

HPOG Program Summary



Turtle Mountain Community College Choosing Health Opportunities for Indian Career Enhancement (Project CHOICE)

Location:

Belcourt, North Dakota

Program Goals:

- Enroll 165 participants in training and education programs
- Train 97 participants in target programs
- Place 77 into employment in the healthcare sector

Health Professions Taught:

Successful participants earn certifications qualifying them to be a licensed vocational nurse, medical lab technician, emergency medical technician, phlebotomist, or pharmacy technician.

Approach:

Project CHOICE assists participants to use career ladders leading to certification, licensure and employment. Beyond the academic programs, students receive support services including case management, mentoring, tutoring, health career exploration, academic advisement, and transportation assistance.

The target population includes Temporary Assistance for Families in Need (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals residing in the area of Turtle Mountain reservation in North Dakota.

Recruitment occurs at Turtle Mountain reservation in North Dakota utilizing public announcements via radio and newspapers. Posters, fliers, and brochures are distributed. Information sessions occur at key locations within the community.

The program provides entry-level basic skills testing and remediation, core health professions courses, and specific educational services by appropriate accrediting agencies to allow students to sit for licensure examinations. The project incorporates technology through computer-assisted learning, providing laptops, and video of hands-on lab experiences allowing for review and study of skills prior to actual clinical rotations. Area medical facilities provide clinical lab practice and internships.

Key partners include North Dakota Job Service, North Dakota Workforce Investment Board, North Dakota Department of Human Services (TANF), and Indian Health Services (IHS). Potential employers include public and private medical providers and Indian Health Services.