Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP), Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC) received urgently needed funding to keep the College open and functioning, to transition to an online learning platform for students plus remote capabilities for essential personnel, to modify the campus facility for health and safety improvements, and to address the lack of computers or laptops and internet connectivity for students and employees who live on or near the Spirit Lake Dakota reservation.

CCCC students received direct emergency grants, laptops, tuition assistance, access to gift cards for personal needs (groceries, gas, etc.), and emergency funding to help cover internet, rent, or utility expenses, unexpected car repair, or other emergency situations – all toward retention and completion. Students have to meet SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) to be eligible for the assistance.

CCCC needs continued Congressional support and funding to sustain and maintain all the work and effort in addressing the pandemic as the College plans some semblance of ‘returning to normal’ in the near future.

There is still much to be done to improve access and equity for Native college students.

From Spring 2020 to Spring 2022, CCCC provided...

- Close to $2 million for direct student assistance - tuition, fees, books, grade incentives, emergency aid & gift cards
- 971 gift cards in $25 or $50 increments were distributed
- Safety/Sanitation: touchless fixtures for bathrooms, purchase of PPE supplies, steam cleaner, disinfectant sprayers, and deep cleaning services – approximately $200,000
- Replaced all campus HVAC units for higher quality air exchanger/filtration systems – approximately $825,000
- $160,000 for vaccine incentives – 82% vaccination rate for CCCC employees and estimated 75% for students (GED students and Head Start employees/parents are included)
- Mental Health Services via telemedicine - $180,000

CCCC students, faculty, and staff has shown tremendous perseverance and resiliency. The COVID-19 relief funding helped CCCC to remain open and to make the transition to distance education a seamless and positive experience as well as assuring a safe teaching and learning environment.

The College continues to do its very best for student success under the ongoing pandemic conditions, as well as being a very rural, isolated campus located on an Indian reservation. CCCCs summer enrollment for 2021 was tripled (129 students) from the previous summer and fall 2021 (as well as spring 2022) enrollment of 248 students was the highest fall enrollment in five years.

CCCC’s student persistence rate for all students remains steady at 49% and the overall retention rate actually improved from 29% (fall 2019 to fall 2020) to 41% (fall 2020 to fall 2021). Student needs are being met on multiple levels and the COVID-19 relief funding has made that possible.

Lilly Hinton. Things are going pretty well. COVID-19 gave my college journey a whole new way to learn, through Zoom. I had some classes at the College but mostly through Zoom. The College provides so much help if you need it - help with homework, gifts cards to get gas or groceries, and even help with bills.

Lorinda Leben. I am very pleased where I’m at with my education. I didn’t have to miss a beat with the support CCCC has provided. COVID-19 has certainly put an underlying stress on life in general. I feel confident our College is making the safest choices for everyone. It is one place I can be sure is following CDC guidelines.
The ongoing pandemic has exacerbated the digital divide and underscored the lack of broadband access across Indian Country. To address these deficiencies that could leave Indian Country – and AI/AN students – behind the rest of the U.S. for generations, Congress must act to establish a permanent **TCU IT Service Fund within the USDA-Rural Utilities Service Program**. An annual $40 million set-aside for TCUs, which are 1994 land-grant institutions served by USDA, would help cover rapidly increasing network, connectivity, and equipment costs, maintenance, infrastructure expansion, and IT staffing.

Congress recognized this need in the pandemic and attempted to provide support to TCUs by including them in the new **NTIA Tribal Connectivity Broadband program**. Unfortunately, due to NTIA's design of the program, to date, not even one TCU has been awarded direct grants.

### CCCC technology upgrades to accommodate remote access and online learning between March 2020 to Spring 2022:

- Provided 410 laptops and 90 printers to students for close to $260,000
- Provided 47 laptops and 20 printers to faculty/staff for a little over $110,000
- Spent approximately $8,000 for ‘Hot Spots’ on the reservation
- License for ZOOM access doubled to $4,000/year
- Campus hardware updates, including servers, is approximately $350,000. Upgrading the internal main campus system to 100Gbps backbone with 40 Gbps to each client switches and the two outside internet access points for the east and west parking lots is the ongoing work being done for the updates.
- Current monthly internet expense is $2,010 for 100 Mbps

External bandwidth continues to be a challenge – the 100 Mbps link to CCCCs internet provider is not adequate and the College has moved multiple public facing servers into the Cloud to save bandwidth. The cost to make the upgrade/change to the current bandwidth is a challenge as well as covering the expense in the future.

### CCCCs Unmet Facility Needs

CCCC has had student housing in its strategic plan for over 15 years. The wait list for housing for the Spirit Lake Dakota reservation has anywhere from 100-300 families needing homes that are built to provide warmth and comfort for North Dakota’s winter weather. Each semester, CCCC tries to determine if any student is homeless and generally, 3-5 students are living in their car or staying with relatives. Student housing for CCCC would impact student enrollment. CCCC would like to establish a ‘tiny houses’ project to address student housing needs that utilizes the College's Advanced Manufacturing and Construction/Trades programs to design and build.

The challenge is that there is no (or very limited) construction funds for tribal colleges and universities. CCCC has the following unmet construction and rehab projects that have been pending:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student/Faculty Tiny Houses (12 units)</td>
<td>$1,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for the Cultural Arts</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus landscaping &amp; sidewalks</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Grant shop/garden workshop/classroom/lab</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDL semi bay/classroom/lab and parking lot</td>
<td>$1,485,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Café area and library expansion/rehab</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
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</table>