and differ from the needs of more typical rural areas. The most significant need in the Red Lake community is that of economic opportunity. While jobs are scarce, employers also convey that potential employees often lack job experience and proper education. Lack of access to higher education institutions is the primary reason the sustainability of the Red Lake Nation College is vital to the Red Lake community.

Providing an accessible higher education option on the Red Lake reservation has not only offered a degree option locally but has instilled hope and pride in the community. The hope and pride instilled by the Red Lake Nation College is our most crucial accomplishment. Encouraging all Tribal Members to strive for additional education will ensure that key community positions will be filled by tribal members whenever possible.

The Red Lake Nation College goals and activities that will be implemented over the next academic year include the following:

- Academics
 - Incorporate Red Lake Nation College values in all courses to enhance the connection between academic disciplines and identity as Anishinaabe people.
 - Recruit and maintain top quality academic instructors in all fields of study.
 - Provide individualized academic support for students through our learning center.
 - Implementation of CANVAS Learning Management System.
 - Begin offering distance education courses.
 - Complete a program review of the Associate in Arts in Liberal Education.
 - Improve student retention and persistence through innovative programs and events that promote student commitment and participation.
 - Increase the number of service-learning opportunities in academic courses to promote civic engagement.