

# SECTION TWO

## History and Organization

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Blackfeet Community College: Student Services Building circa 1990



Blackfeet Community College: Admin/Student Services Building circa 2019.

### History

In October of 1974, The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council chartered the Blackfeet Community College by Executive Action to “...provide post-secondary and higher educational services...” to the residents of the Blackfeet Nation and surrounding communities. The impetus for this action grew from early tribal efforts to provide an educational opportu-

nity to its residents in a physically, climatically, and culturally isolated area.

The Blackfeet Tribe, in its relationship with the federal government as a sovereign nation, is recognized as a nation within a nation through treaties, laws, and executive orders. In the late 1960s, federal programs and laws resulted from

tribal efforts to promote the health, education, and welfare of their people.

The Indian Education Act of 1972 and Office of Economic Opportunity programs of the 1964 Act provided new resources for tribes to provide adult education. The Blackfeet Tribe took advantage of these programs in its quest to develop itself economically and promote self-sufficiency with the idea that the development of human resources is integral to the improvement of the Blackfeet Tribe.

In 1972, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council established a 10-year comprehensive plan for the Blackfeet Nation. Needs and goals were identified through needs assessments and studies, done in conjunction with the implementation of federal programs. The plan identified the need for a community college or workforce/technical school, new facilities, and educational programs.

In 1976, the Blackfeet Board of Tribal Educators, under the auspices of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, agreed with Flathead Valley Community College of Kalispell, Montana, to offer extension courses on the Blackfeet Reservation. Flathead Valley Community College, via a Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant, then established an extension center on the Blackfeet Reservation. Coordinators were subsequently hired to supervise and implement programs and courses. Students at Blackfeet Community College earned credits

from Flathead Valley Community College since Blackfeet Community College was not an independently accredited entity.

In early 1979, the Blackfeet Board of Regents took action to become an independent institution. The college sought candidacy status for accreditation from the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NWASC). The NWASC Commission on Colleges granted candidacy status in December of 1979. In 1980, Blackfeet Community College ended a beneficial relationship with Flathead Valley Community College and began serving students as a separate institution. This new status enabled Blackfeet Community College to more closely tailor its offerings to the needs and interests of local students.

On December 11, 1985, Blackfeet Community College received accreditation. The college's accreditation was reaffirmed in 2000, after an extensive self-study review process. More recently, the college was reviewed by NWASC in 2010 for accreditation and was granted it with several findings, which the college addressed to ensure continued accreditation by NWASC.

In 1994, Blackfeet Community College became a Land Grant Institution established for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanical arts in accordance with the provisions of the act of July second, 1862 (12 Stat.503:7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), known as The First Morrill Act.

## **Board of Trustees**

Chairperson - Kim Boy, MBA

Vice Chairperson - Dana Pemberton, BS

Trustee - Dan Wippert

Trustee - Steve Conway

Trustee - Lola Wippert, MS

The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council appoints the Board of Trustees as the governing board of the college, with powers vested according to the Tribal Charter.

The President of the BCC Student Senate is a non-voting member of the Board.

## **Blackfeet Community College Charter**

Blackfeet Community College is sanctioned by the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council (via Tribal Charter), which is the duly authorized and elected governing body of the Blackfeet Nation.

The Tribal Charter acknowledges the status of Blackfeet Community College as a public, non-profit corporation for the purpose of providing post-secondary and higher education services to the Blackfeet Nation.

The Charter provides the Blackfeet Community College Board of Trustees with their powers and responsibilities as the college governing board.

Blackfeet Community College is a tax-exempt corporation under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) with 501 C (3) status (9)

Blackfeet Community College has developed objectives and purposes based on the goals of the Blackfeet Tribe, as set forth in the Blackfeet Community College Tribal Charter.

The Blackfeet Tribe, according to the comprehensive educational plan, has identified the following goals:

- Promote educational opportunities
- Increase educational level
- Advance the knowledge and pride in Blackfeet heritage
- Improve management
- Provide community facilities for advancement in education and other tribal institutions
- Provide cultural and recreational opportunities for residents

The Blackfeet Community College Charter defines the purpose of the college: "Pursuant to the authority granted by Article VI. Section (h) of the Constitution of the Blackfeet Tribe, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council hereby charters a public non-profit corporation exclusively to provide post-secondary and higher education programs by bringing to the reservation programs from other

institutions and/or by establishing and operating institutions on the Blackfeet Nation granting postsecondary degrees and certificates.”

Blackfeet Community College is operated exclusively for non-profit purposes to provide post-secondary and higher education services to the community, and to provide cultural, social, and recreational services that are sensitive to the varying community needs.

### Services

Blackfeet Community College currently provides the following services to the community and its students:

- General education courses for students in support of one and two-year campus programs, college preparatory services in educational development training, and/or occupational programs.
- Educational services to increase employee efficiency and effectiveness to strengthen tribal management; educational services to enhance knowledge and pride of the Blackfeet language, culture, history, and heritage; educational services in occupational training for entry into specific vocations.

- Educational services that meet the social and special needs of the community.
- Student support services in financial aid, academic advising, and personal and career counseling.
- Community supportive services in areas of research and in strengthening the leadership capabilities of tribal members.

### Degree Descriptions

Blackfeet Community College is a tribal college offering degrees in Associate of Arts, and Associate Science, Associate of Applied Science, and certificate programs.

### Phone Directory/Website Addresses

Administration	(406) 338-5441
Academic Affairs	(406) 338-5411
Student Services	(406) 338-5421
Business Office	(406) 338-5441
Business Office Fax	(406) 338-7898
BCC Main Fax	(406) 338-3272
Financial Aid Fax	(406) 338-3776
Website	<a href="http://www.bfcc.edu">www.bfcc.edu</a>
Bookstore	<a href="http://www.bncvirtual.com/blackfeet">www.bncvirtual.com/blackfeet</a>

## Memberships

AACC	American Association of Community Colleges
AACRAO	American Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers
AIBL	American Indian Business Leaders
AICF	American Indian College Fund
AISES	American Indian Science and Engineering Society
ACTE	Association for Career & Technical Education
AHEAD	Association on Higher Education and Disability
AIHEC	American Indian Higher Education Consortium
AMP	Accelerated Mathematics Program
ASPIRE	Association of Special Programs in Region Eight
MACRAO	Montana Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
MIEA	Montana Indian Education Association

NACE	National Association of Colleges & Employees
NASFAA	National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
NWCCU	Northwest Commission of Colleges & Universities
SHRM	Society for Human Resource Management