



1994 Land-Grant¹ Programs at CSREES

America’s Tribal Colleges and Universities became part of the land-grant system in 1994, but have not received sufficient recognition and funding to enable them to reach their full potential. Congress can begin to rectify this situation by increasing two key programs at the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES):

1994 Institutions Research. This competitive grants program permits the Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) to participate in USDA’s research program through partnerships with 1862 or 1890 land-grant universities. Some areas where the TCUs are making significant contributions in Indian Country include: soil conservation; water quality; integrated pest management; wildlife and range management; native plant propagation for medicinal and economic uses; and nutrition and health, which are particularly important given the high incidence of diet-related diseases among American Indians.

The 1994 Institutions Research Program received \$1.544 million in FY 2007. It must be increased to \$3 million in FY 2008.

This increased funding is needed to build the capacity of the 1994 Institutions to continue and expand their vital research programs focused on the high priority concerns of tribal, national, and/or multi-state significance. The 1994 research program supports investigative and applied studies in the food and agricultural sciences. This program represents an ideal combination of federal resources and tribal college-state institutional expertise, with the overall impact being far greater than the sum of its parts.

1994 Institutions Extension. This program, designed to complement, not duplicate, the reservation agent extension program managed by 1862 land-grant universities, is essential to addressing the needs of the remote reservation communities served by 1994 TCUs. Program activities include: outreach to at-risk youth; business skills development

for local agriculture entrepreneurs; native plant restoration and horticulture projects; environmental analysis and water quality projects; and nutrition projects aimed at addressing health disparities such as the alarmingly high rate of diabetes among American Indian populations.

In FY 2007, the 1994 Institutions Extension program was funded at \$3.321 million. Competitive funding for the 31 eligible institutions must be increased to \$5 million in FY 2008.

Such an increase is necessary to maintain and expand existing programs and to respond to emerging issues such as food safety and security, especially on border reservations. As the 1994 TCU programs have been perennially under-funded, TCUs have applied their ingenuity by leveraging funds to maximize their programs. For example, the College of Menominee Nation (CMN) in Wisconsin has a multi-year program that leverages funding from several activities to expand its extension program, which focuses on strengthening the economic capacity of the local community. Partnering with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CMN is designing curriculum that is designed to encourage minority youth to enter allied health fields, involving tribal elders, relevant service providers, local schools, the Wisconsin Commission on Aging, and health clinics.

NASULGC’S PRIORITY REQUESTS FOR FY 2008²

- 1994 Institutions Research..... \$3 M
- 1994 Institutions Extension..... \$5 M

1. America’s Land-Grant System was established by the Morrill Act of 1862 and expanded by the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994 to include the tribal colleges and universities.
2. NASULGC also supports the 1994 Presidents’ request to maintain funding for the 1994 Institutions’ Equity Grants Program at the FY 2007 level of \$3.342 million.