

AIMS: AMERICAN INDIAN MEASURES FOR SUCCESS

OCTOBER 2006

VISION AND GOALS

Through capacity building in data collection and analysis at this nation's 34 American Indian Tribal Colleges and Universities, this project will be the foundation for systemic reform that significantly increases – and, for the first time, accurately measures -- American Indian success in higher education.

AIHEC-AIMS KEY INDICATOR SYSTEM (AKIS)



Indicator 1: Overall Institution Profile, Student Enrollment, Graduation and Retention

Indicator 2: Financial Resources and Student Costs

Indicator 3: Physical Resources

Indicator 4: Student Enrollment and Graduation by Major Group

Indicator 5: Core Curriculum Course Enrollment and Completion

Indicator 6: Student Activities

Indicator 7: Personnel Demographics, Professional Development, Research and Outcomes

Indicator 8: Students with Disabilities Enrollment and Graduation (optional)

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

2004

The AIMS data collection project begins January 2004.

- AIHEC-AIMS Project Team presented the data collection project at the AIHEC Board of Directors Winter Meeting. At the Spring 2004 AIHEC meeting, the AIHEC Board of Directors passes motions to support the AIMS project.
- AIHEC establishes and convenes the AIMS Advisory Panel to preview a draft survey by Systemic Research Incorporated (SR). The AIMS Advisory Panel meets twice a year to review survey developments (March and September 2004).

Focus Group Forums

- AIHEC presents the project to the Student Congress: students discuss and define indicators of success for tribal college students.
- AIHEC holds focus group forums to Tribal College presidents, faculty and administrators in Billings, MT to receive feedback on the draft survey template.

Data Capacity and Needs Assessment Survey

- AIHEC conducts four data capacity and needs assessment site visits.
- AIHEC administers a data capacity and needs assessment survey to determine the ability of tribal colleges to collect, analyze and report data. Major challenges to data collections are a lack of personnel along with poor student record management systems.

AIMS Regional Training Workshops

- AIHEC held four regional workshops in Billings, Albuquerque, Minneapolis, and Rapid City) in October 2004 to train TCU staff on the data collection instrument. AIMS-2004 data due was due on January 14, 2005. In the first year, 30 schools submitted quantitative data and 24 schools submitted qualitative data.



2005	<p>AIHEC-AIMS 2004 Data Collection <i>AIMS 2004 data was due on January 14, 2005.</i></p> <p>AIHEC-AIMS 2005 Data Collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 2005: AIHEC-AIMS Advisory Panel meets in March 2005 to discuss project developments.• AIHEC held a workshop in July 2005 at the Tribal College Workshop at Salish Kootenai College on AKIS-2004 results and survey changes to AKIS-2005. At this workshop, AIHEC provided individualized AKIS-2004 reports for each participating college. <i>AIMS 2005 data was due on October 25, 2005.</i>• On-going data submission with AIHEC persistence.• AIHEC reviewed and analyzed the 2005 AIMS data submitted by all 32 tribal colleges. Inaccurate and inconsistent data was revised to ensure data quality. 100% project participation in the AIMS 2005 data collection cycle!
2006	<p>AIHEC-AIMS 2006 Data Collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2006 AIHEC-AIMS intensive training: June 22-23, 2006 in Bloomington, MN <i>2006 AIHEC-AIMS data due on October 27, 2006</i> <p>Capacity Building and Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AIHEC was the keynote speaker at the tribal college research and assessment workshop at Haskell Indian Nations University, June 8-9, 2006. Presented the AIMS initiative.• An executive awareness session on data driven decisions at the President's Retreat in Cloquet, MN on August 4, 2006.• Ongoing development of a TCU specific assessment tool for student satisfaction and engagement.• Respond to requests for data on the tribal colleges as needed. <p>USA Funds Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First draft completed for AIHEC and the Institute for Higher Education Policy report on the impact of tribal college graduates on reservation economies using AKIS data in January 2006. A second draft was completed in March 2006.

MOST FREQUENTLY REQUESTED DATA ON THE TRIBAL COLLEGES:

Enrollments

Average Faculty Salary

Academic course listings

Completions

Retention and graduation rates

List of tribal colleges and the highest degree offered