

2008 IHEP Symposium for Minority Serving Institutions

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Sitting Bull College
Retention Strategies
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History of Sitting Bull College

- Located on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in south central North Dakota and north central South Dakota ~ Main campus located in Fort Yates, ND ~ Additional class sites located in McLaughlin and Mobridge, South Dakota
- Began as Standing Rock Community College on September 21, 1973
- Chartered by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- One of the original five tribal colleges established
- Accredited through the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Associations of Colleges and Schools
- On March 6, 1996, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council voted to officially amend the charter, changing the college's name to Sitting Bull College (SBC)



Programs of Study



ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Business Administration ~ General Studies
General Studies – Nursing Transfer ~ Native American Studies

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Business Administration/Management ~Criminal Justice
Early Childhood Education ~ Environmental Science
Human Services Technician ~Information Technology
Natural Resources Management ~ Office Technology
Practical Nursing ~ Teacher Education

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Building Trades
Business Administration/Management Arts & Crafts Entrepreneurship
Office Technology

CERTIFICATE

Building Trades
Business Administration /Management Arts & Crafts Entrepreneurship
Entrepreneurship ~ Farm/Ranch Management
Information Technology ~ Office Technology

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

Business Administration
Elementary Education
Environmental Science



Demographics

- Personnel
 - 3 Administrators
 - 23 Full-time Faculty
 - 50 Full-time Staff
- Students
 - Average 300 per semester
 - 71% Female/29% Male
 - 90% Native American
 - 73% Single
 - 31 Average Age



Sitting Bull College Strategic Plan

- **Goal Number 4: To Increase Retention**

Objectives

- **Increase semester completion rate from 67% to 70%.**
- **Increase persistence rates from 59.8% to 62.8%.**
- **Increase retention rate from 38.3% to 41.3%.**

2006-2007 Results

- **Semester completion rate – fall 06 63.2% and spring 56.9%**
- **Persistence rate 69.1%**
- **Retention rate 39.8%**



Strategies to Improve Retention

- All new students are required to enroll in PSY 100 Psychology of Student Success for three credits.
- COMPASS testing of all new students to ensure proper placement in math and English courses.
- Implementation of a tracking system for students on probation and those readmitted after suspension.
- Development of a writing/math laboratory, staffed by professionals.
- Referral system for students with poor attendance and/or poor academic achievement.
- Student satisfaction surveys.
- Peer tutoring system.




PSY 100 Psychology of Student Success




- Orientation course that is mandatory for all new students and should be taken during their first semester at SBC.
- Course is designed to make the adjustment to college life a pleasant experience.
- Started in-class visits in 2005-2006

PSY 100 Psychology of Student Success Continued



- Individuals speak to the class on topics appropriate to their area of expertise. Through these class visitations, individual students become acquainted with many of the departments and employees who can help with registration, counseling, financial aid, tutoring, student support services, student clubs and activities, and computer and email usage.
 - Vice President of Academics, Financial Aid Director, Information Technology Mentor, Librarian, and Director of Student Support Services

PSY 100 Psychology of Student Success Continued



- The Vice President of Academics reviews the student policies, procedures, and academic calendar and gives information on clubs, Student Government, and updates on the future of Sitting Bull College.
- Financial Aid Director reviews budgets, financial aid sources, stipend disbursement schedules, and SAP.
 - The SBC Board of Trustees has mandated financial aid be disbursed bi-monthly each semester. This strategy helps student to budget their income.



Financially Literate Students Stay in School: Developing a Successful Retention Formula

- New requirement added to PSY 100 Psychology of Student Success – Spring 07
 - Financial Literacy Component
 - Unit One: Charge It Right – teaches students about credit cards and how to use them responsibly.
 - Unit Two: To Your Credit – teaches students how to read a credit report and how to build and repair their credit history.
 - Unit Three – Pay Yourself First – helps students identify ways they can save money and introduces savings options that they can use to save toward their goals.
 - Unit Four – Money Matters – shows students how to manage their money by preparing a personal spending plan and identifying ways to decrease spending and increase income.

Progress:



Reason for Withdrawal: Financial Difficulties

- 17 (15%) Fall 2005 115 drop slips
- 6 (8%) Spring 2006 77 drop slips
- 5 (5%) Fall 2006 105 drop slips
- 0 (0%) Spring 2007 71 drop slips
- 1 (12%) Summer 2007 8 drop slips
- 2 (2%) Fall 2007 94 drop slips

Questions?



“Let us put our minds together to see what we can build for our children.” –
Sitting Bull

