



# W I I N D A M A A G E

College Newsletter • Winter 2016





# LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE

*Gaa' Ozishwaajimekaag Gabe-gikendaasoowigamis*

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Mission: Leech Lake Tribal College provides quality higher education grounded in Anishinaabe values.

Vision: To be recognized as a center of academic excellence that advances the Anishinaabe world view and empowers life-long learners who are fully engaged citizens, stewards, and leaders.

The *Wiindamaage* newsletter is a publication highlighting events, activities and news of the Leech Lake Tribal College and associated organizations. The Leech Lake Tribal College provides accredited higher education grounded in Anishinaabe values to the Leech Lake Community and surrounding areas.

The goal of the publication is to provide students and community with information and insight to the development of college.

## LLTC is a Member of These Organizations



## Regional Accreditation By



Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools  
30 North La Salle Street, Suite 2400  
Chicago, IL 60602-2504  
(800) 621-7440  
WWW.NCAHLC.ORG



## Student Senate 2015-2016

This year's student senate is the largest student governing body in LLTC's history. These individuals have been elected to represent the student body. Congratulations to the following members:

Michael Bismarck

Cody Goggeley

Kristina Isham

Vincent Morris

Mary Jane Bobolink

Mary Cross

Donald Libby

Kelly Williams

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"The Wife Stealer"  
By Brian K. Dow

## From the President's Desk

Boozhoo Friends and Family,

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a public presentation on manoomin (wild rice) by three of our LLTC students. As I observed the professional demeanor and listened to the articulate presentations of Michelle Marion, Thea Ogema, and Kelli Carmean, I had cause to reflect, once again, upon the positive impact that tribal colleges continue to have—not only in American Indian communities, but throughout the nation.

Prior to the establishment of the first tribal college in 1968, for example, very few reservation Indians were able to obtain post-secondary education—and even today, according to our entering-student survey, some 80% of LLTC students would not be able to attend college if there were no tribal college on the Leech Lake Reservation.

Because LLTC exists, however, young Native scholars have opportunity to earn a two-year degree that readily transfers to other accredited institutions; they are invited to give presentations at national workshops and conferences; they are conducting hands-on research in STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) fields; and they are traveling to national conferences where they are able to share their culture and exchange ideas with hundreds of other American Indian college students.

A few days ago, one of our young students stopped by my office to chat. We talked about basketball, his love for Leech Lake Tribal College, potential summer internships, and his life goals. Like many of our students, Bryce earns excellent grades, is an outstanding leader, and upon graduating from LLTC, plans to continue his education in preparation for a career as an astrophysicist.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to be part of our tribal college family and for the privilege of working with students like Michelle, Thea, Kelli, and Bryce, as well as with a phenomenal faculty and staff. Without your prayers, moral support, and donations, however, LLTC could not exist, and I am deeply sincere when I say, "Chi miigwech!" (Thank you so much!).

Dr. Ginny Carney



Dr. Ginny Carney  
Interim President

## Presidential Search

The search for the a new president has begun, and the Board of Trustees approved the formation of a Search Committee. Dr. Ginny Carney will serve as Interim President throughout the search and transition process. Visit our website for up-to-date information and other college related activities.



"The Wife Stealer" by Brian K. Dow

The painting illustrates a warrior pointing to the direction of his prize. The colors represent the elements of the Earth. Each color has a specific meaning and representation. The colors that stand out the most are the oranges and yellows. They represent the sun as it fades away in the distance. The creative process started as a sketch which transformed into the cubism expression of traditional native art.

### About The Artist

Brian's journey began two years ago, when he wanted a way to improve himself for the sake of his family. He started a goal to create a children's picture book, which he gave himself five years time to complete. Working on the drawings and illustrations, he knew he needed more training to help develop his skills. His journey for improvement led him to LLTC, where he excelled in absorbing the skills and techniques provided by artist practitioners. He credits Dewey Goodwin for helping him learn new techniques and methods, which he now uses to express himself more effectively.

"I always knew that I had the ability to express myself in these mediums, but it really came to light with the help and environment LLTC has provided," said Brian.

In the past two years, he has sold almost a dozen pieces to clients across the United States and Canada. He received local recognition, when he was named "artist of the month" by Dunn Bros. Coffee. Brian also participates in helping children discover their artistic side. He recently held an art show at Lincoln Elementary School using his artwork as a template for them to create their own work of art.

Brian is a native of Ponemah, MN and an enrolled member of the Red Lake Nation. He is a first year student at LLTC and is enrolled in the liberal arts program. He and his significant other of 14 years have four girls, ages 12, 11, 9, and 6, residing in Bemidji, Minnesota.

If you want to know more about his work, please contact him via email at [brdow@students.lltc.edu](mailto:brdow@students.lltc.edu)

# Anishinaabe World View

## The Meaning of the Leech Lake Tribal College Logo

Larry P. Aitken



**Yellow Turtle**  
The turtle represents core memories.  
Yellow represents the Eastern spiritual cardinal area of the universe; new day, new information, new life, new birth, new knowledge and new friends.

**Red Pipe**  
The pipe represents the sacred tool of connectivity.  
Red represents the Western door of the universe. Its gift is sadness and sorrow.



**White**  
Represents cleansing and purification.

**Green and Blue**  
Represents Mother Earth and the four orders: soil, plants, animals, and humans. The upper worlds including the Creator's world, star world, sun and moon world, and Earth world, are represented in these colors.

**Black**  
Represents the spirit of the South, which gives us the gift of healing and community harmony.

The Leech Lake Tribal College logo was created by Bezhigoogahbow, Larry P. Aitken. He used the symbols and colors of the Anishinaabe people to represent the college's unique cultural values in education. Each of the components within the logo has a meaning, to be used as a vision to guide the College for the benefit of the Leech Lake people and members of surrounding communities.

## LLTC Makes Education Funding Affordable

Leech Lake Tribal College participates in federal aid programs. Eligible students can receive federal and state grants, as well as scholarship opportunities. The graph below indicates the annual monetary aid for students for the past three years deriving from all sources. To limit student debt, the college does not participate in a Federal Loan program. This has helped our graduates emerge from their first two years of college nearly debt free.

Students from LLTC receive financial assistance from the following organizations and programs:

### Funding Sources:

- Federal PELL Grant
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Minnesota State Grant
- Minnesota Work-Study
- Minnesota State Post-Secondary Child Care Grant
- American Indian Scholarship Fund
- Veteran Benefits

### Tribally Enrolled Member Education Support (2015-2016) \*Each tribe will vary, see own tribal office for details.

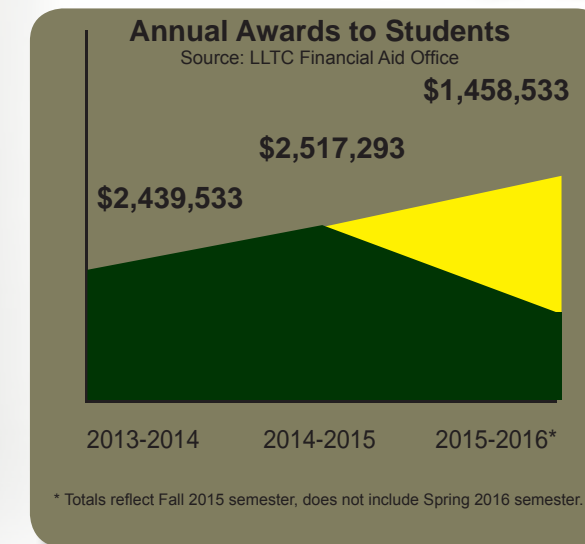
- Bad River
- Cheyenne
- Ho-Chunk
- Mille Lacs
- Prairie Island
- Reno Nevada Indian Colony
- Red Lake
- White Earth
- Bois Forte
- Leech Lake

### Institutional Scholarships:

- Minnesota Indian Scholarship
- American Indian College Fund Scholarship
- Blandin Foundation
- Paul Bunyan Communications Scholarship
- Other Independent Scholarship Programs

### Donor Sponsored Scholarship:

- Benny Tonce Memorial Scholarship
- Clem Nason Memorial Scholarship
- Don and Priscilla Day Scholarship
- Genawenjigejig Scholarship Fund
- Leann Dick Memorial Scholarship
- Mishtadikosh Scholarship Fund
- Susan Helen Tibbetts Sjolund Scholarship



## Student College Funding

LLTC provides opportunities to support all students. The College annual awards to students has increased in the past three years, awarding over \$2.4 million in aid to our students. This financial support helps alleviate the stress imposed on the students, as well as their families.

Accredited education has never been more affordable. For more information, please contact our Financial Aid Office.

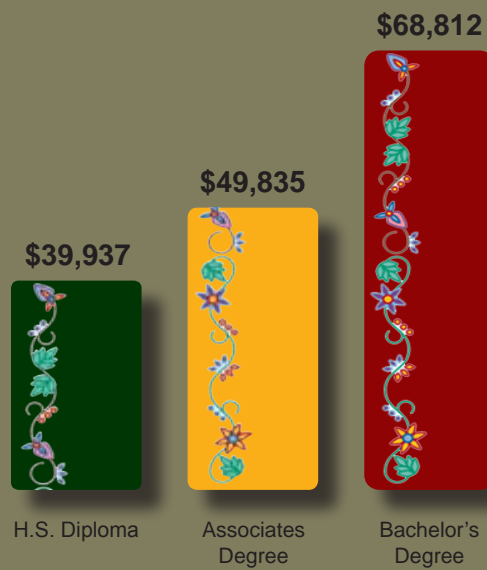


## The Fact About Education

Every individual has skills and attributes that can make them great employees. However, employers do not know every applicant. Therefore, accomplishments and experiences are used as a standard to gauge the level of ability and suitability for employment.

### Average Yearly Earnings

Source: US Census Bureau



### Increase Your Earning Potential

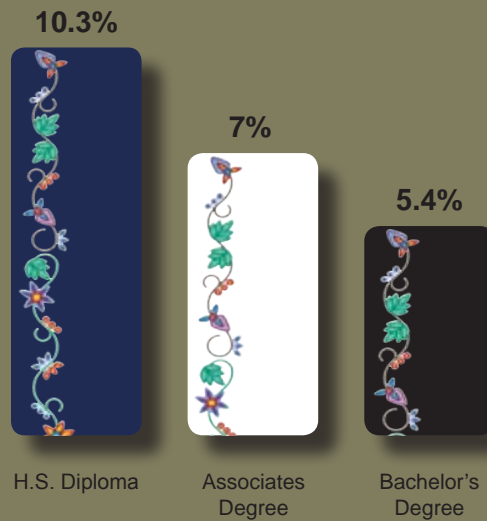
Post-secondary education is very important to long-term income earning potential. The U.S. Census Bureau indicates an increase of over \$10,000 per year between a high school diploma and an associates degree. The difference between an associate degree and bachelor's is around \$20,000 per year, nationally.

Similar trends can also be observed within the state of Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Economic Development data shows an increase in earnings throughout various academic levels.

### Unemployment Rates of Graduates

(2010 Unemployment Rate Age 25 and Older)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



### Less Likely to Be Unemployed

College graduates are less likely to be unemployed. Graduates have proven credentials separating them from those who have not completed the necessary coursework.

Employers seek out the best talents for their business. College graduates are more likely to have increased employment opportunities due to their desirability over other applicants.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 7% of associate degree recipients are unemployed and 5.4% of bachelor's degree recipients are unemployed.

A college degree essentially increases employment outlook and security.



## Enrollment Statistics

Leech Lake Campus and Red Lake Campus

The following is sample data collected from campuses located in Cass Lake, MN and Red Lake, MN.

### Total Enrollment

This year's total enrollment is 348 students (255 full-time, 33 part-time) combining the LLTC campus and Red Lake locations. The gender difference is quite large, with males making up 34% of the student population and females 66%.

RedLakeNationCollegestudentsareabsorbedintoLLTC'sreportingasLLTCis the administrator of the RLNC accreditation process.

34% Male

66% Female

Total Enrollment = 348

Part-Time = 93

Full-Time = 255

### Education Inclusion

The student body of LLTC consists of individual learners from various backgrounds. Though the majority of students are considered Native Americans enrolled in many different tribes throughout the US, there are non-Native learners on campus as well. The College provides educational opportunities to all learners, regardless of ethnicity or tribal affiliation.

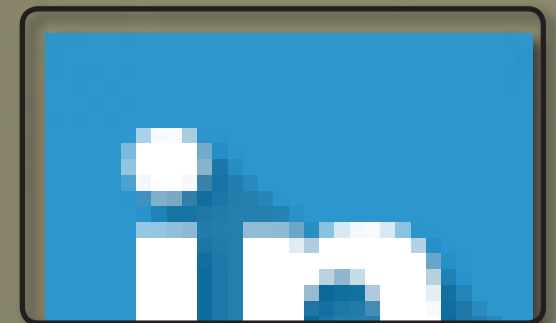
### Ethnicity



### Life-Long Learning

The definition of a "traditional" college student is changing as people are seeking to improve their education. The majority of enrolled students are between the ages of 18 - 30 years of age. However, students between 31 and 50 plus years make up a significant part of the student body.

### Age Range





## In The Beginning

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe established Leech Lake Tribal College by Tribal Resolution in July 1990. For two years, courses were offered in extension from the University of Minnesota at Duluth, Bemidji State University, Itasca and Brainerd Community Colleges.

In the fall quarter of 1992, LLTC had its first graduate of the Associate of Arts program in Anishinaabe Language and Culture. The college was accredited as a post-secondary Vocational School in 1993. In 1994, the college was accorded status as a Land Grant Institution by the United States Congress. The college moved classrooms and administration to the former Cass Lake High School building in the fall of 1994, resulting in an increased student enrollment of 196. These students were enrolled in two-year Associate of Arts transfer degree programs, two-year technical programs leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree, or in one-year vocational programs. In 1994, seventeen graduates completed their Associate of Arts degrees and Associate of Applied Science degrees. By the spring of 1995, the number of graduates had increased to twenty-four.

Leech Lake Tribal College was awarded candidacy status with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association in 2002 for its associate degree programs, and continued candidacy in 2004. Full accreditation status was granted on September 26, 2006 for the accreditation period of ten years, with no focus visits required.

Today, Leech Lake Tribal College (including the Red Lake Campus) includes approximately 70 faculty, staff, administrators, and 350 students. Most of our students come from the Leech Lake and Red Lake Reservations. Approximately 5% of the student population are non-Indian. Regardless of ethnicity and backgrounds, the college is inclusive to people from all walks of life.

LLTC is proud to offer accredited quality education grounded in Anishinaabe values to the communities of Leech Lake and surrounding areas.



Name: Leech Lake Tribal College  
 Established: 1990  
 Founder: Larry P. Aitken  
 President: Dr. Ginny Carney (2015)  
 Type: Two Year / Public Institution  
 Delivery: On-Campus, Distance Learning and On-Line

Degree Offered: Associates, Diplomas and Certificates  
 Accreditation: Higher Learning Commission of North Central Associate of Colleges and Schools

Program Areas: Indigenous Leadership, Business Management, Integrated Residential Builder, Law Enforcement, Liberal Education, Construction Trades, Early Childhood Development, Childhood Development Associate and Natural Sciences.

Today, there are 34 fully accredited tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) located on or near Indian reservations across the United States, providing higher education access to Native and rural students.

TCUs receive federal funding as a result of the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978, which authorized the federal government to assist community colleges on reservations and controlled by the tribes. At the time of legislation TCUs had been in existence for nine years.

The American Indian College Fund was founded in 1989 to support Native American student scholarships and to provide additional funding for the TCUs.

Most tribal colleges receive no Indian gaming or state tax revenues. In 1994, Congress provided Land Grant status to tribal colleges and universities in U.S. agricultural legislation, providing equity funding, access to research and extension programs, and other federal infrastructure grants and loans.

Despite federal recognition, funding, and the progress of Indian education, TCUs remain the most poorly funded higher education institutions in the country. In order to keep higher education affordable, TCUs keep tuition low for their students. The average cost of attendance at a TCU in 2013-14 was approximately \$14,168 per year (including room, board, books, and tuition averaged across institutions).

TCUs are accredited and must meet the same academic standards as other accredited colleges and universities.

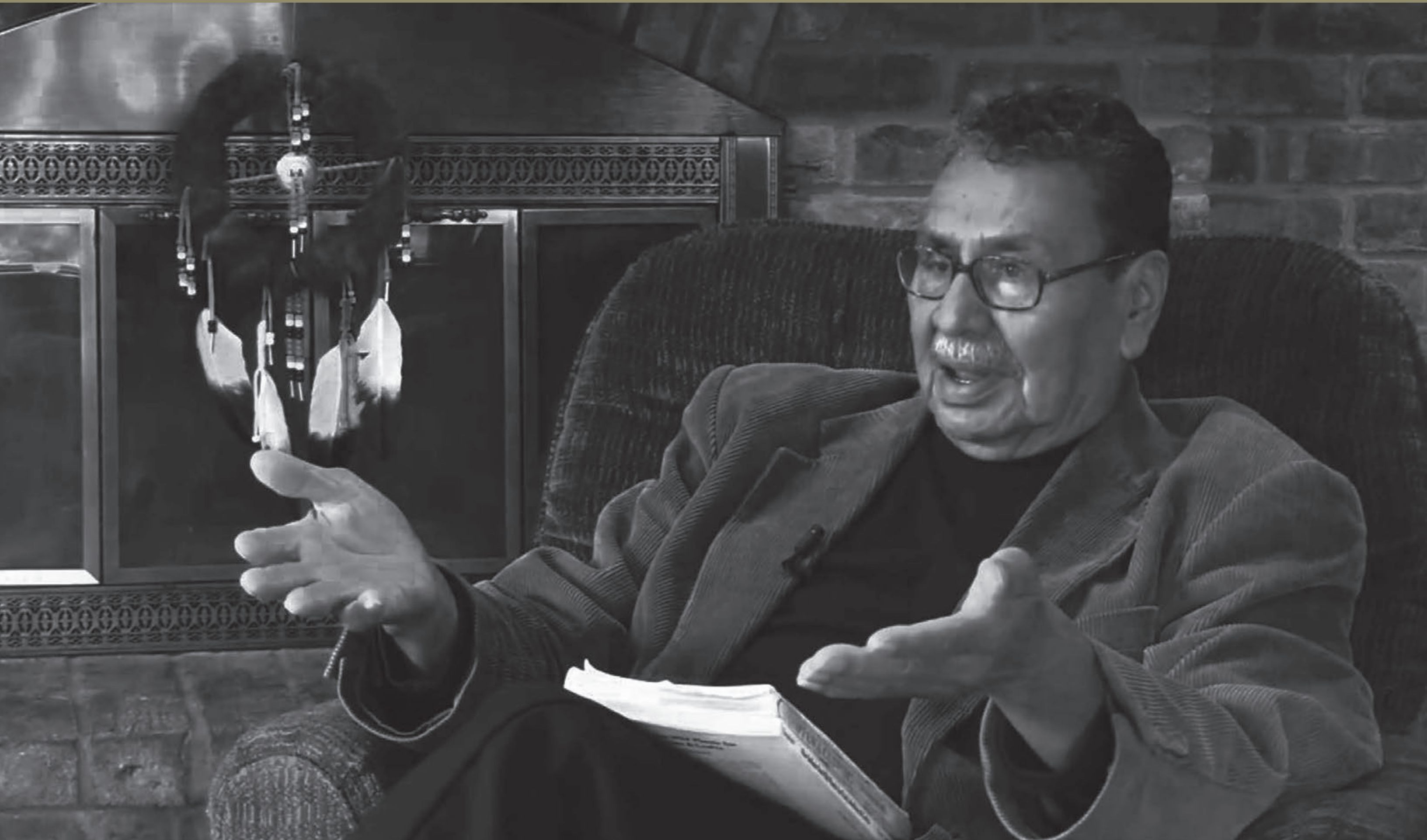
TCUs promote academic achievement, cultural identity, and lift students out of poverty, creating economic and social change in Native and rural communities.

TCUs provide necessary services to American Indian communities, such as diabetes education and prevention, HIV education, daycare and health centers, libraries, computer centers, Indigenous research, language preservation classes, community activities, and lifelong learning programs.

Extracted from The American Indian College Fund, TCU Time line: A Modern History Timeline of Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). Retrieved from [www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org)

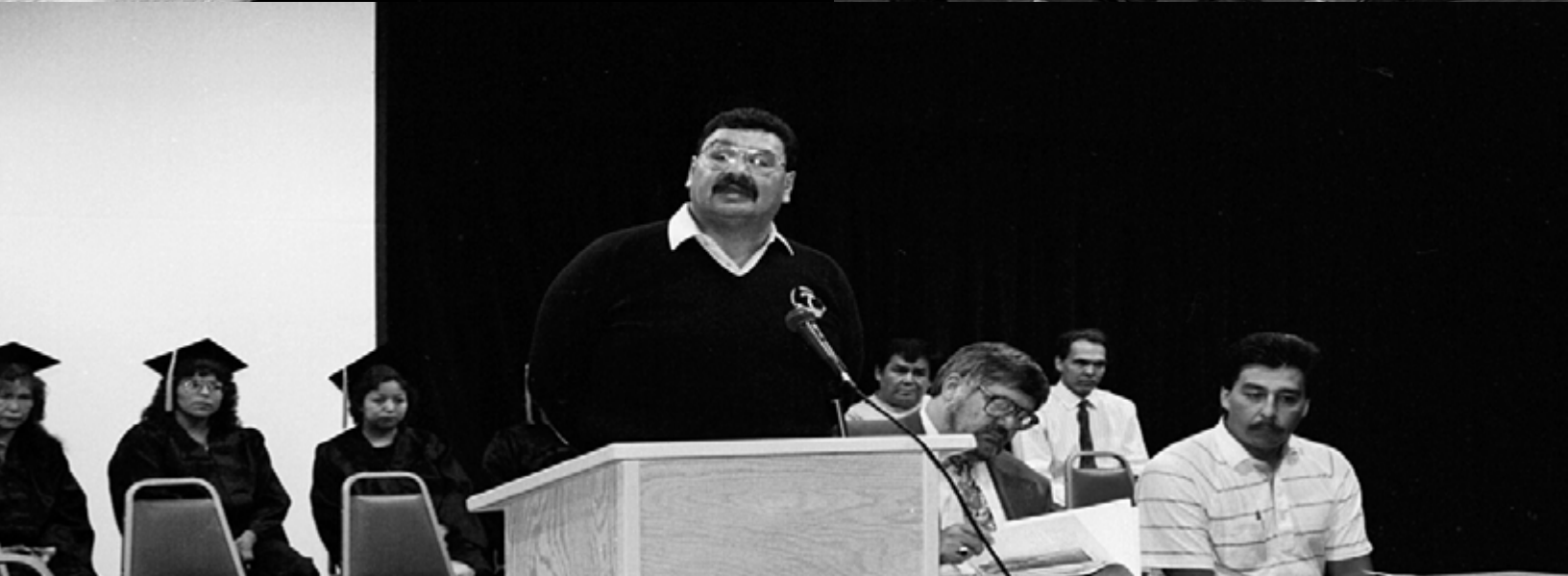
L A R R Y P . A I T K E N

B E Z H I G O O G A H B O W



F O U N D E R

F I R S T P R E S I D E N T



.....

# ◆◆◆ Bezhigoogahbow ◆◆◆

.....

It began as one man's vision to take care of his people: to have his own people protect and serve the communities in which they lived. Twenty-five years later, what started as a vision has transformed into a tangible institution of pride for many of the Leech Lake Ojibwe people. Leech Lake Tribal College continues to grow and provide access to accredited education for members of the community.

By 1990, the tribal college movement was well underway across tribal nations throughout the United States. Larry P. Aitken, who brought about the momentum for Leech Lake to establish its own college. As founder and first president, his vision of the college derived from surrounding issues involving inadequacy of protection for peoples living on reservation lands. It was this need that sparked the movement to train and educate peace officers to serve the communities of the reservation. He coined the term, "Brown faces in blue uniforms" as a description of Leech Lake peace officers. This was not meant as derogatory or insensitive; it was descriptive declaration of self-reliance for the Band to police themselves.

As he walks down the hallway of Oak Hall, the elder is on his way to pass down knowledge to those willing to receive it. Bezhigoogahbow – "the man who stands alone" – has been an educator for most his life. At the prime age of 71, he is determined to ensure that students understand historical and cultural influences affecting the Indigenous peoples today. He can often be observed strolling to his classroom to prepare for upcoming lectures. Occasionally, he stops to visit with students and enlighten them with past stories of the original peoples. His life experiences have brought him full circle. He has returned to the college he founded to finish his elder years as a teacher. His gentle demeanor commands respect due to the wealth of knowledge accumulated from many years of experience. With a background as an author, educated in the fields of psychology and education, LLTC is richly blessed to have him

on campus.

Perhaps the most powerful and lasting gift Bezhigoogahbow has given to the community can be described as empowering the members of the community to better themselves through education – based on their own efforts and commitments. The college is a symbol of opportunity for people who do not feel the need or desire to leave their homeland.

The actions of those before us contribute to who we are today, and our actions of today contribute to future generations. The real legacy is determined by those of future generations, looking back to the things we've done. When our children and grandchildren, and (their grandchildren) look back at this time in history. They will see the gradual transformation of the people. These children will observe how, from humble beginnings, a small college has come to be the pride of the Leech Lake people. People will see how the college has helped transform the people to become educated, respected, and empowered, taking on challenges imposed on them and their communities. It is the future generations who will reap the benefits from actions taken by their forefathers.

Larry's legacy will not be defined by an article in a newsletter, in a name on a building, a scholarship established in his honor, nor even recognitions and numerous awards he has received over the years. Larry's legacy will be determined by the impact he has had on his family, friends, community, and the Anishinaabe Nation as a whole.

What Larry P. Aitken began 25 years ago will outlast the current generation. His vision many years ago will inspire future generations to have visions of their own - to do more, to be relentless, to preserve, to educate - to preserve the culture of the original peoples.

"You think of servant leadership and the motto goes all the way back to our ancestors and what we can do to serve our people... That's what Bezhigoogahbow has demonstrated and modeled throughout his life here at Leech Lake."

- Vikki Howard, BOT Chair



*Gikinoo'amaagewikwe*

# Elaine Fleming

Gekinoo'amoonangig nakweshkawasdaanig

## *Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Obimaajitoon*

As the next generation of students embark on their academic journey at LLTC, awaiting them is the warm welcoming smile of instructor Elaine Fleming. She is an elder, teacher, preserver of culture, and the keeper of her family. Her dedication to teaching students from all walks of life has made her one of the most influential and liked persons on campus.

Elaine's passion derives from the need to ensure students are able to better themselves through education, becoming successful in what they desire to achieve. As an Army veteran, she served ten years as a mechanic, para-trooper, and an officer. Perhaps these experiences are the reason why she pushes and expects a lot from her students. In her lectures, she speaks with passion and commitment. She is very involved in the community and encourages her students to take ownership and invest in their wellbeing.

Elaine highly values educating the Leech Lake community and other stakeholders in the Anishinaabe culture. She can be seen out in the various communities participating in cultural events,

surrounded by diverse groups of people. Elaine is a community organizer and event planner who has brought awareness of various issues impacting the reservation to a much wider audience.

Elaine is a true asset in the landscape of the college's vision. She is the embodiment of how education by tribal colleges are supposed to be; a personal academic environment rich in cultural heritage and values.

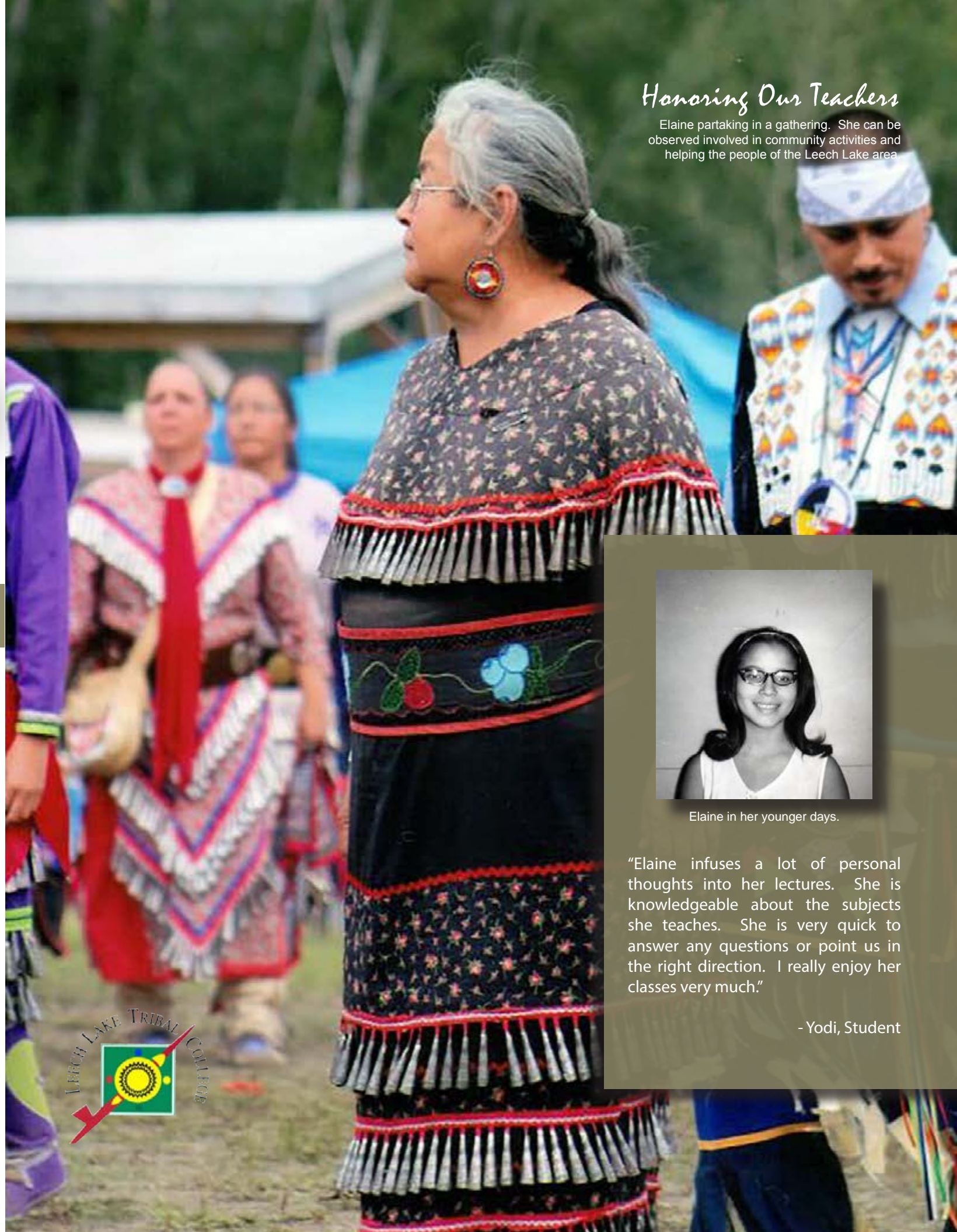
Elaine embodies the true meaning of preserving our culture. Through education and personal connections with her students, Elaine is a respected and valued role model and teacher.

The Leech Lake Tribal College is proud to have Elaine Fleming as a member of the faculty. When you're on campus, take time to say "Boozhoo!" You will get a warm smile and "Boozhoo" in return.

She is the preserver of culture.

## *Honoring Our Teachers*

Elaine partaking in a gathering. She can be observed involved in community activities and helping the people of the Leech Lake area



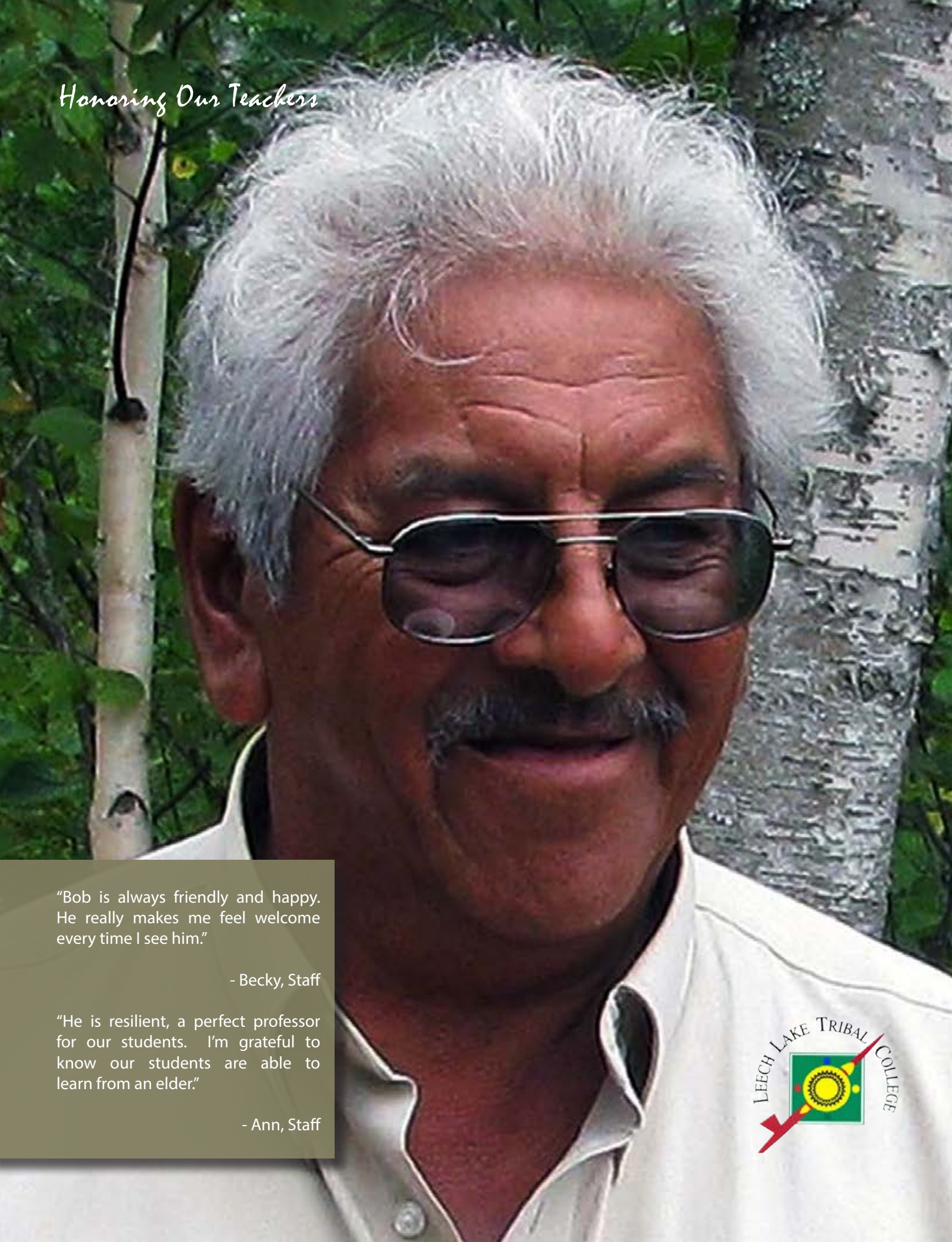
Elaine in her younger days.

"Elaine infuses a lot of personal thoughts into her lectures. She is knowledgeable about the subjects she teaches. She is very quick to answer any questions or point us in the right direction. I really enjoy her classes very much."

- Yodi, Student



*Honoring Our Teachers*



"Bob is always friendly and happy. He really makes me feel welcome every time I see him."

- Becky, Staff

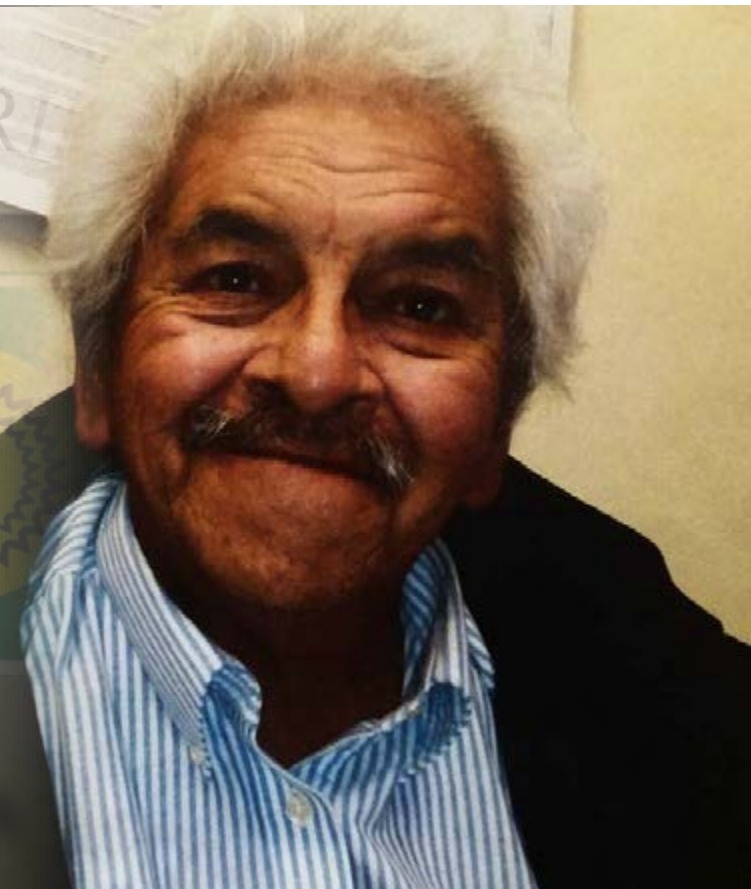
"He is resilient, a perfect professor for our students. I'm grateful to know our students are able to learn from an elder."

- Ann, Staff



*Gikinoo'amaagewinini*

# Bob Jourdain



Gekinoo'amoonangig nakweshkawaadaanig

## *Anishinaabemowin Obimaajitoon*

The language of the people is important to the college's goal of preserving culture through education. Language is a distinct factor in describing a culture. Without language, significant amounts of vital information are lost. Losing language leads to a loss of identity, which is especially true with an oratory culture.

The work of Bob Jourdain serves more than academic purposes. Teaching the language, Ojibwemowin, to younger generations creates language learners so they too can pass it on to their children.

Those who have the pleasure of meeting Bob can attest to his delightful attitude and calm demeanor. The way he teaches his classes, through humor and understanding, allows his students to grasp the subject more easily. Bob knows it takes time to fully comprehend the language, because for many, Ojibwemowin is their secondary language.

Bob has committed large amounts of his life to the college and its students. His commitment has resulted in the preservation of the

language, inspiring students to take it upon themselves to begin immersion language programs and cultural teachings at area reservation schools.

He is the product of the "boarding school" era, where many were forced to assimilate and forget their own language and culture. Bob has endured and made it his life mission to pass on the language; to teach the language to any person who will receive the gift regardless of background.

Bob's past and the language's future is the reason why he walks the halls of LLTC. It is the reason why, despite health complications, he continues to teach Ojibwemowin.

He is humble, kind, caring, and loves the true mission of the college.

He is a beloved elder.



*Gikinoo'amaagewinini*

TRIBAL

COLLEGE

Kelly  
N i p p

Gekinoo'amoonangig nakweshkawaadaanig

*Asigibii'igewin Obimaajitaan*

The phrase, "I work to live, rather than living to work," can best summarize Kelly Nipp's approach to life and his teaching methods. Kelly is an instructor who relates textbook materials to real-life applications.

Students who have had the pleasure of attending Kelly's lectures can confirm the passion and commitment he has to the subject area of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Kelly has a "realist" view on life and how every action has a reaction. He teaches his students the philosophy of life through various subjects, a sign of a teacher who has a holistic approach. Using the subject matter to inspire and provoke critical thinking to have real impact on the student's every lives is his goal.

Simple things, such as balancing a checkbook or maintaining personal finance are discussed in math classes because of its relevancy. Kelly teaches beyond the requirements.

Kelly is a mentor to students in and out of the classroom, offering

advice and knowledge to anyone. Kelly has an approachable presence and can be heard half-way down the halls discussing one scenario or another.

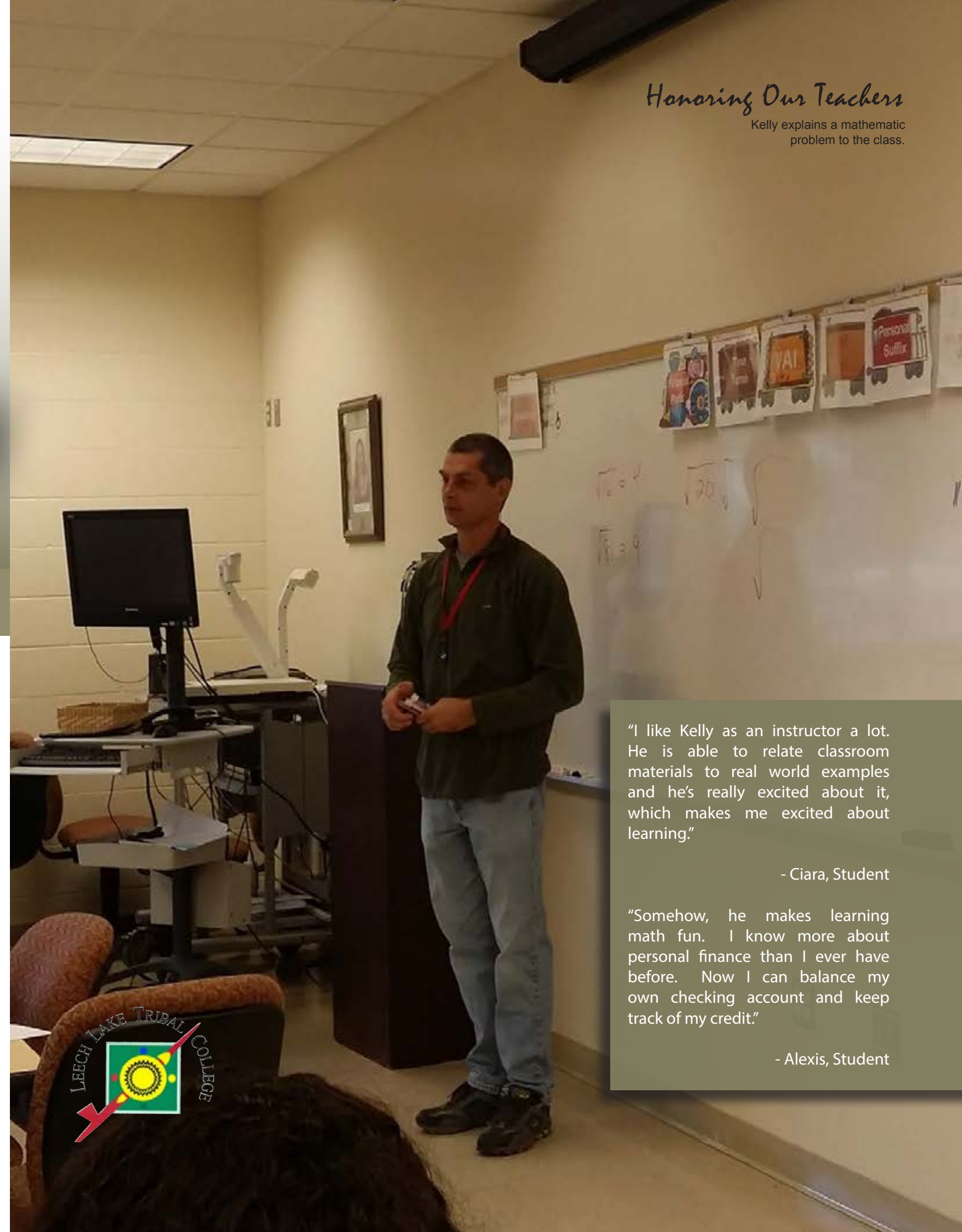
Whether a freshman or a sophomore, strong or weak in subject matter, Kelly makes time to work with students in need. Kelly helps his students conquer subjects, rather than just learning enough to pass.

What Kelly Nipp means to the college is simply indescribable. His commitment to the college has been unwavering. Kelly's skill sets could of taken him anywhere, but he chose to stay with the college. This shows the investment he has for the students He is an genuine asset to the college and the community.

He is a special teacher of knowledge.

*Honoring Our Teachers*

Kelly explains a mathematic problem to the class.



"I like Kelly as an instructor a lot. He is able to relate classroom materials to real world examples and he's really excited about it, which makes me excited about learning."  
- Ciara, Student

"Somehow, he makes learning math fun. I know more about personal finance than I ever have before. Now I can balance my own checking account and keep track of my credit."  
- Alexis, Student

### Honoring Our Teachers

Dewey Goodwin in his younger years posing as a model for a culture magazine. *Ojibwe Arts and Culture*



"Dewey is a very passionate and insightful teacher. I enjoy his class because he allows me to express myself as he teaches me the techniques to do so."

- Leah, Student

"The smell of sage in the morning fills the room and provides a therapeutic healing setting where I can take my mind off the troubles in my life. He connects our culture with art."

- Sheila, Student

"I really appreciate how he is able to be hands-on with me when I am unable to do certain things. He takes his time to teach me until I am able to do it myself."

- Danielle, Student

### Gikinoo'amaagewinini

# Dewey Goodwin

## Gekinoo'amoonangig nakweshkawaadaanig

### Ozhichigewin Obimaajitaan

The college has seen much growth in its 25-year history. Dewey Goodwin has seen the winds of change as the college transformed from offering courses in a minimalistic setting to where it is now today, a state-of-the-art facility.

An artist for most of his life and teacher throughout the college's existence, Dewey believes art is a representation of beauty and strength to the Anishinaabe people. He instills this philosophy in his students at LLTC delivered through multiple art classes, whether it is pottery, beading, leather-work, crafting, carving, painting, drawing. Dewey's main goal is to help students develop work ethic by starting a project and following it through to the end.

It is a holistic approach, encompassing all the teachings offered by the tribal college. "Art is holistic in everything we do, it is part of who we are," said Mr. Goodwin. When

students learn about science, language, cultural history, those areas are connected with art.

"There is a science to the art of leather-work, a cultural perspective to beading design and symbolism; and language are associated in our activities and everything we do," said Mr. Goodwin.

The strife over reservation problems made it difficult for Mr. Goodwin in his younger years. An early on lover of the arts, he found it difficult to find indigenous art programs where he could express himself in a cultural-artistic way. He made a decision to pursue his education by first earning his GED, then went on to receive a degree from the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Dewey later returned to his homeland and began to teach and create artwork representative of the Anishinaabe culture.

Today, Mr. Goodwin serves as member of the faculty. Part of the joy he experiences, is seeing students develop and grow more confident in their crafts and life in general.

"I love being able to provide a place where our people can come and express themselves and become immersed into our culture artistically."

Mr. Goodwin continues to practice his craft as he will be the featured artist at the University of South Dakota: Vermilion Art Show. The university has invited Mr. Goodwin to offer his art expertise in sculpting.

The Leech Lake Tribal College appreciates and is honored to have Dewey Goodwin as a member of the college family.





*Gikinoo'amaagewinini*

# Steve Hagenah

Gekinoo'amoonangig nakweshkawaadaanig

*Inaakonigewin Obimaajitoon*

The road to inspire, captivate and encourage students to succeed in life can be long and difficult. Steve Hagenah keeps this all in mind as he motivates students to follow their dreams at LLTC.

Starting out as an adjunct instructor, Steve became a full-time faculty member and has led one of the most successful programs at LLTC. The majority of his program graduates enter the workforce in various public service areas, while some have pursued higher-education in criminal justice, law, and other related fields.

As a long-time teacher at the college, Steve has developed a straight-forward, yet considerate persona. He is deeply invested in the Law Enforcement program and wishes to leave a legacy when he retires.

It was Steve who first put the LLTC Law Enforcement program on the map, building the program with the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) guidelines.

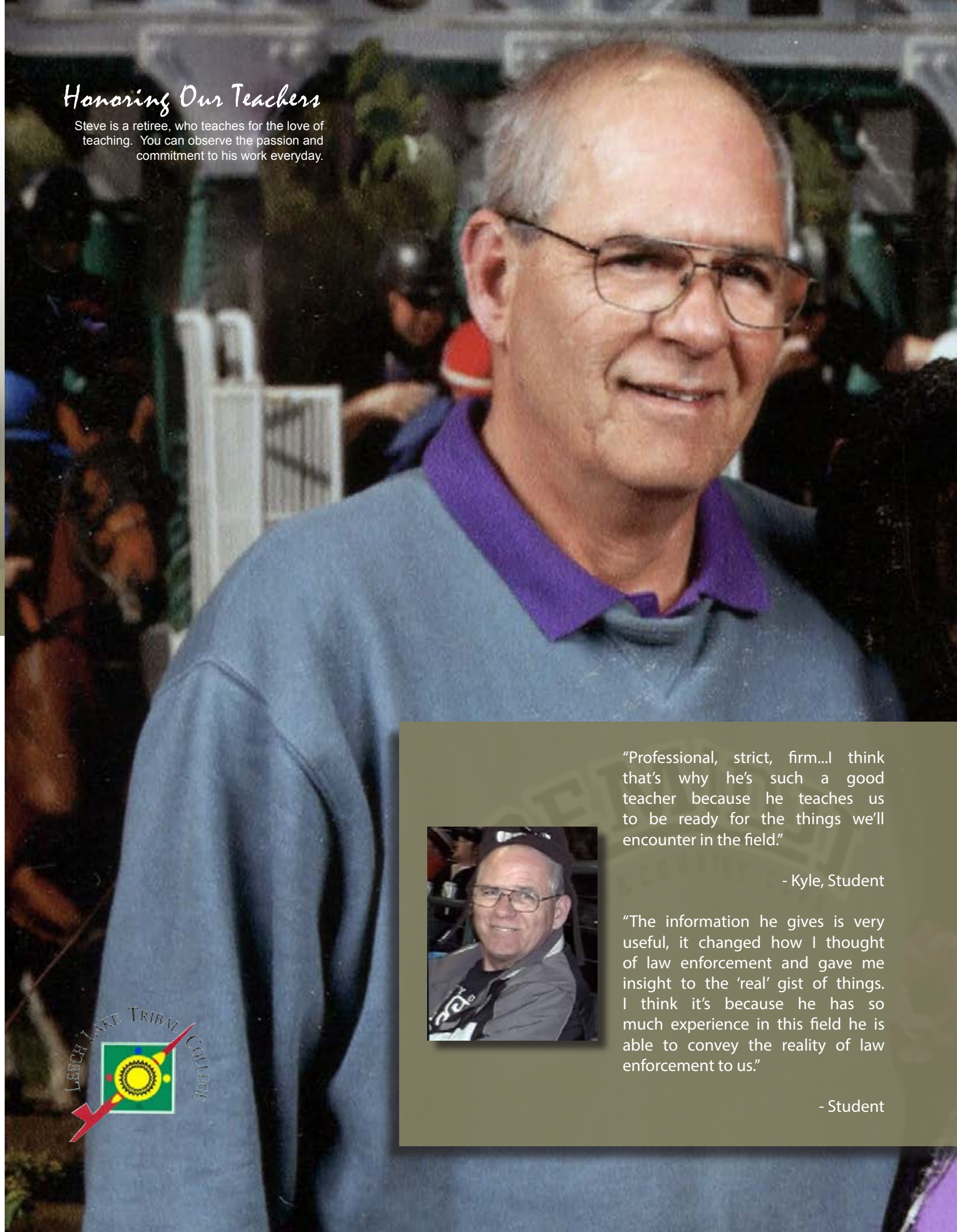
Steve's work fulfills the college's purpose, by training community members to police themselves. Today, his program lays the foundation for those who seek to contribute to their communities in public service.

Steve's unrelenting spirit to encourage and prepare future protectors of the community has made Steve an asset to the college. Everyday is a gift, as he inspires future generations to achieve their goals and become productive members of their communities.

He is our teacher of strength, protection, and will.

## Honoring Our Teachers

Steve is a retiree, who teaches for the love of teaching. You can observe the passion and commitment to his work everyday.



"Professional, strict, firm...I think that's why he's such a good teacher because he teaches us to be ready for the things we'll encounter in the field."

- Kyle, Student

"The information he gives is very useful, it changed how I thought of law enforcement and gave me insight to the 'real' gist of things. I think it's because he has so much experience in this field he is able to convey the reality of law enforcement to us."

- Student

# W a a s e g a a b a w i i k

## *Woman Standing By The Light*

The Leech Lake Tribal College would like to introduce you to Waaseygabowiik as this month's student highlight. A 2015 graduate of Osseo High School, Ms. Ciara Fineday is a freshman enrolled in the liberal arts program with S.T.E.M. emphasis here at Leech Lake Tribal College.

She was drawn to LLTC for many reasons, but the main deciding factor was her family. Even though she lived in Brooklyn Park most of her life, she spent her summers with family living in the Leech Lake area. LLTC makes it possible for her to be closer to her loved ones. The college's unique culture provides a family-friendly environment, contrasting the impersonal atmosphere she experienced in a metropolitan area school. Her favorite class is pre-calculus, because she enjoys mathematics and the teaching style of instructor, Kelly Nipp. She says he has made the learning experience more engaging by relating classroom materials to real world situations. Her academic goals are to earn her associate degree, transfer to a bachelor's degree program in Biological Science and continue on to a master's program in Forensic Pathology.

A contributing factor to her decision to attend LLTC was to also be immersed in her culture. Ciara indicated growing up in the metro area, she was one of a handful of Indigenous students in her school. These factors made LLTC the logical and practical

choice for accredited higher education. Ciara is active in cultural activities, as she participates in fancy shawl dancing and was even crowned Leech Lake Junior Princess in 2011. In her spare time, she partakes in bead work, engages in reflective writing, and cooking. (The overall cultural emphasis and direction of the college was exactly what she was looking for in a learning environment.) LLTC provides the opportunity for her to be around students of the same culture, as well as a learning environment, that emphasizes Anishinaabe values.

Ciara is a student-athlete as a member of the Lady Lakers basketball team. She brings winning experience to the program, as she was a member of Osseo's 2012 and 2013 state basketball tournament teams, which finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a sense of anticipation and excitement when asked about this year's season with the Lakers. "I'm optimistic and excited to play for the Lakers. Most of my teammates I've played with in summer programs. I feel our chemistry gives us an advantage as a team," said Fineday.

LLTC is excited to have Ciara as a member of the college family. The college is proud to provide accredited higher education grounded in Anishnaabe values to our students. We will continue to follow our students closely to highlight their accomplishments and contributions to the college and their communities.



# Ciara Fineday

## *Student Highlight*

"I have family in the Leech Lake Area and I visit for summer every year. My family is the reason why I chose LLTC.

Enrolled as a Freshman for the Fall Term 2015, Ciara relocated from the metropolitan area to her roots in the north woods. Here, she is home.

- Ciara Fineday





**Michelle**  
*Marion*

 *Student Highlight*

"Upon moving to Sugar Point... I immediately felt at home... I was welcomed like I had never left, yet I hadn't lived there in the first place."

- Michelle Marion

Earlier this Spring, students from across the country traveled to the Annual 2015 AIHEC Conference and competed in a wide range of subjects. Leech Lake Tribal College Student Michelle Marion won first place in the Journal Writing Competition. Visit our website at [www.lltc.edu](http://www.lltc.edu) for a link to her award winning entry.

## *From Pandan Leaf to Birch Bark*

By Michelle Marion

I had been living in Bali, Indonesia, when I came to visit my relatives on the Leech Lake reservation. It was a regular trip I took with my parents each time I visited from abroad. My parents still lived on the East Coast at the time, so we would road trip out to Leech Lake and also to Turtle Mountain, North Dakota. It was always a nice holiday from Bali to come visit with family and check out the powwows. One particular year, we made it in time for the Fourth of July powwow in Cass Lake, Minnesota, and it was this powwow that changed the direction of my life in a substantial way.

My life in Bali, for lack of a better word, was different. The overall feel of the island is laid back. On the surface, it is a beautiful island full of happiness, spirituality, and culture. I enjoyed my life, my family of friends, balance of work and play, and whenever I was invited to a ceremony, I jumped at the chance. The Balinese Hindus are in constant preparation for ceremony. There are numerous ceremonies for various events in life and the alignment of the stars, plus the daily offerings they put out three times per day. They rise with the sun for the first offering of flowers, incense, and a cigarette; all neatly placed in a small tray made of banana leaf, held together with a small shard of wood. At midday, flowers and incense, but with a cracked egg perhaps. At sunset there's a piece of candy, plus flowers and incense. Also, there are shavings of pandan leaf mixed in with frangipani flowers that smell like sweet butter. I would ask my Balinese friends about their ceremonies and reasons for them. I asked many questions; some were not answered for a long time. Eventually, I came to know a little bit about their ceremonies. For me, my life was set. I was in a beautiful place with beautiful people; I was living there indefinitely.

That indefinite feeling became definitive at that Cass Lake powwow. I was doing my usual visiting with family since our arrival the week before. I'd stay up with my cousin and we'd visit for what seemed like a few hours but which was actually ten! I went around and sat with my uncles and my auntie. It was always pleasant coming to visit with family, yet it was always great getting on the plane back to Bali too. Then, there I was sitting at that powwow with my parents and a few cousins and their little ones. I remember my little niece spinning around in front of me, and I took a photo of her. I remember my cousins' smiling faces. We were just happy to be together. I remember the grass, flattened and sticky from the kids. I remember dancing with my dad in our regular clothes. He was ready to go, ready to dance, and I hadn't seen him like that before.

I remember looking out at the dancers when I sat back down and feeling so uplifted. I just felt good.

Sitting there, watching the dancers, a rush came over me, throughout my body, and I knew in that instant, right at that moment, that I was going to live with my family on the Leech Lake reservation. I knew then I wanted and needed to move "home." I had never experienced anything like that before, and I hope I get to experience it again. That certainty was strong, and it led me to where I belong. I got on the plane back to Bali with tears in my eyes because I knew I would prepare to leave a place that meant a great deal to me. I believe Bali is responsible for my epiphany. I respected their sense of place and knowing their spirituality, and I realized I had come to know more about the Balinese Hindus than I had my own people.

Upon moving to Sugar Point, Minnesota, and living with my uncle, I immediately felt at home. I was welcomed like I had never left, yet I hadn't lived there in the first place. That first summer, my cousin made me my jingle dress. It felt so good wearing my dress, offering asemmaa (tobacco), and dancing. Each dancer has their own style of dance and unique style of wearing their outfit. Vibrant colors mingle from one outfit to the next in the dancing circle. We dance for our spirit, and this can be seen prominently in some dancers or just at certain times when the song moves you. After my first powwow that summer, I told my cousin, "It feels so good to be Indian!" She laughed hard with her head tilted upward, then shared her happiness for me. "I know what you mean, cousin," she said, then laughed at me some more.

I have much to learn and will continue learning to follow the steps my grandmother and grandfather have taken and so on before them. I'll be able to teach this to my daughter. This year, after offering tobacco in a birch bark dish to the spirit world, I'm going to start making my own syrup near the place where my grandparents had their sugar bush. I listen to an elder in my community and will continue to learn by experience and his guidance about getting the syrup just right. I know it'll take years, maybe a decade or two, and that is fine by me. I'm surrounded by beauty here from the lakes and rivers to the woodland flora and fauna. I walk here and feel the roots extending from the soles of my feet into the earth with every step. I'm creating a path for my daughter with knowledge of our culture, language, and traditions, not just for her but for the community and our children for generations to come.

# Giizhigookwe Indizhinikaaz



## Heavenly Girl

The legends of the past were passed on by storytellers of a lost time. How will these stories continue to exist in this modern world? Our Gekinaamowa, or teachings, are adapted and can be referenced in today's world and can be found in all things around us.

Sheila Northbird found her way by returning to these stories and creating her own connection with the tales of the past. In 2013, she enrolled at the college with the mission to complete her degree in Forestry Ecology. Through this program, she is able to study closely the environment in which stories are intertwined.

This holistic approach to the world has encouraged her involvement with other tribes throughout the world. In the summer of 2014, her internship at Haskell University, Kansas, led her to Hawaii. It was there that she established connections with the local indigenous people of the Pacific Islands. They shared stories and customs that were similar, but unique in their own beautiful ways. She wanted her peers at the college to experience the same thing. Sheila became the force behind what was to be a historical event at the college last year. She led the way for native Hawaiians to visit the Leech Lake Reservation and experience the customs of the Ojibwe people, as well as to share their own.

Even though her heart is focused on attaining and absorbing knowledge from different cultures, she understands that there is work to be done at home. She is very passionate about the regeneration of the land. To accomplish this she seeks to understand the modern interpretations of the environment, using what she learned to build connections with traditional teachings of her people.

Sheila intends to be involved in the community through her family's foundation. The Northbird family is planning to establish an annual scholarship fund for students who attend LLTC. The foundation is will introduce the American Indians in Science and Engineering Society (AISES) chapters to Native students in area schools. The goal is to connect Native students to science and engineering careers through exposure to new opportunities.

Sheila has long-term plans to let the world know about the Ojibwe Gekinaamowa. She plans to pursue her bachelors and doctorate degrees in the future. No matter where the winds of knowledge takes her, she will return home to help her people and build a connection between the past and today.



# Sheila Northbird

## Student Highlight

"I want to learn, discover, and educate others about the traditions of our people. All the while continuing to move progressively to become a leaders in this modern era. That is what I want for our people to strive for, also." - Sheila N.

Sheila is a sophomore who has been involved with researching relations between traditional stories and data and documented research, to discover if there are connections between legends and facts.

Her research will seek to support traditional stories, based on her measurable and verifiable tangible evidence.





*Lakers Athletics*

**T**his November, Leech Lake Tribal College athletic program embarked on their campaign to win the 2015-16 NIAC conference title. In its third year, the men and women teams have new faces as young freshmen fill the roster.

The leadership of this year's team includes David Northbird as the men's head coach and Rod Northbird as the women's head coach. Both of these coaches have previously assisted their predecessors prior to taking over.

The season schedule has the Lakers competing against very tough non-conference opponents to prepare for conference play.

Support the Lakers as they represent Leech Lake against other tribal, private, and public colleges.

Steve Smith  
Athletic Director

**LAKERS BASKETBALL**

Northern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference



Leech Lake Tribal College • Cass Lake, MN  
Association Free Lutheran Bible School • Plymouth, MN  
Oak Hills Christian College • Bemidji, MN

Trinity Bible College • Ellendale, ND  
Turtle Mountain Community College • St. Johns, ND  
Red Lake Nation College • Red Lake, MN

Men's Roster

- Brandon Masten, So. • Mission, MN
- Dezmond Ramirez, Fr. • Bemidji, MN
- Kyle Gordon, Fr. • Red Cliff, WI
- Jeromy O'Brien, Fr. • Cass Lake, MN
- Bryce Premo, Fr. • Cass Lake, MN
- Jacob Ellis, Fr. • Cass Lake, MN
- Josh Hare, Fr. • Cass Lake, MN
- Darold Madigan Jr. Fr. • Cass Lake, MN
- Travis Dow, Fr. • Red Lake, MN
- Nick Cook, Fr. • Red Lake, MN
- Justice Needham, Fr. • Red Lake, MN

Women's Roster

- Kandis Davis-Larose, Fr. • Cass Lake, MN
- Tifani Ellis, Fr., • Cass Lake, MN
- Tonya Morris, So. • Cass Lake, MN
- Ciara Fineday Fr. • Bloomington, MN
- Tatianna McClain, Fr. • Red Lake, MN
- Shantell Jourdain, Fr. • Cass Lake, MN
- Antonia Archambault, Fr. • Cass Lake, MN
- Petra Rodriguez, Fr. • Ball Club, MN
- Teresa Adams, Fr. • Cass Lake, MN
- Raven Roybal, Fr. • Cass Lake, MN



For more information, please visit [www.lltc.edu](http://www.lltc.edu)

Men's Lakers  
David Northbird,  
Head Coach



As the new men's head coach, Dave Northbird believes in making sure the student-athletes succeed, not only on the basketball court, but in the classroom as well.

Coach Northbird believes LLTC is a great place for local players to come and showcase their talent at a collegiate level. The main goal is for these athletes to better themselves by gaining an education, which will benefit these players long after their collegiate careers have ended.

"We have some very talented local players in the area. I want these men to use their skills and talent to represent Leech Lake against other colleges. Other programs have scholarship players from all over the country. Due to our limitations, our players are local, which I believe represents our communities."

"It will be tough because we have a young team, but I believe we are up for the challenge." - Dave Northbird

Lady Lakers  
Rod Northbird,  
Head Coach



The lady Lakers have an All-Conference player returning this year. Tonya Morris will lead the young team as they begin on the new season.

This year's team is also led by Coach Rod Northbird. Coach Northbird, believes this year's team has a lot of talented players and is looking forward to showcasing their talents.

"I'm excited to see how this young team will perform under pressure. The key to our success is to work as a team and use each other to run our offense and execute plays. I know we have the talent to compete and possibly win the conference title." - Rod Northbird

In its third season, the Lady Lakers will represent the Leech Lake community both on the basketball court and in the classroom.





October 29, 2015  
Contributed By:

Matt Hanson, Director  
Mino-ayaawigamig Wellness Center

Linda Bosma, Consultant



"I think it's healthier. I think it raises awareness about the importance of thinking about smoking critically in your own life and the lives of others, and I think it sends a message that smoking is dangerous to the people who are not smoking who are around it."

- LLTC staff

"I am so happy that it's a non-smoking campus, because if it weren't I would probably be smoking by now...like a regular smoker again."

- LLTC Student

# Embracing a Campus-Wide Commercial Tobacco-Free Policy

In August 2014, Leech Lake Tribal College officially became a commercial tobacco-free campus, which meant prohibiting use of all commercial tobacco products other than the ceremonial use of asemaa (tobacco). This two-year process took a great deal of vision, determination, and forethought to properly implement, and the college community has largely supported the effort.

## Reduced Commercial Tobacco Use

Recent assessment evidence suggests that the new policy is supporting LLTC's efforts to encourage healthier futures by reducing commercial tobacco use among campus members. Surveys that were conducted before and after the policy show that the percentage of students who use commercial tobacco dropped from 49% to 41% after the policy was implemented.

## A Commitment to Health and Wellbeing

Since its inception, Leech Lake Tribal College has made commitments to the health of its campus. Creating a positive environment that was free of the dangers of commercial tobacco was viewed as a pledge to the wellbeing of students and staff,

as well as future generations. LLTC made the policy campus-wide to provide a safe sanctuary for all to enjoy a smoke-free environment.

## Restoring Traditions

While the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 protects traditional religious rights and practices, it does not undo centuries of suppression and oppression. As an institution that values and models our culture, LLTC works diligently to recognize and restore our traditions. Honoring our Anishinaabe heritage at LLTC includes embracing sacred medicines such as asemaa as important gifts for all people.



## Countering the Harm of Commercial Tobacco

Commercial tobacco use is a leading cause of death for American Indians. In Minnesota, five of the six leading causes of death among American Indians – heart disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke, and lower respiratory disease – are related to commercial tobacco. Provisions within the Freedom to Breathe Act, which prohibit smoking indoors, leave sovereign tribal lands to their own discretion. Without proactive policies in place, all could be subjected to the dangers of secondhand smoke. Removing commercial tobacco from the campus was a huge step towards reducing those harms in the LLTC community.

## Groundwork Paves the Way

Given the prevalence of commercial tobacco use at Leech Lake Tribal College, instituting a policy of this magnitude would prove difficult if not done correctly. To empower the campus, rather than mandate a policy, LLTC chose to use a year-long process that prepared students, staff, and faculty. Throughout the 2013/14 school terms, LLTC provided tobacco education, hosted listening sessions, supported opportunities for traditional asemaa use, and offered cessation support to help those who wanted to quit smoking. LLTC's decision to spend a full year engaging the campus prior to beginning the policy proved to be a wise choice, as the preparation created a smooth transition for its implementation in 2014.

## Preparation Year Highlights

Advocacy for those attempting to quit: Activities supported efforts to quit using commercial tobacco, such as stress relief/relaxation activities, a walking challenge, quit and win contests, and educational tobacco bingo. The Mino-ayaawigamig Wellness Center on campus offered continued support through referral services and information. Among commercial tobacco users, 79% of students and 100% of faculty have said they have attempted to quit.

Traditional asemaa education: Elders shared stories about the traditional uses of asemaa and the important role it plays within Anishinaabe culture. Ceremonial uses at campus gatherings, such as the weekly Monday Drum, served as examples for its critical importance. Traditional asemaa practice increased from 46% to 71% for students and from 56% to 71% for faculty and staff within the last year.

Policy awareness: Information on the commercial tobacco free policy was widely distributed. The initiative was announced at many campus and local events, disseminated via the campus website and social media, and was discussed at community listening sessions. 96% of LLTC students and 100% of faculty and staff said that they were aware of the policy.

## Campus Support for the Policy

The majority of those at Leech Lake Tribal College have embraced the elimination of commercial tobacco on campus, with 83% of students and 84% of faculty and staff supporting the policy. Among students who are commercial tobacco users, 71% say they support the policy and nearly half say the policy is helping them to smoke less. Leech Lake Tribal College is enjoying its first year of being a smoke-free campus and many say that the policy shows that LLTC truly values their students and staff.

LLTC Students  
Year One  
Commercial  
Tobacco-Free Campus

16%  
Decrease in those  
who smoke

79%  
Of smokers have  
attempted to quit

71%  
Practiced  
traditional use  
of asemaa, an  
increase of 53%

96%  
Aware of the  
commercial  
tobacco-free  
policy



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Shield are member organizations of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.





## The Science of Nature

By Annette Drewes

Standing on the edge of the dirt road cut back into the woods off the Pennington road, we watched a rolling line of fire and smoke slowly move toward us across the forest floor. After a moment, men and women emerged from the woods, dripping flames behind them on small slash piles tucked among green shrubs. This was my first view of a prescribed burn in the Chippewa National Forest.

Prescribed burns, upland cedar forests and big bogs were all learning sites this fall for students in the sciences and the Gikenimindwaa Mitigoog (Forest Ecology) Program at Leech Lake Tribal College. Field excursions introduce students to professional careers in natural resources and offer opportunities to explore various ecosystems of the area. Local resource personnel are key to making these activities relevant to our students.

In September, Keith Karnes of the LLBO Forestry Division led Forest Ecology students out to an active prescribed burn taking place in the Chippewa National Forest. This was a first experience for all, including the instructor. On the ground we had the opportunity to watch the fires being set, talk to Carl Crawford of the USFS, and observe the cooperative teams from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Fire Crew, Blackduck District and other key personnel.

October saw LLTC students walking along the edge of a cedar uplands/lowlands on Ottertail Point, exploring flora and fauna with Bobby Henderson, LLBO Plant Biologist. Using their feet the class discovered the difference earthworms make to the forest floor. Eliminated by glaciers 10,000 years ago, earthworms were reintroduced to the area through angling, gardening and other means of human transport. Today worms destroy the duff layer, that soft, spongy ground cover that holds moisture, traps air and provides excellent growing cover for many of our spring flowers.

Finally, on a brisk day mid-October, nine students and two faculty traveled up to the Big Bog north of Washkish. After a quick stop at the visitor center, where students were able to walk over an aerial view of the patterned peat-lands, we drove up to the Big Bog Boardwalk. Here, guided by a Master Naturalist, we saw the pitcher plant, a carnivorous species which gains extra nutrients from the bugs that drown within its 'pitcher.' Colors were in full swing, including the golden tamaracks and the beautiful orange/red bog birch. And students learned about the massive draining attempt on the bog at the turn of the century. Something that was unsuccessful, thankfully!

Our thanks to the many community partners that make opportunities like these available for our students here at LLTC. Miigwech!



"The STEM program has given me the opportunity to learn and explore deeper into science."

- Bryce, Student



## Outdoor Learning Lab Planted at LLTC

On Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, District Conservationist Larry Voltz, with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Travis Doeden, Soil Conservationist, arrived with over 100 clumps of native grasses and 40 shrubs, all donated, to establish an outdoor learning space at LLTC.

"Having an area of native plants right outside the classroom walls allows us to incorporate hands-on learning and study here on campus, within the time frame of our 50 minute classes. This space complements the already established forest walking trail on campus that provides learning experiences for students in ecology, dendrology, woodland plants and forestry," announced Annette Drewes, Forest Ecology Instructor at LLTC.

The project began last year with consultations between NRCS, LLTC's facilities staff and STEM program faculty to scope the size and location of the plantings. Driving into campus off of Little Wolf road, you can see the four rows of shrubs to your right and the four plots of grasses to the left of the driveway.

"Pete Maas, an intern here at LLTC, was instrumental in helping us get these plants in the ground," stated Drewes. On Wednesday, the planting went relatively quickly, with LLTC student LeAnn Charwood assisting the NRCS staff, Drewes and Maas. For the rest of the summer, Maas took

care of the plants, are watering, removing competing vegetation and monitoring the growth of the plantings.

"Native grasses, when established, have this huge network of underground roots that bind and aerate the soil, making it healthy. Lawn grasses typically only spread roots down a few inches, native grasses typically extend roots two to six feet deep, depending on the species, making them much more tolerant to drought," explains Drewes.

Species that you will find out there include sideoats grama, blue grama, Indian grass, little blue stem, drop seed and big blue stem. Shrubs that were planted include: elderberry, black choke berry and black choke cherry, and junberry. Annette encourages people to walk out to view the plots as they develop, being careful to not disturb the sites.





# Seven Generations Golf Tournament



SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

## MIIGWECH

\$8,500 Cash Donations • \$1,100 In-Kind Donations

The Leech Lake Tribal College hosted its first annual Seven Generations Endowment Fund Golf Tournament this year at Tianna Country Club in Walker, Minnesota. The September 25<sup>th</sup> tournament gave the opportunity for fifteen teams to engage in a friendly round of golf while supporting a great cause.

**"In addition to garnering support for the college, the goal of this tournament is to generate interest and awareness of LLTC prior to the end of the summer season."**

The purpose of the tournament was to support LLTC students, by fundraising for the college's endowment fund. In its first year, the event raised over \$8,500, not including over \$1,100 of in-kind contributions from area businesses and families. The Leech Lake Gaming Division contributed over \$4,000 in monetary and in-kind support to the cause. The support from local businesses and private

individuals is greatly appreciated and will have great impact on the future of the college's ability to provide accredited higher education grounded in Anishinaabe values.

Faculty and staff participated in the event by creating gift baskets representing their program areas to be used as door prizes. The items ranged from Halloween themed baskets filled with treats to home maintenance items loaded with cleaning supplies and useful tools. The gifts were unique ways to make the prizes more personal, as many individuals of the college contributed.

Members of the Lady Lakers basketball team were also present at the event, with Men's and Women's head coaches, David Northbird and Rodney Northbird, also lending a hand. They all represented the college and engaged in raising funds for the college through optional games and raffles.

"Part of our goal this year is to build community outreach and increase support for the college and team. Events like this provides the opportunity for our players to engage directly with our Supporters," said Coach Dave Northbird.

For information on how to support, advocate, or make a charitable gift to the college, please contact Office of Institutional Advancement at (218) 335-4262 or by visiting the college's website at [www.lltc.edu](http://www.lltc.edu).



Knowledge Bowl Participants Left to Right: Yodi Blomgren, Michelle Marion, and Adriana Kingbird



### Give To The Max Day 2015

### Knowledge Bowl Hand Drum Contests Iron-man/Iron-woman Contest

The Leech Lake Tribal College took part in the annual Give To The Max Day. The all-day event consisted of food services, faculty vs. students knowledge bowl competition, hand drum contests, and dance contest.

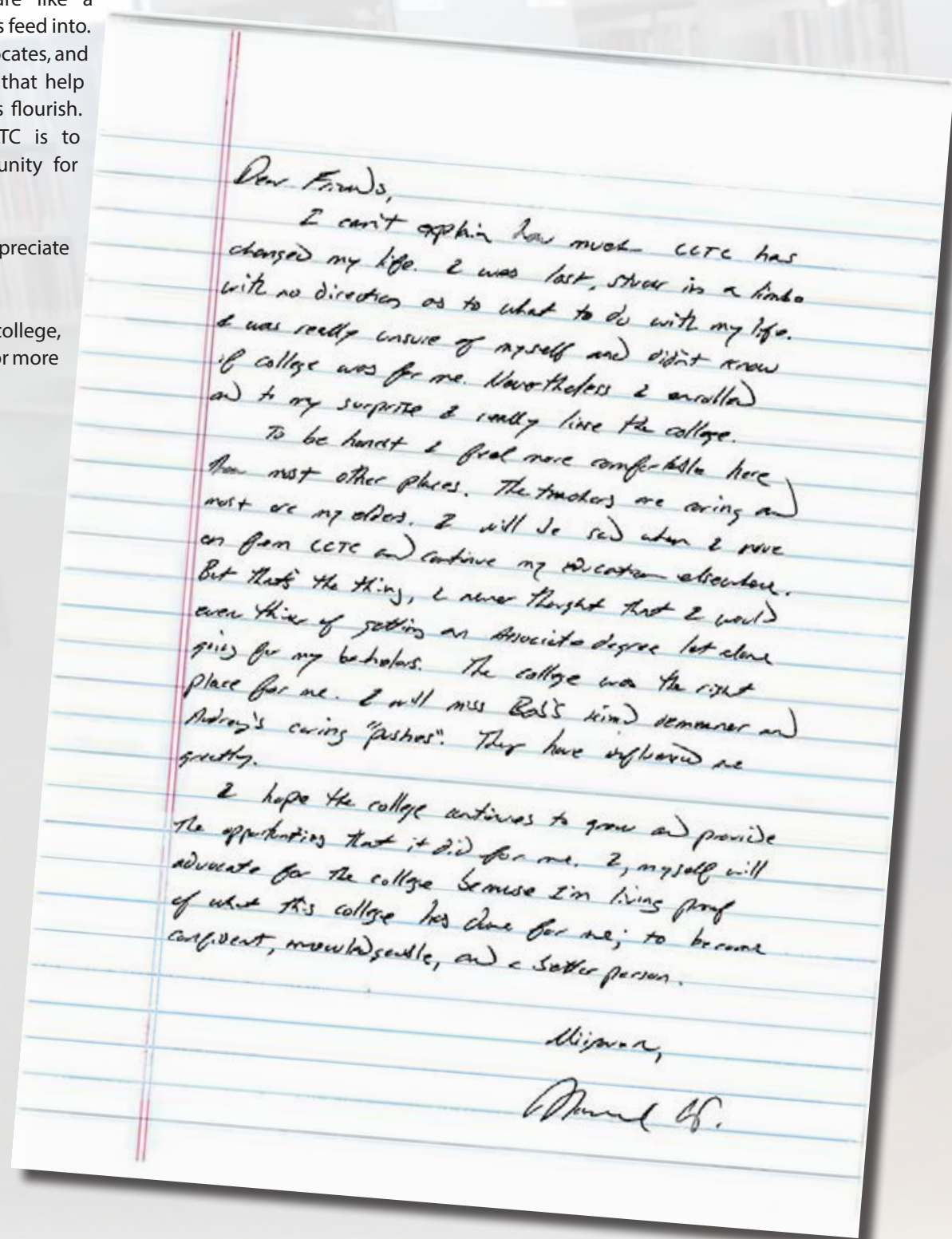
LLTC ranked 37<sup>th</sup> among more than 70 college and universities in donation received. The event was result of collaborative efforts from members of the faculty, staff, and students.

## Letters From Our Students

The students of LLTC are like a lake, which various streams feed into. Support from donors, advocates, and sponsors are the streams that help make the lake of students flourish. The sole purpose of LLTC is to provide the best opportunity for students to succeed.

The students and college appreciate your support greatly.

To donate and support the college, please visit [www.lltc.edu](http://www.lltc.edu) for more information.



## Donor Sponsored Scholarships

### Benny Tonce Memorial Fund

Mr. Tonce was a long-time instructor of Ojibwemowin, drum and singing at the college. When he passed, a permanent scholarship fund was created to memorialize his life work and passion for the language.

### Don and Priscilla Day Family Scholarship

As the former president of the college, Dr. Day continues to contribute to the college by establishing the scholarship fund to support future students of the college.

### Leann Dick Memorial Fund

Leann was valedictorian of the LLTC class of 2009. Her quest for learning led her to continue her education at the U of M-Morris. This scholarship is to memorialize her dedication to education and help other students to pursue their educational endeavors as she did.

### Leroy Staples Jr. and Leroy B. Fairbanks Fund

This fund was established to ultimately empower the people of the Leech Lake community. Both Leroy Staples and Leroy Fairbanks are committed to education and have begun a movement of giving back to the community.

### Susan Helen Tibbetts Sjolund Fund

Colonel Cliff Sjolund established the scholarship in honor of his grandmother and on behalf of her three children. This scholarship is to honor his grandmother by empowering Leech Lake Band Members.

### Genawenjigejig Scholarship

The Genawenjigejig scholarship awards Law Enforcement Program students with their expenses associated with the POST certified training program.

### Mishtakikosh Scholarship

The Mishtakikosh scholarship awards Business Program students who intend to pursue business careers. This scholarship is awarded at the completion of the program.

### Clem Nason Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship award carpentry students enrolled in the IRB Program. If you would like to help us towards our goal of getting this scholarship endowed, please contact Amarin Chanthorn at (218) 335-4262.



### Case for Support

It is our goal to maximize public and private support, promote fulfillment of the college's goals, and benefit the communities we serve.

Your support enables our ability to educate future generations of students. Through financial support and continued advocacy, the Leech Lake Tribal College will be able to provide the next generation of students accredited education grounded in Anishinaabe values.

### Challenges

The Leech Lake Tribal College has seen great improvement since its inception 24 years ago. In 2005, LLTC relocated from its former campus to its current location. The new campus is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, classrooms and amenities; including a new library, which also serves the greater community. Currently, we are over 30% underfunded from the level authorized by law. This means we need your support to cover that gap and give our students the best education possible.

LLTC's campus is located on trust land, which is ineligible for state bonding funds which are received by state colleges and universities counterparts. The vast majority of LLTC students come from families near or below the poverty line; they need your continued support for scholarships to enable them to develop the education and skills they need to create a better life for themselves, their families, and most importantly our community.



## Where Are They Now?

Since 1990, the college has graduated 453 students, each receiving awards such as certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees. Some have joined the workforce immediately, while others have continued their education by transferring to four-year institutions. We are proud to say there are others who have attained their masters degree.

LLTC is honored to be a part of their educational journey.



**Charles Dolson,  
Alumni Class of 2009**



Charles is a member of the class of 2009, he earned an associate degree in Liberal Education with STEM emphasis. He continued his education at BSU and earned his bachelor's degree.

Charles did not stop there, he went on to University of St. Thomas and attained his Jurist Doctorate. He is now using his education to make a difference in his community. Charles is the current Executive Director for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa.

Charles has set an example of what hard work and determination can do to make a difference in our communities. His journey began here at LLTC.



**Leslie Harper,  
Alumni Class of 2005**

Leslie is an example of a strong Anishinaabe woman. She is the embodiment of how one person can make a difference in our communities. Here is a short list of her accomplishments thus far:

- Co-Founded Niigaane Ojibwemowin Immersion School
- 2012 Outstanding Administrator Award by MIEA
- Emmy Award Winner: "First Speakers: Restoring the Ojibwe Culture" (Documentary)

The college is proud to have Leslie as an alumni of the Leech Lake Tribal College.



**Bryce Premo, Freshman**

Enrolled in the Liberal Arts program with STEM emphasis, Bryce is freshman and a graduate of the Cass Lake-Bena High School. He is a member of the Leech Lakers basketball team and a full-fledged supporter of the college.

His goal is to earn his associate and liberal arts courses required by most bachelor degrees. He holds interests in physics and astronomy and looks forward to learning about those subject areas.

Bryce believes LLTC is only logical because he is able to earn a liberal arts degree and continue on to get his bachelor's degree. Meanwhile, other students will only receive one degree in their four years compared to his two.

"The college is a source of pride for the community." Brandon grew up in the area and wants to see good things happen for the community. This is why he chose to enroll at LLTC, as well as becoming an employee at the college.

As a sophomore, he will graduate this spring. He is planning to continue his education at Bemidji State University to earn his bachelor's degree. Brandon emphasized how important it is to give back to the community, and the only way he can do that is to educate himself and contribute to the education of others.

He is looking forward to the next chapter of his life and appreciates his classmates, friends and colleagues for their support in his journey.



**Brandon Masten, Sophomore**

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Fact #1 Tuition and Fees Comparison (2015-2016 In-State)

Leech Lake Tribal College	\$5,000
Bemidji State University	\$8,366
Northwest Technical College	\$5,480
Oak Hills Christian College	\$16,165
Itasca Community College	\$5,325
Central Lakes College	\$5,384
UMN - Crookston	\$11,496

Source: Minnesota Office of Higher Education, Tuition and Fees Chart 2015-2016.

Fact #2 Full Accreditation

The Leech Lake Tribal College is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The College holds membership in:

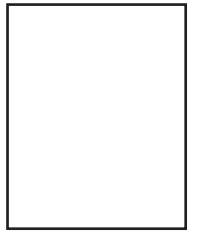
- American Indian Science and Engineering Study
- American Library Association
- Collaboration for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning
- Campus Compact
- Collaboration of Anishinaabe Colleges
- American Indian Higher Education Consortium

Fact #3 Articulation Agreements

Credits earned at LLTC are transferable to four-year colleges and universities. Students can begin in their education and transfer with very low debt, in addition to earning an Associate degree in the process. Some programs at LLTC also award Certificates, Diplomas and Associate Degrees as student progress through the academic process. Students can earn up to three credentials by the time they are ready to move on to other higher education institutions.



Leech Lake Tribal College  
6945 Little Wolf Rd. NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633



"Students can be described as a lake, in which streams feeds into. You are one of those streams. Everything we do, all our efforts, should be focused on the wellbeing of that lake. For the benefit of future generations."

Bill Blackwell,  
BSU Director of American Indian Resource Center

*"A Culture of Success"*



Preserving Culture  
Through Education

### Special Recognition to Our Faculty and Staff

I would like to give recognition to the faculty and staff members who have gone above and beyond the scope of their duties to ensure our students are able to receive the education they deserve. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and we are very appreciative of the commitment and sacrifices you have made. As we move forward together in this new era of the college, let's not forget where we came from - keeping in mind our vision of the future.

The Anishinaabe World View emphasizes a holistic approach in everything. Let the College be that representation of cohesiveness as we continue to work together for the benefit of our students.

On the behalf of the Leech Lake Tribal College, Miigwech!

