



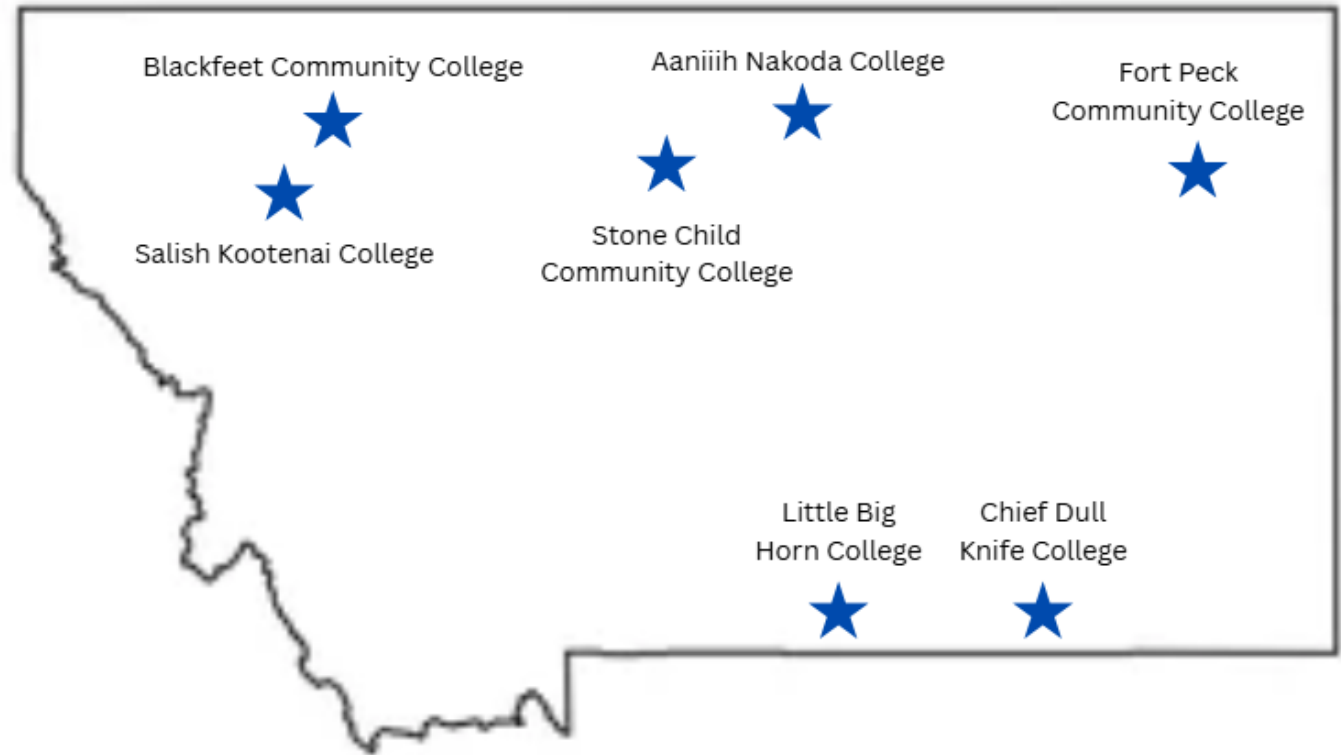
# **AIHEC Presentation to the Montana State Legislature**

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June 16, 2026

# Montana TCUs

- 7 Tribal Colleges and Universities
- 3,642 students served annually
- 767 Montana-based faculty and staff
- Serving Tribal Nations and communities across Montana
- Preparing the workforce that powers healthcare, education, government, business, and community development throughout the state



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# Aaniiih Nakoda College

## Local & Community Impact

- \$12.2 million added income to Blaine County economy
- Supports 196 jobs
- 1 out of every 14 jobs in Blaine County supported by ANC and its students
- Alumni impact generated \$7.8 million in added income
- Students gain \$6.20 in future earnings for every \$1 invested
- Taxpayers receive \$2.20 for every \$1 invested
- Society receives \$5.40 for every \$1 invested

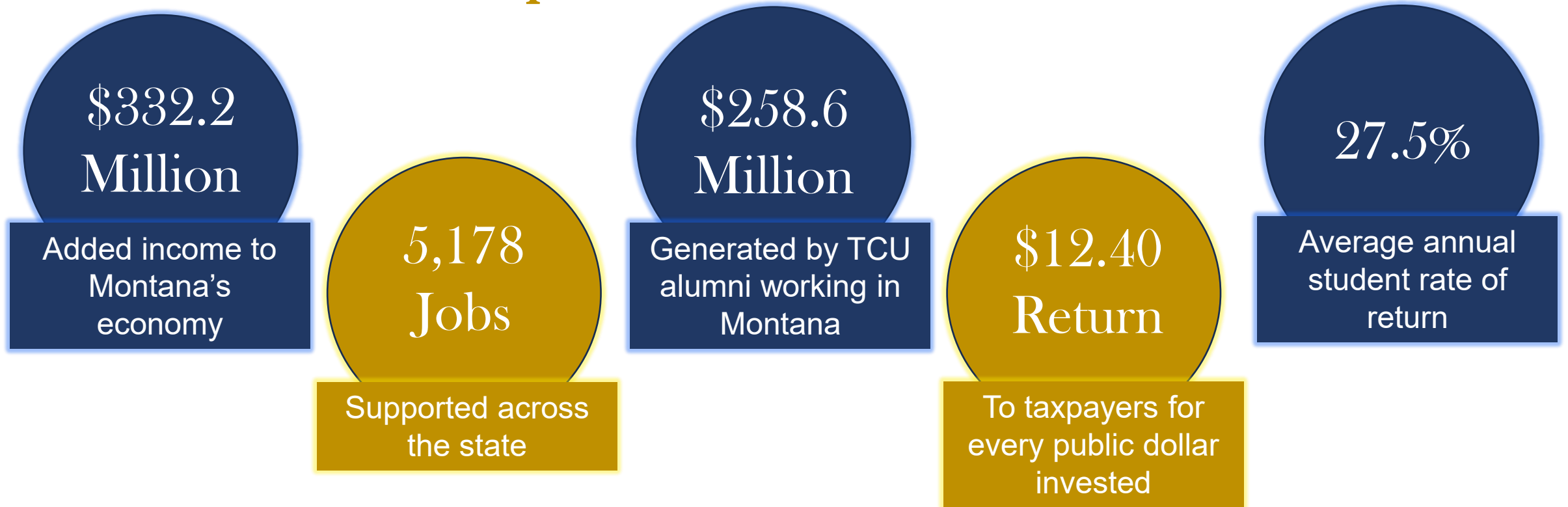


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# Montana Tribal Colleges

## Statewide Economic Impact



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# Why States Matter Now

| Federal Funding Remains Limited and Uncertain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Workforce Needs Are Growing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | States Can Help Close Strategic Gaps                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal support remains essential but does not fully fund TCU operations, infrastructure, or student services</li><li>• Recent federal budget proposals have included the elimination of key Tribal College funding streams</li><li>• Diversified state and federal partnerships can help create greater long-term stability</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MT employers continue to face workforce shortages across multiple sectors</li><li>• MT TCUs already prepare graduates for healthcare, education, public service, business, &amp; community development careers</li><li>• EIS demonstrates that TCU graduates are contributing across MT's workforce &amp; economy</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State investments can complement—not replace—federal funding</li><li>• States can support workforce pathways, infrastructure, dual enrollment, and student success initiatives</li><li>• Existing models demonstrate that meaningful state partnerships are achievable</li></ul> |

# Workforce Pell: *An Opportunity for Montana's Workforce Strategy*

## A New Federal Resource

- Pell Grants may now support eligible short-term workforce training programs beginning July 2026
- Programs must prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand occupations
- States play a central role in identifying workforce priorities and eligible pathways

## Alignment with Montana Priorities

- Supports the goals of Montana's workforce development efforts and the 406 JOBS initiative
- Creates opportunities to address workforce shortages through targeted education and training
- Encourages stronger alignment among employers, workforce agencies, and postsecondary institutions

## Opportunities for Tribal Colleges

- Healthcare and behavioral health pathways
- Teacher preparation and educational workforce programs
- Skilled trades and apprenticeship partnerships
- Industry-recognized credentials that can stack into certificates and degrees



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# Promising State Practices for Supporting TCUs

| Funding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Workforce                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Partnerships                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Create predictable, dedicated investments that recognize the full scope of TCU students and operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide state support for students not covered by the federal Indian Student Count (ISC) formula</li><li>• Establish statutory funding streams rather than one-time approps</li><li>• Invest in facilities, maintenance, and campus infrastructure</li><li>• Create multi-year funding commitments that support long-term planning</li></ul> | <p>Integrate TCUs into state workforce and economic development strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognize TCU's as workforce development partners</li><li>• Align investments with critical workforce shortages</li><li>• Support career and technical education, credentialing, and industry partnerships</li><li>• Include TCU's and state workforce planning and implementation efforts</li></ul> | <p>Move from episodic engagement to formal Tribal-State collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include TCUs in statewide higher education planning</li><li>• Establish Tribal-State higher education advisory structures</li><li>• Support transfer, articulation, and dual enrollment pathways</li><li>• Strengthen collaboration between Tribal Nations, States, and TCU's</li></ul> |

# State Examples: Promising Models Already Exist

## *Funding*



Montana

Provides state funding for resident non-beneficiary students attending TCUs, helping address a gap in the federal funding formula.



Minnesota

Provides supplemental state grants for non-beneficiary students enrolled at TCUs



North Dakota

Provides supplemental grant assistance for non-beneficiary students through state appropriations



Wisconsin

Provides payments for students not funded through the Bureau of Indian Education formula



Arizona

Dedicates a portion of state tax revenue generated on Tribal lands to support TCU capital projects, facilities, maintenance, and infrastructure

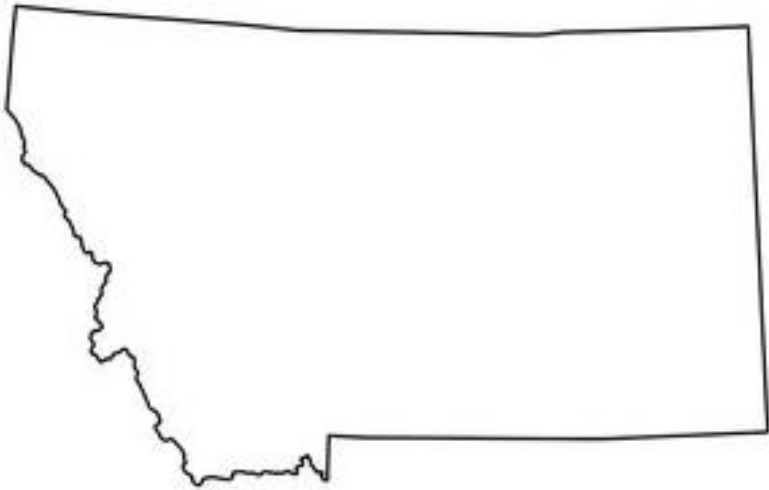


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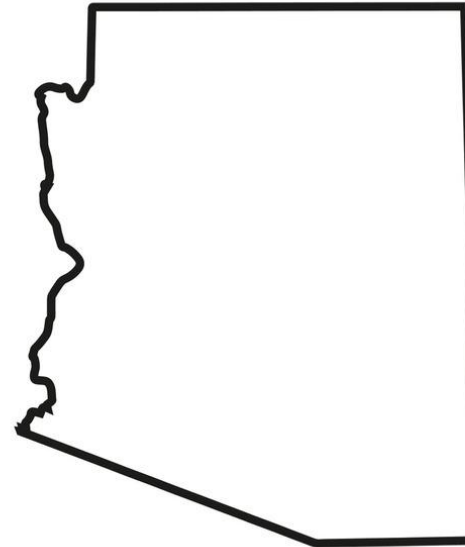
# State Examples: Promising Models Already Exist

## *Workforce and Partnerships*



### Montana

Requires cooperative agreements and transferability provisions that strengthen alignment between TCU's and the broader higher education system



### Arizona

Supports dual enrollment partnerships between TCU's and high schools, creating earlier pathways into higher education and workforce training



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# Thank You!

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