

Reflecting Our Communities: Initiatives to Increase Native American Transfer Student Recruitment and Retention

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The Research Question

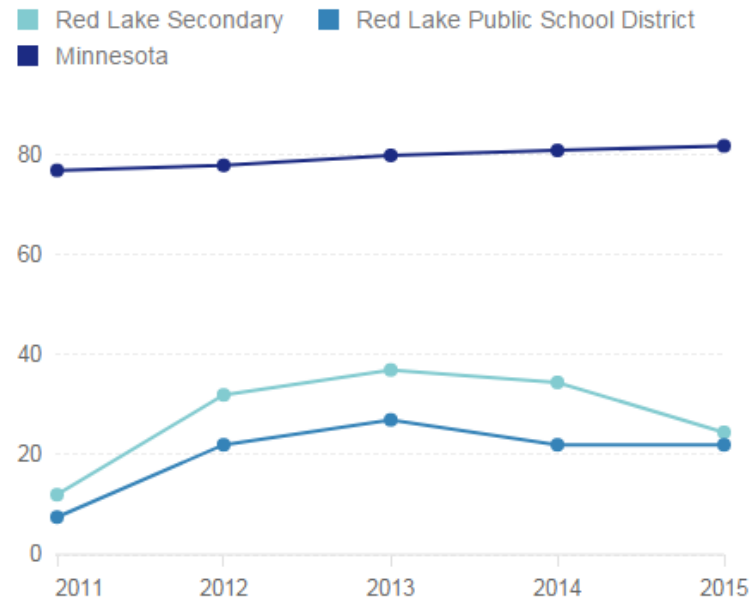
How can
the library
aid in
student
retention?

What role does the library
play
in the retention of
transfer students from a
two-year Tribal College
to a four-year university?

Native Americans & Education

- Native students have the lowest high school graduation rates of any racial or ethnic group in the state
 - 53 percent graduate in four years, compared to the statewide average of 82 percent.

High School Graduation Rates



Graduation Rate Declined since 2013

The Class of 2013 had 37% of its students graduate, which was the highest graduation rate from 2011 to 2015.

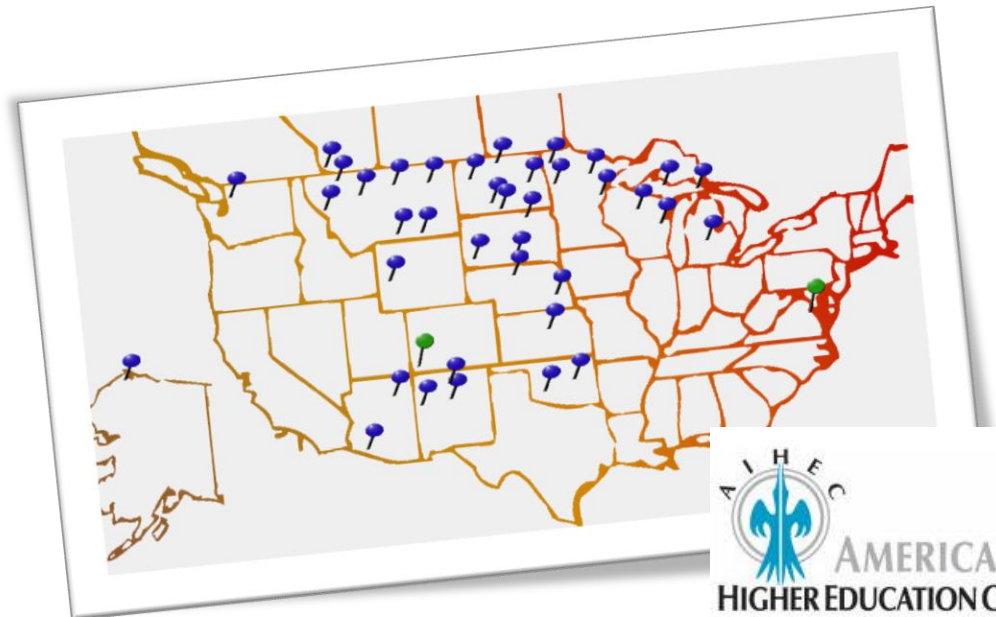
However, the **average graduation rate at Red Lake Secondary over the most recent 5 years is below average for Minnesota:**

- Red Lake Secondary: **28%**
- Minnesota: **80%**

However, Red Lake Secondary has a **higher graduation rate than average for Red Lake Public School District** over the last 5 years (**20%**).

Native Americans in Higher Education

- Completion rates for first-time, full-time students who sought a Bachelor's degree indicate that 39 percent of Natives graduate in 6 years, the lowest of all racial/ethnic groups and almost twice as low as white students at 62 percent.
- Overall in 2010, 0.8 percent of Natives received a bachelor's degree, which was only a slight increase from 0.7 percent in 2000.
- Enrollment rates of Native students in degree-granting institutions increased from 102,800 in 1990 to 172,900 in 2012.
- 38 Tribal Colleges and Universities in the United States.



INDIAN EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA

How the Government Is Making Good Citizens and Self-Supporting Men and Women of the Indian Children.

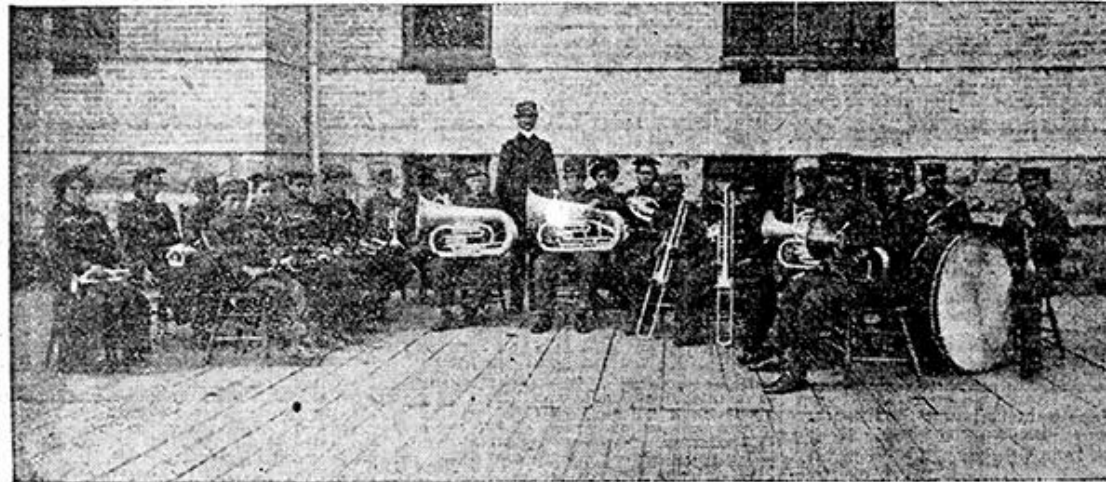
Correspondence of the Journal.

White Earth, Minn., June 10.—One of the most interesting and attractive features of the annual convention of the National Educational Association which meets in Minneapolis July 7-12, is the Department of Indian Education. Although the state of Minnesota has an Indian population of about 8,100 the great majority of the people of the state know very little of what the government is doing in the way of educating the Indian youth. Inasmuch as the Indian schools all over the country will have a large representation in attendance at the coming N. E. A. convention it may be inter-

difficult to answer this question with any degree of certainty. When we consider that the government is expending annually over three million dollars for the support of the Indian schools and that this expenditure is increasing yearly we naturally think that some results should speedily follow. We may be sure of one thing, however, and that is that there is no state in the union whose red skinned denizens can show more progress toward civilization than can be found on the White Earth reservation. Here is a section of country thirty-six miles square comprising some of the most fertile and productive soil in the state. The pict-

years ago, such is he to-day," is well nigh true so far as the old full blood Indians are concerned. But it would not be true to say this of those who have the advantages of the modern training school. The mixed bloods usually have the English language which the Indian rarely has, and this accounts largely for the difference in advancement and for the better appearance of the mixed bloods.

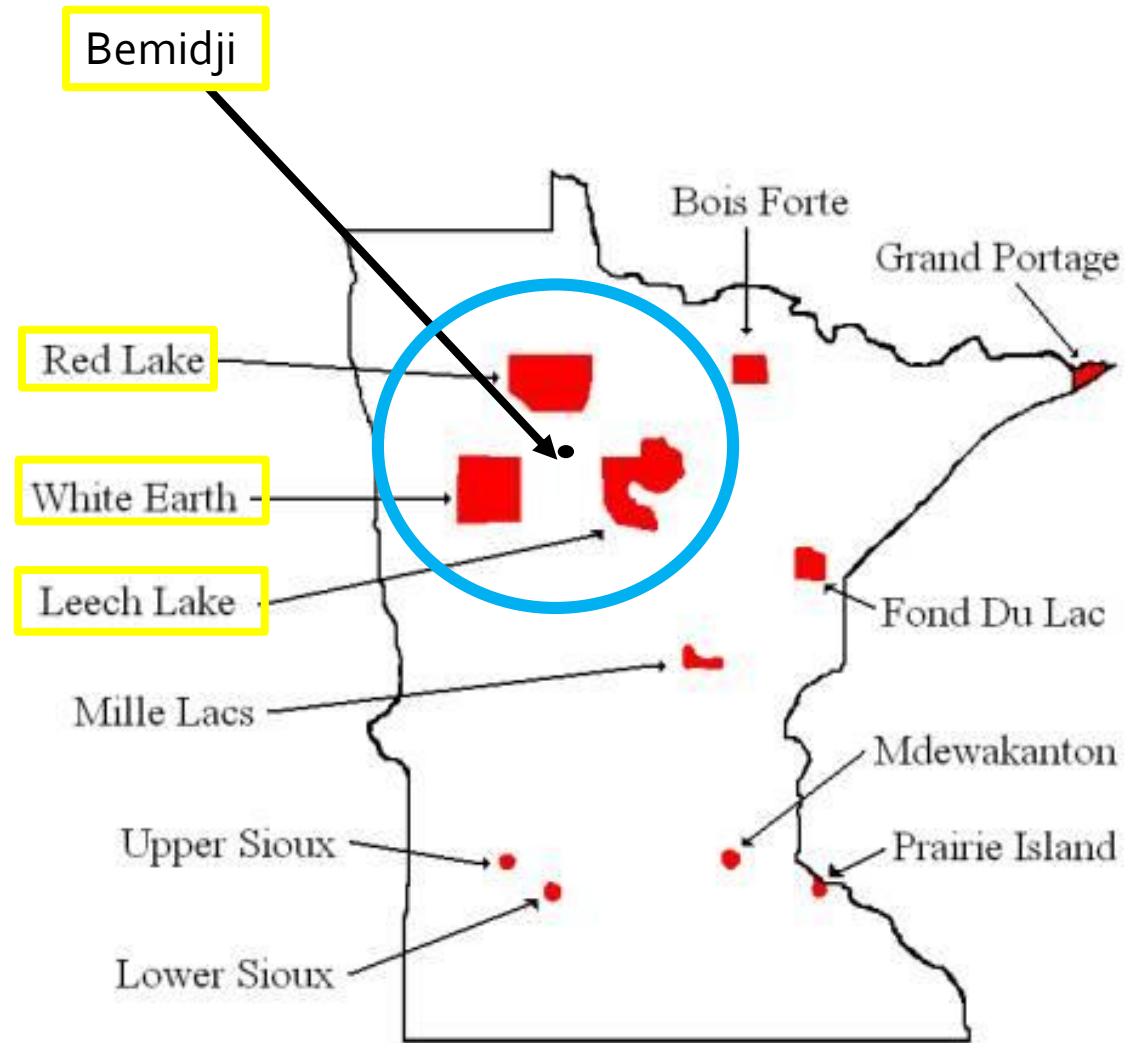
The Indian schools are not intended to give the Indian a high education. They aim to teach him enough to transact ordinary business and to live intelligently and be able to make his way in the world. To this end the boys are taught trades, such as blacksmithing, carpentry, engineering, shoe and harness making, printing, wagon making, painting, farming, etc., while the girls are taught house-keeping, cooking, baking, sewing, garment cutting, washing and ironing, and such things as any woman of moderate means as head of a family may be expected to know. With this training it often happens that the Indian boys and girls go out from school at the age of 18 or 20 years much better prepared to fight the battles of life than the sons and daughters of the people who live in those sections contiguous to the reservation. And after all, is this not a very valuable education? The great majority of children who attend school will fill the common walks of life and one is not surprised that leading educators, and statesmen as well, are seriously considering the advisability of establishing industrial training schools along with the public schools where boys and girls may be taught to use



WHITE EARTH INDIAN SCHOOL BAND.

Historical Trauma

The Demographic



Beltrami County: 20 percent of people identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native

Bemidji State University

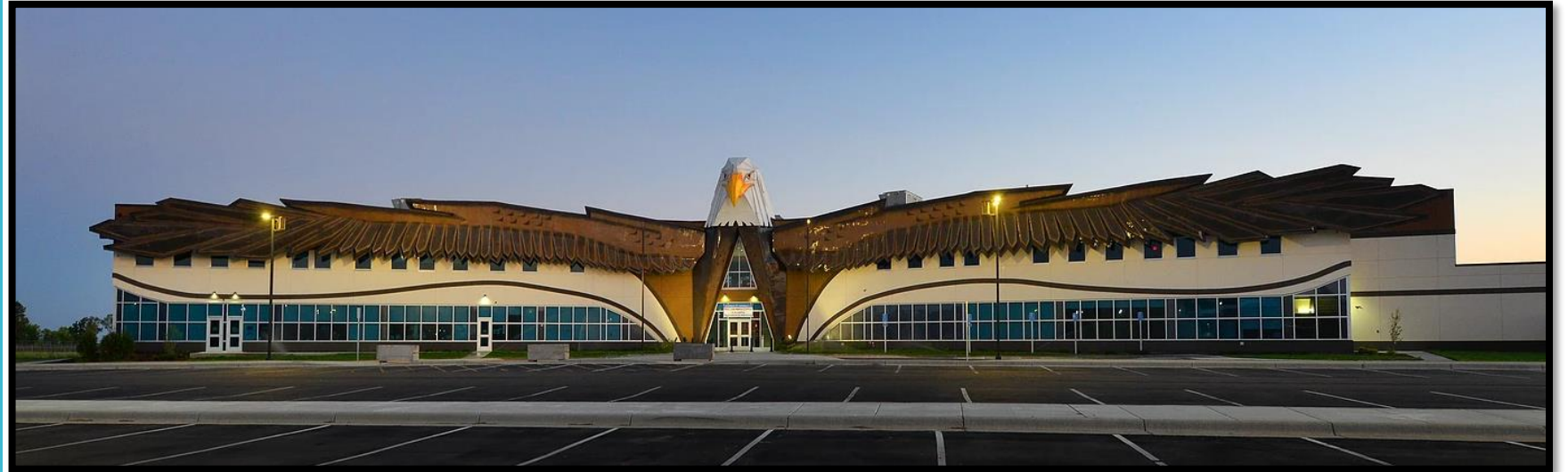
- Four-Year University located in Bemidji, MN
- 2.6% of student population identifies as American Indian or Alaskan Native (IPEDS)
- Offers an increasingly popular Indigenous Studies major and minor as well as Ojibwe language minor and Teaching Ojibwe Language Certificate
- *Anishinaabe-gikendaasoowigamig Gekenjigaadeg* (American Indian Resource Center)



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

Red Lake Nation College

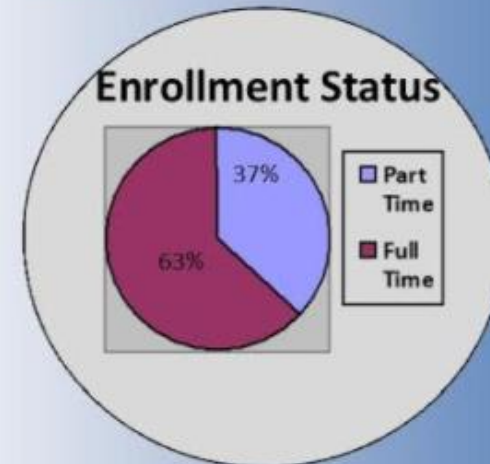
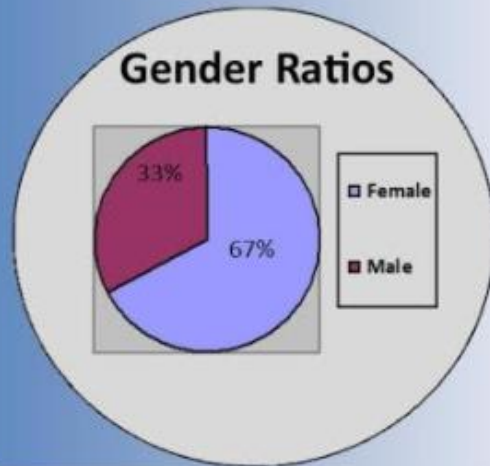
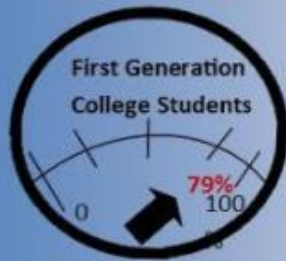
- Located in the Red Lake community of the Red Lake Nation
- Until June 2017, operated as a site of the Leech Lake Tribal College
- Currently in Candidacy for Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission.



- Average enrollment: ~120 students
- AY 16-17 saw 77% first generation college students, 50% with dependent children at home, with a retention rate of 42% from AY 15-16.



Red Lake Nation College Institutional Dashboard Spring 2017



Average Student Age
29

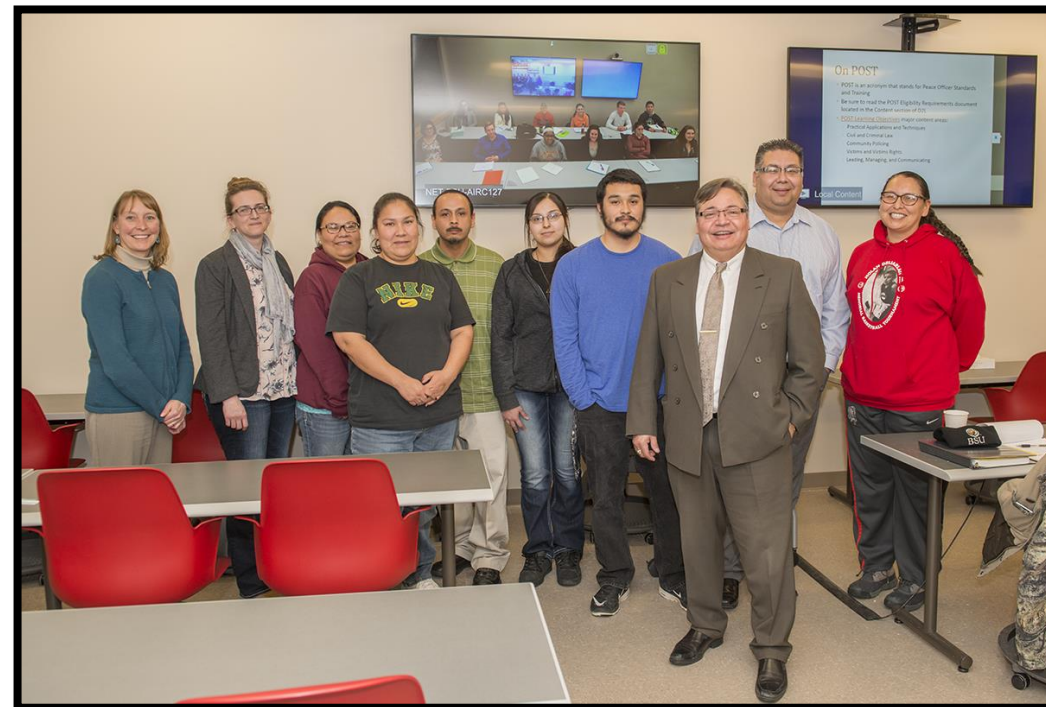
Total Headcount
90

Average Credit Load
10

Full Time Enrollment
ISC/FTE
78/70

The Big Picture

Articulation
Agreements



The Aazhogan and
Virtual Presence
Opportunities

The role of a library

"The library is the heart of our institution."

-Dan King, RLNC President

Building Student
Self-Confidence

A Place to Be

Ask a Librarian!

Medweganoonind Library

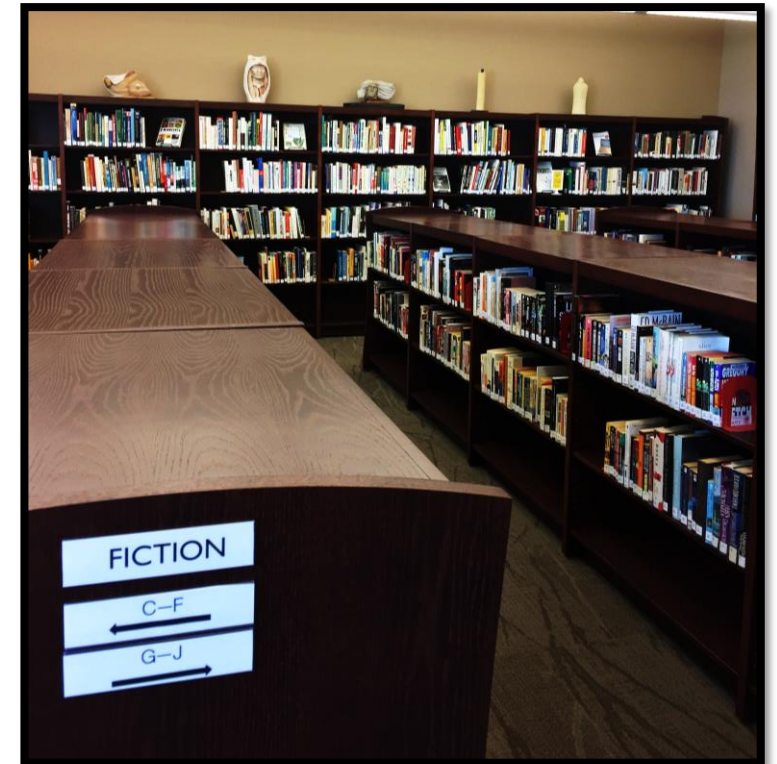


Open to the public

~7,000 resources
(Native, Children's, General,
Movies/Games)

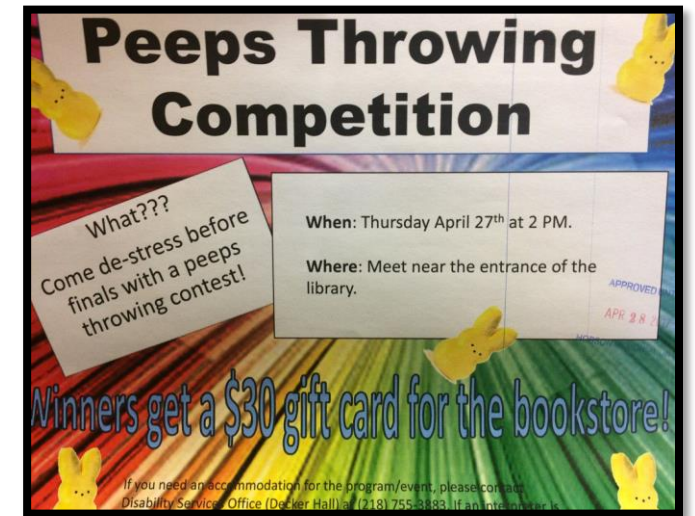
27 Info Lit Sessions in AY 16-17

Access to Learning Center,
Computer Lab, Private Study
Rooms, Technology Help



A.C. Clark Library

- No matter what course of study students pursue, the resources and services of the A.C. Clark Library play an important role in their education.
- The Library provides access to nearly 400,000 on-campus holdings, nearly one-quarter of a million books, and collections of government publications, audio-visual materials, maps, and microforms. Online access to high-quality research tools (such as electronic indexes, full-text periodical article databases, and electronic reference materials) is provided through the Library's web site.

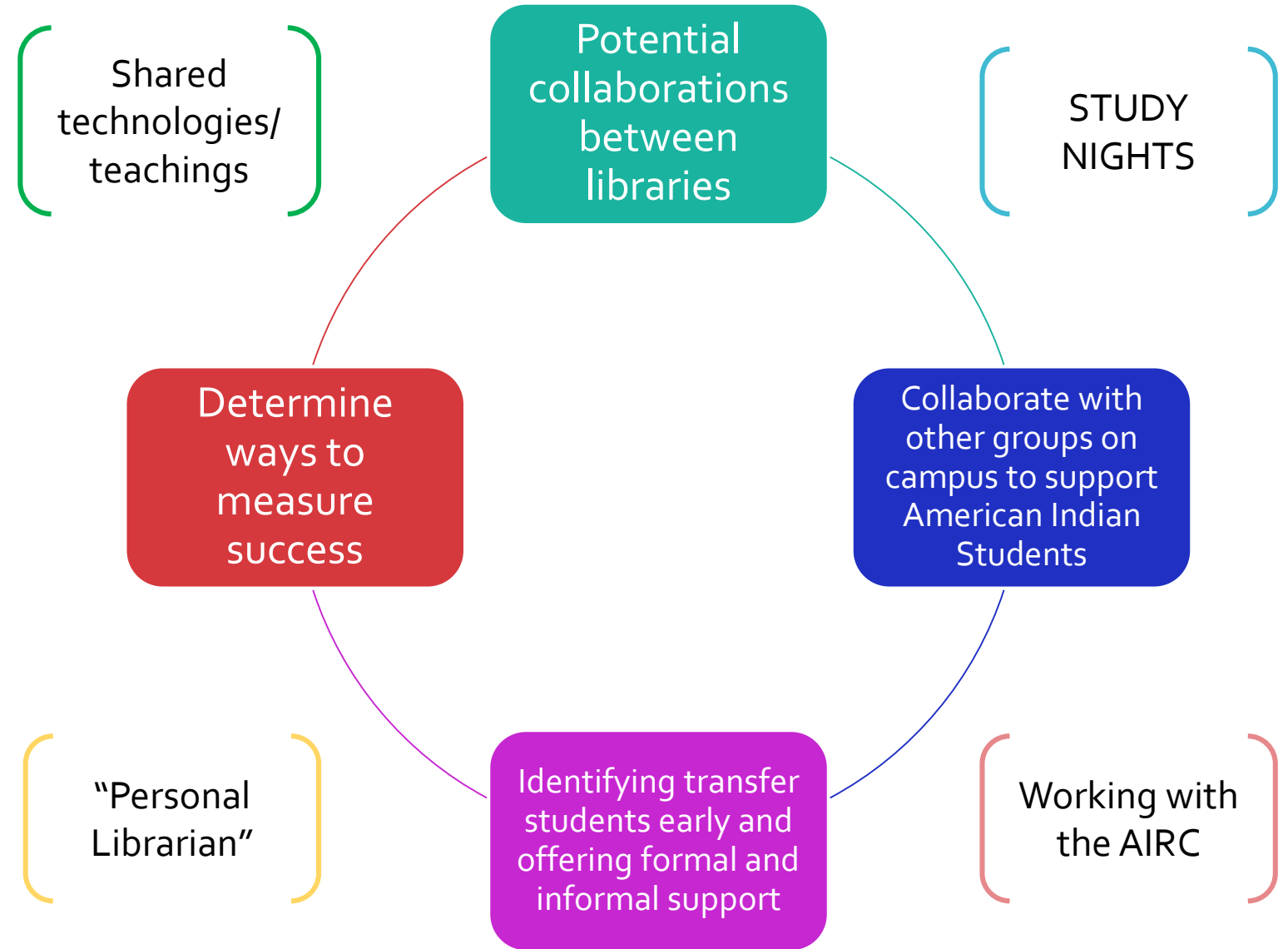


A Student Perspective

“The library is where I went for everything. You walk in and feel like you can just breathe. [The staff] took the time to know me, and, ya know, I could ask whatever without feeling judged. That is why, even though I am at BSU now, I still Facebook message you guys for help!”

–RLNC graduate/BSU transfer, April 2017

Ideas for Future Action



Fall 2017 Plans

- Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement
- Study nights at BSU campus
- Expansion to more Tribal College Libraries
- Special native focused library displays and events (Native Voices)
- “Personal Librarian” for transfer students
 - Welcome email and follow up collaborations
 - Close referral relationship with the American Indian Resource Center
- Librarian support to virtual presence classrooms at both ends



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Questions?

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STATE UNIVERSITY