



SUMMARY OF TRIBAL COLLEGE (1994 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS) AMENDMENTS TO THE FARM BILL

AS CONTAINED IN S. 2804, CULTIVATING RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITY, PROSPERITY & SUSTAINABILITY FOR INDIAN COUNTRY ACT (MAY 2018)

The nation's 38 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), who together are the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), respectfully request your support for the following amendments to be included in legislation to reauthorize of the Agriculture Act of 2014. These amendments, for which AIHEC has advocated for the past several years, are contained in S. 2804, legislation introduced by Senators Hoeven and Udall and favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs earlier this week. The amendments include: changes to the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act; inclusion of 1994 institutions as eligible institutions to compete for grants in the CYFAR and FRTE programs, authorized under the Smith Lever Act; and inclusion of certain 1994 forestry programs in research programs authorized under the McIntire-Stennis Act.

These amendments are supported by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which includes many of the nation's 573 federally recognized Indian tribes.

EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS ACT & SMITH LEVER ACT

1. Allow Children, Youth, and Families at Risk Federally Recognized Tribes Program Funding for 1994 Institutions.

An amendment to provide *all* designated land-grant institutions eligibility to compete for grant funds administered as Smith Lever 3(d), particularly the Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR), and Federally Recognized Tribes Extension programs.

Amendment Summary: this amendment amends section 533 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103-382) to clarify that 1994 institutions may apply for grants under Smith Lever programs for children, youth, and families at risk and for Federally recognized Tribe and amends section 3(d) of the Act of May 8, 1914 (commonly known as the "Smith-Lever Act"; 7 U.S.C. 343(d)) to clarify that 1994 institutions are eligible to compete for CYFAR and FRTEP grants.

Justification: This amendment is virtually identical to an amendment supported by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) during the reauthorization of the Farm Bill in 2014. The amendment was included in the 2014 Senate version of Farm Bill, which was approved by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and subsequently passed the full Senate.

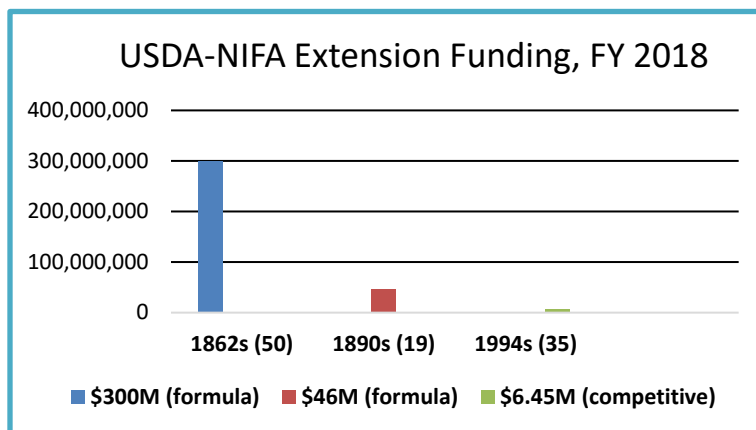
The 1994 Land-Grant Institutions need to be recognized as full members of the nation's land grant system. Currently, they are not. Funding for the 1994s greatly lags behind the funds for programs expressly for our 1862 and 1890 land grant partners. One step toward rectifying this inequity and recognizing the 1994 Institutions as true partners in the Land Grant system is to afford them eligibility to compete for grant funding under the Smith Lever 3(d) programs, particularly the Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) program and Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP).

Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR): American Indian/Alaska Native Youth are the most at-risk population in the United States. They suffer the highest rates of suicide in the nation. In some of our tribal communities, suicide among Native youth is nine to 19 times as frequent as among other youth. Native youth have more serious problems with mental disorders, including substance abuse and depression, than other youth, and Native youth are more affected by gang involvement than any other racial group. AI/ANs have the highest high school drop-out rates in the nation and some of the highest unemployment and poverty rates as well. Yet, our Native children and youth are the only group in the country essentially excluded from participation in the CYFAR program, because 1994 institutions are the only members of the land-grant family that cannot even apply to compete for CYFAR grants. The CYFAR program “supports comprehensive, intensive, community-based programs developed with active citizen participation in all phases. CYFAR promotes building resiliency and protective factors in youth, families, and communities.” The 34 1994 Institutions are truly community-based institutions. Our governing boards are majority tribal members, and we provide public libraries, tribal archives, career centers, computer labs, community gardens, summer and after school programs, and child and elder care centers to our communities. We are not asking for additional funding, a set-aside, or other special treatment, although our children and communities clearly need it. We are simply asking for the right to *compete* for this vitally needed funding by removing the prohibition on 1994 Institutions’ participation in CYFAR.

Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP): USDA’s Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program is open *only* to 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, to apply for support to conduct extension activities on Tribal lands. The program’s stated purpose is to “support extension agents on American Indian reservations and tribal jurisdictions to address the unique needs and problems of American Indian tribal nations. Emphasis is placed on assisting American Indians in the development of profitable farming and ranching techniques, providing 4-H and Youth development experiences for tribal youth, and providing education and outreach on tribally identified priorities (e.g., family resource management and nutrition) using a culturally sensitive approach.” Ironically, the 1994 Land Grant Institutions, ***which are chartered by federally recognized American Indian tribes and are located on or near Indian reservations are not eligible*** to compete for these program funds. This apparent oversight in eligibility needs to be rectified.

- **Sovereign Authority of Tribes:** Respect for Tribal Sovereignty demands that tribal institutions should be allowed to *compete* for grants under this program. Parity for Tribes under the Farm Bill can be achieved only by working together to remove existing eligibility barriers.

- **Competitive Program:** The 1994 land-grant institutions are asking only for the opportunity to *compete* for funding alongside already eligible state-supported 1862 Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or 1890s. No special preferences, priority points, or advantages are requested. **Existing Programs:** Some might argue that the 1994



Land-Grants should not be allowed to compete for FRTEP or CYFAR grants because the TCUs already have an extension program. While this is true, the same can also be said for 1862 and 1890 Institutions. However, there is a wide gap in annual funding levels (see chart). To best serve the needs

of Indian Country, all Land-Grant institutions – particularly Tribal institutions – should be allowed access to compete for all funding sources.

2. Addition of Red Lake Nation College to the list of 1994 Institutions & Two Name Changes.

This amendment adds Red Lake Nation College to the list of 1994 Tribal College Land-Grant Institutions contained in the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 and changes the names of two colleges on the 1994 list.

Amendment Summary: Section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended by adding Red Lake Nation College to the list of 1994 institutions. Further, the 1994 list is amended by changing the name of Fort Berthold Community College to Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College and by changing Navajo Technical College to Navajo Technical University.

Justification: In November 2016, Red Lake Nation College in Red Lake, Minnesota received accreditation candidacy status from the Higher Learning Commission, making this tribal college eligible to receive federal funding. Further, two colleges changed their names in the past few years.

MCINTIRE-STENNIS ACT OF 1962

1. Allow McIntire-Stennis funding for 1994 Institutions with baccalaureate degree programs in forestry.

This amendment would establish eligibility for Tribal Land-Grant Institutions that offer a bachelor's degree in forestry to receive a share of the appropriate state's McIntire-Stennis Act formula funding.

Amendment Summary: The McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a, et seq. Public Law 87-788) is amended by adding as eligible entities land-grant colleges established under the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 that offer a baccalaureate or master's degree in forestry.

Justification: In 2008, McIntire-Stennis was amended to include Tribal lands in the formula calculation for funding of *state* forestry programs. However, the 1994 institutions, which are the Tribal land-grant colleges, were not included in the funding formula, nor were states required to include them in funding distributions. This oversight is significant because 75 percent of Tribal land in the U.S. is either forest or agriculture holdings. In response to the severe under-representation of American Indian/Alaska Native professionals in the forestry workforce in Montana and across the United States, Salish Kootenai College (SKC) launched a forestry baccalaureate degree program in 2005. In 2013, SKC became the first tribal college land-grant to join the National Association of University Forest Resource Programs, a consortium of 85 forestry schools, the vast majority of which receive McIntire-Stennis funding. However, when SKC recently sought specialty accreditation for its program, the college was told that it was "one forestry researcher short" of the number needed for accreditation. Participation in the McIntire-Stennis program, even with the required 1-1 match, would help SKC secure the researcher it needs to gain accreditation. Yet, it cannot participate in the program. Once again, TCU land-grants are prohibited from participating as full partners in the nation's land-grant system. And although currently, only SKC has a baccalaureate degree in forestry, considering the wealth of forested land on American Indian reservations, other such programs could arise at the nation's other Tribal land-grant institutions to help to grow a Native workforce in this vital area. The University of Montana, which administers Montana's McIntire-Stennis program, and Montana's state land-grant institution, Montana State University, support this amendment.