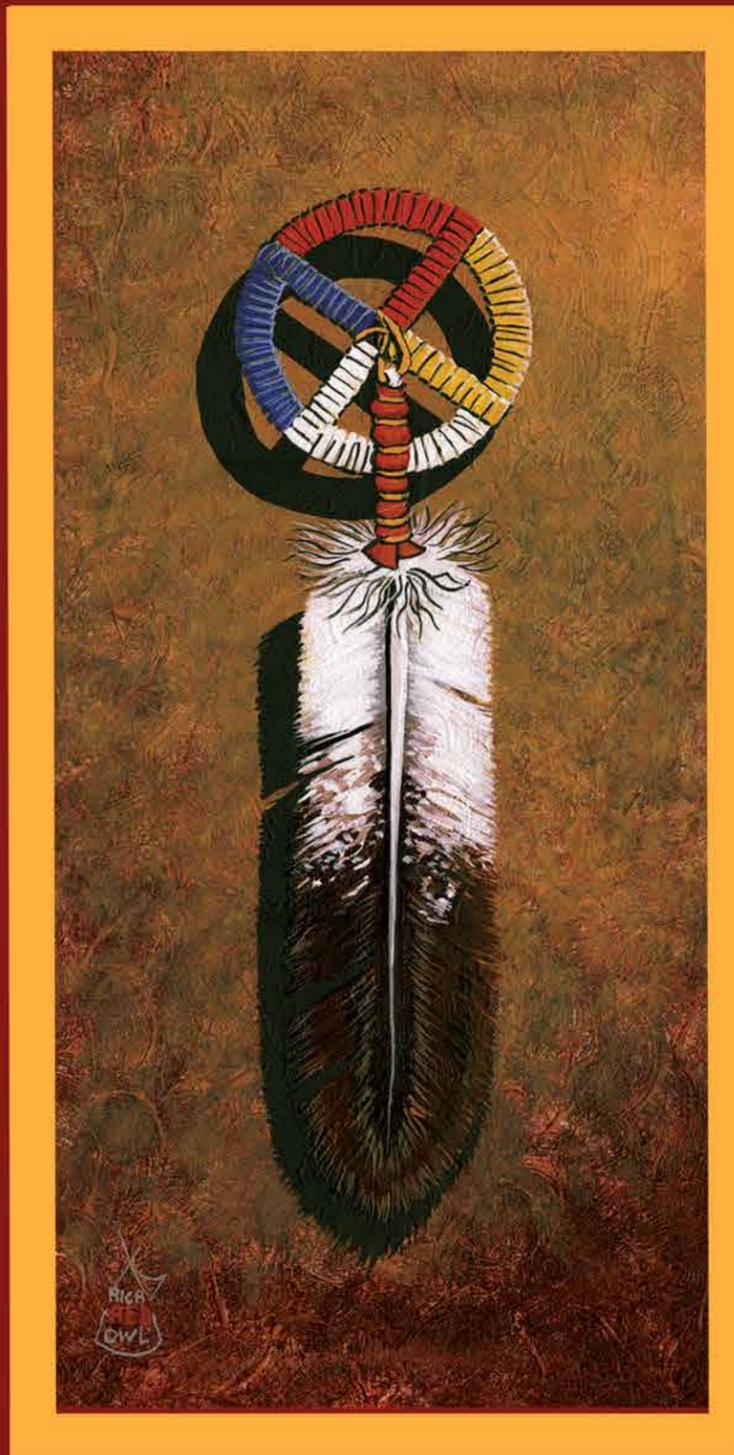


Oglala Lakota College  
490 Piya Wiconi Road  
Kyle, SD 57752  
[www.olc.edu](http://www.olc.edu)



# Oglala Lakota College

Annual Report 2014

## Mission, Vision and Values

### Vision

Rebuilding the Lakota Nation through Education.

### Mission

The mission of OLC is to educate students for professional and vocational employment opportunities in Lakota country. The College will graduate well-rounded students grounded in *Wolakolkiciyapi* - learning Lakota ways of life in the community – by teaching Lakota culture and language as part of preparing students to participate in a multicultural world.

### Values

Oglala Lakota College strives to practice and teach the values of traditional Lakota culture: *Ohitika* (Bravery), *Wacantognakapi* (Generosity), *Wowacintaka* (Fortitude), *Wokiksuye* (Remembrance), *Unsibanpi* (Humility), *Woyuoniban* (Respect), *Woonspe* (Learning), *Woslolye* (Knowledge), *Wookahnige* (Understanding) and *Woksape* (Wisdom).



*OLC President Thomas Shortbull is pictured holding the staff during the graduation procession from Piya Wiconi to the pow wow grounds.*

## Corporations and Foundations for 2013-2014

Arthur Vining Davis Foundations  
Black Hills Corp  
Charles Frueauff Foundation Inc.  
Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation  
Golden West Telecommunications  
Huisking Foundation  
Lannan Foundation  
Northern Star Foundation  
Olive Higgins Prouty Foundation  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
St. Francis Foundation of Michigan  
The First National Bank of Gordon  
Theodore & Vivian Johnson Foundation  
Vucurevich Foundation  
William M. Hales Foundation  
Winky Foundation

Novartis  
P & G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
PepsiCo Foundation  
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program  
Raytheon Matching Gift for Education Program  
Rockwell Collins Matching Gifts Program  
State Farm Companies Foundation  
The Boeing Company  
The Medtronic Foundation Matching Gifts  
The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts  
TIAA CREF  
Verizon Foundation  
Wisconsin Energy Foundation  
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign

Oglala Lakota College would again like to thank all those who contributed in 2014 including OLC staff, faculty, Board of Trustees, tribes, community members, federal agencies, foundations and corporations. A very special thank you to the thousands of individuals throughout the country who have made donations to the College in 2014. Together we are rebuilding the Lakota Nation through education one student, one graduate at a time.

If you are not a donor and would like to contribute go to [www.olec.edu](http://www.olec.edu).

## Matching Gifts for 2013-2014

Abbott Fund  
Aetna Foundation  
AIG Matching Grants Program  
AT&T Foundation  
BAE Systems Matching Gift Program  
Ball Corporation  
Bank of America  
BP Fabric of America Fund  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation  
Carillon  
Dow Corning  
Eli Lilly & Company Foundation  
ExxonMobil Foundation, Inc.  
Fidelity Invest. Charitable Gift Fund  
GE Foundation  
General Mills Foundation Gift Matching Program  
Grainger  
H J Heinz Company Foundation  
IBM Matching Grants Program  
Intuit Foundation  
Johnson & Johnson  
JP Morgan Chase Foundation  
Merck Partnership for Giving  
Northwestern Mutual Life Foundation

*One of OLC's founders passed away this past year. In 1970 Gerald One Feather was the President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe when he had his vision of an educated tribe. He was featured in OLC's 2011 Annual Report and in it he had this to say:*

*"There were four reasons why I started Oglala Lakota College," he said. "The first was the 87% dropout rate of people who attended college off the Reservation. The second was the dire need for professionals among our own people to serve as teachers, nurses and social workers. The third was the need for outside resources. And finally I knew spirituality had to be a large part of it."*



## Otakuye Conroy-Ben, Ph.D. (Titakuye Ota Win)

Otakuye Conroy-Ben is originally from Porcupine. Her parents are Arlo and Vina Conroy, and she is the oldest of five children. She graduated from Rapid City Central in 1994. She is married to Colin Ben (Dine from Shiprock, NM), who is working on his Ph.D. in Education, Leadership and Policy, and she said, “we are blessed with a daughter, *Wayuwita Win* which means Gathering Woman. I was a former fancy shawl dancer and served as Miss Black Hills Nation which was later changed to *He Sapa Win*.”

She earned her BS in Chemistry in 1998 from the University of Notre Dame. She then attended the University of Arizona where in 2004 she received an MA in Chemistry and an MS in Environmental Engineering. In 2006 she earned a PhD. in Environmental Engineering.

Since the Fall of 2009 Otakuye has served as an Assistant Professor in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. She teaches courses in environmental engineering, water and wastewater treatment, and hazardous site remediation. She also runs a lab where they research water contaminants, adverse health effects, landfill space and lifespan, and water/wastewater treatment.

“Water and environment are very important to me,” she said. “Through my career, I hope to reach many students, sharing the need to protect our water and land.”

“OLC is where I started in higher education. I was given the opportunity to take classes while in high school, and I’m very honored to have taken Lakota language from the late Sidney Keith. My sister Weewashte started at OLC prior to enrolling in a nursing program at SDSU, and my mom recently received her B.A. from OLC. Many cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews have also attended. Not only does Oglala Lakota College serve as a stepping stone to other education programs, it is a place where you can complete your degree.”



## Aloysius R. Wounded Head

Aloysius R. Wounded Head’s Lakota name is *Taolowan Waste* (One who has good songs). He is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and resides on the Pine Ridge Reservation. His parents are Anthony and Marilyn Wounded Head from the Porcupine District. He has two brothers and one sister. Al said, “My family is my rock and inspiration when it comes to my educational endeavors.” He is currently taking classes to obtain his Bachelors degree in Business Administration specializing in Management. He has an AA degree in General Business.

Al has spent his college career actively participating in many organizations and activities including Student Organization; Student Senate and served as its President; Board of Trustees Student Member; Member and Vice-President of the American Indian Business Leadership; and Peer Mentor for Student Support Services.

Currently Al is working as the Pine Ridge College Center Student Support Services Counselor. He was previously employed at the Prairie Winds Casino as a Players Club Host. He was the Student Support Services Peer Mentor at the Pahin Sinte College Center in Porcupine for a few years.

“My employment experiences over the past years consisted of interacting with people,” he said. “This experience allowed me to become a positive role model for not only my family but for younger generations to come.”

“I am thankful that Oglala Lakota College is here. Taking the many classes meant that I’m working to gain knowledge and to open up doors leading to many opportunities. I have learned a lot about my culture and how to incorporate the Lakota perspective in the everyday atmosphere of employment. I realize that professionalism is ever present among the many staff and faculty at OLC. Being in this atmosphere I’ve learned generosity, respect, patience and courage as I’ve completed numerous tasks.”



## President’s Letter



As always the highlight of our year was graduation with 162 graduates earning 3 Masters, 71 Bachelors, 73 Associates, and 15 Lakota Language Certificates.

Despite government cuts in many areas our budget actually increased slightly due to increases in Tribal College Act funding and Title III Tribal College funding in a large part due to the efforts of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Budget increases have allowed us to purchase vans for our four smaller Centers to institute a plan to assist students from these Centers access needed courses to graduate in a more timely manner.

We completed Phase V of the Rebuilding the Lakota Nation Through Education Campaign three years early with the goal of raising \$16 million with \$8 million for Faculty Endowment and \$8 million for Scholarship Endowments. Currently, OLC has increased its Scholarship Endowments to \$16 million dollars and this compares to \$320,000 in Scholarship Endowments when I returned for my second term as President in 1995. The new campaign for Rebuilding the Lakota Nation Through Education will focus exclusively on student scholarships and the goal over the next 50 years is to make it possible for any student who wishes to attend OLC to be able to attend regardless of financial need. Our Investment Committee continues to guide the management of our endowment in a wise and fruitful way where we have averaged between 5 and 7% return a year.

Once again our audit was exemplary. The FY 2013 audit completed in June 2014 had no findings or questioned costs which is a rarity for most institutions. We went through a SD Board of Education Review and on 11/17/14 the Board continued endorsement for our teacher education program for five more years stating we met all four of their Professional Standards.

We also completed a program improvement plan for our Head Start Program and secured a new 5 year grant to operate Head Start and Early Head Start on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

We continued our commitment to meeting the mandate of our mission to study and teach Lakota language and culture. We almost doubled participation in the newly revived Wazi Paha Festival from 72 to 132 people participating in arts and crafts, social dance, cookoffs and traditional games. We operated the Lakota Woglaka Wounspe immersion school with an average of 27 students in grades K to 5 and obtained a grant from the Lannan Foundation to help with operations. We also obtained a grant from the American Indian College Fund to foster traditional Native arts in the classroom and community workshops.

OLC received notice that it was placed on Notice with its Accreditation status with the North Central Higher Learning Commission. We see this as opportunity for self-improvement in how we operate the College. The needed improvements are now being implemented and we fully expect that OLC will no longer be on Notice Status in 2016.

Our new Administrative Team including VP for Instruction Dawn Frank, VP for Business Julie Johnson, and Assessment Director Tina Merdanian did great work involving all staff and faculty in data gathering and analysis and use of this data for planning. All Academic Departments completed updating learning outcomes for all degrees and most courses.

We will not rest on our accomplishments of 2014. Besides initiating the new Capital Campaign in 2015 we will continue to improve based on involvement of staff, students and faculty, and community, analysis of data, review of our own self-study, and consideration of the HLC report of March 2014. Emphasis areas in 2015 include regularizing our assessment of student learning with clear directions on student learning to every College unit, continuing to strengthen the relationship between data, budgeting and strategic planning to meet student learning and service needs, and clarifying reporting channels to assure we are gathering and analyzing data, feeding it back to staff and faculty and communicating it to all constituents, and using it to indicate areas that need to be emphasized in the coming academic year. We will more clearly establish contingency priorities as they arise. We will also complete the first comprehensive occupational survey of the Pine Ridge Reservation since 1978 to assure our certificate and degree offerings are meeting the needs of Lakota country as is mandated by our mission.

*President Thomas Shortbull congratulates Steele Bendigo after receiving his BS in Business Administration degree at the 2014 graduation.*



## Board of Trustees

OLC's Board of Trustees is comprised of nine representatives elected from the nine districts of the reservation and representatives of the Oglala Sioux Tribal President, OST Education Committee of the Tribal Council, Student Senate and Council of Elders. There are Local Boards at each Instructional Center on Pine Ridge and student organizations at all 11 Instructional Centers.

The members of the OLC Board of Trustees during 2014 were:

Newton Cummings, BOT Chair, Lacreek District Representative; Rancher/Former Tribal Chairman, Martin, SD.

Emma Featherman-Sam, Tribal President's Representative; Director, Oglala Sioux Tribe Transit System, Kyle, SD.

Alice Perkins, Tribal Education Committee Representative; Budget Tech, OST Early Intervention Program, Pine Ridge, SD.

Dennis Brewer, Pine Ridge District Representative; Former Director of Transportation for Shannon County Schools, Pine Ridge, SD.

Bennett "Tuffy" Sierra, Vice-Chair, Wakpamni District Representative; Community Leader/Counselor, Slim Buttes, SD.

Peter Red Willow, Eagle Nest District Representative; Community Leader/Student, Wanblee, SD.

Willene Kills Enemy, Wounded Knee District Representative; CAP Office Coordinator, Manderson, SD.

Phoebe Tallman, Pass Creek District Representative; Bilingual Teacher, American Horse School, Allen, SD.

Warren Cross, White Clay District Representative; Oglala Sioux Tribe Clinical Lab Director, Oglala, SD.

Anthony Wounded Head, BOT Secretary, Porcupine District Representative; Oglala Sioux Tribe Pesticide Enforcement Program Director, Porcupine, SD.

Denise King-Red Owl, BOT Secretary, Medicine Root District Representative; Substance Abuse Counselor, Oglala Sioux Tribe Juvenile Detention Center, Kyle, SD.

Rebecca Lone Elk, Student Senate Representative, Oglala, SD.

Joe American Horse, Council of Elders Representative; Former Tribal Chairman; Oglala, SD.

Welcome to our new BOT members appointed for the December 2014 - 2016 term:

Garfield Apple; Wounded Knee District Representative; former OST Tribal Council Member, Manderson, SD.

Donovan Youngman; White Clay District Representative; Oglala, SD.

Dr. Gloria Coats-Kitsopoulos; Tribal President's Representative; Superintendent, American Horse Day School, Allen, SD.

All BOT members are members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and all reside on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

*"Wokiksuye"* In Remembrance

Gerald One Feather passed away in August. He was one of the founders of Oglala Lakota College and a long time Council of Elders and Board of Trustees member. The Council of Elders appointed Joe American Horse, former Oglala Sioux Tribal President, as their new representative on the Board of Trustees.

## Joanne Beare

Joanne Twiggs Beare is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Hunkpapa Tribe. Her parents are Vernon Twiggs - Standing Rock Hunkpapa, and Ruth Yellow Cloud - Rosebud Sicangu, both of whom have journeyed to the Spirit World.

Joanne grew up in Pierre, SD but also lived on both the Standing Rock and Rosebud Reservations. Joanne said, "My father was a very hard worker. He taught me to have good work ethics, which I am grateful for today. My mother was a stay-at-home mother who did many jobs in order to run a family of nine. Neither of my parents attended college. My father went to trade school and was a Radiator Repairman who worked for the same business for over 35 years. My parents always stressed to their children to get a good education so that we could have better paying jobs.

"I am the proud parent of three beautiful adult daughters Ruth, Emma & Sarah, and very proud grandmother (Unci) of eight grandchildren. My Tiospaye-Family is very important to me, and I can truly say that my children and grandchildren helped me to be a better parent and grandparent. They have been my never-ending teachers."

She spent many years attending Black Hills State University, Northern State University, South Dakota State University and Southwest State University in Minnesota. She went to college while raising her children.

"It was very difficult for me to have a full time job, raise children, and attend college full time, so I took classes whenever I could. I was very fortunate to be able to work and get social work experience in many of my jobs including for SD Children's Home Society, Lutheran Social Services, SD Dept. of Social Services, and as Indian Education Program Coordinator for 18 years with the Pierre Public Schools. Presently my degree has allowed me to be the Program Director for Lakota Circles of Hope at Catholic Social Services which teaches Lakota Culture & Values as prevention of at-risk behaviors.

*Joanne Beare is pictured with her daughter Sarah Beare. Joanne is a graduate of OLC and Sarah will graduate from OLC in the Spring of 2015. Both say that attending OLC has been a very positive experience and one they recommend to other people.*

"I never forgot my goal to get my degree, and when I saw that OLC was one of the only colleges in South Dakota to have a Bachelors of Social Work Program, I decided to move here and finish my degree. I was able to attend school and work full-time. OLC helped me in many ways. I was able to finish my degree without having to get higher education loans. The staff worked with me to get all the scholarships that were available." Joanne attended Oglala Lakota College from 2008 -2010 as a non-traditional student in the Bachelor of Social Work Program and graduated in June of 2010.

"Going to OLC was a very comfortable and a non-threatening experience. OLC treats their students very respectfully and they want everyone to have an opportunity to succeed. I would recommend OLC to anyone; it is a good State Accredited College which is also very affordable. I recommended OLC to my youngest daughter Sarah Beare and I am proud to say that she will be graduating in the spring of 2015 with her Bachelors in Social Work degree. Sarah tells me the same thing - that OLC has been a very positive experience for her and she is being helped with scholarships to attend. So I guess you can say graduating from OLC has become a family affair for us. We have both recommended OLC to many of our friends and relatives."



## Christina Ferguson

Christina Ferguson is 26 years old and was born in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Her parents are Faith Richards and Boyd Ferguson. Her maternal grandparents are Geneva Spider-Richards and William Richards Sr. and her paternal grandparents are Shirley Pourier-Ferguson and John Ferguson. She grew up on North Route at Kyle, SD and moved to the Porcupine/Evergreen area when she was 13.

Christina attended Our Lady of Lourdes from kindergarten to eighth grade. She graduated from OLL in 2002 and then attended Little Wound High School for the next four years. Christina graduated with honors from LWHS in 2006. Her many honors included being named Salutatorian and to the National Honor Society. Christina was also a Gates Millennium Scholar and belonged to the 95% attendance club. She was involved in extracurricular activities throughout high school which included volleyball and cheerleading.

In the fall of 2006, she attended the University of North Dakota. The following spring Christina became a student at Oglala Lakota College. She graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in Nursing in 2012.

Christina said she successfully passed the NCLEX-RN examination and became a registered nurse on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation where she is currently employed as an RN at Kyle Health Center, part of the Indian Health Service.

“I enjoy my job very much and my coworkers are amazing. I continue to learn every day and I am very grateful for the opportunities I have received and continue to receive on a daily basis. It was always a dream of mine to graduate with a nursing degree and work at Kyle Health Center.”

She said school has been her main priority for most of her life. “When I enrolled in classes at Oglala Lakota College, I was happy to be close to my family, friends and community. I enjoyed the one-on-one with faculty and the cultural connection while at OLC. The nursing program at OLC was everything I imagined it to be. It was fun, challenging and life changing. It has truly been a struggle for me to get through college, but with the love and support from my family and the staff at OLC I have persevered and I will be successful throughout my career. I hope to be a role model and show inspiration to the members of my community through education.”

“I would like to thank Oglala Lakota College for all of the incredible opportunities I have received to help fulfill a goal I set in my life. I want to thank the faculty and staff for always supporting me and encouraging me. I am thankful for the scholarships I have received as they were a tremendous support for me and my education.”



*Christina Ferguson is pictured at her graduation being honored with the tying of an eagle plume to her nurse's cap. It is being tied by her aunt Janice Richards.*

## Student Success

Our mission statement says that we will “educate students for professional and vocational employment opportunities in Lakota country.” In 1978 we did an Occupational Survey and found what jobs were available and what skills and degrees were needed. We began another Occupational Survey in Fall 2014 to make sure we are still aligned.

We know that the Reservation will always need teachers. In Fall 2014 the Oglala Sioux Tribal Department of Education reported that there were 19 certified teaching vacancies in the schools on the Reservation. Currently 123 OLC graduates hold teaching positions on the Reservation. Since 2012 we have graduated 15 more teachers.

Our Nursing Program graduated 33 AA in Nursing students since 2012 of whom 90% passed the N-CLEX and became Registered Nurses. Our graduates fill positions at the Pine Ridge Hospital and two clinics on the Reservation as well as bordertown health facilities looking for staff familiar with Lakota culture especially to deal with the elderly.

OLC took over the Reservation Early Head Start and Head Start Programs in 2005 at the request of the Tribe. At that time the government began requiring that all teachers have an Associates degree by 2010 and a Bachelors by 2014. Our Education Department helped make progress toward the Associates goal and since 2012 we have graduated 25 Bachelors in Early Childhood Education. In the OLC Head Start and Early Head Start alone there are 30 Head Teachers and 30 assistant Teachers. We also graduated 25 students with an AA in Early Childhood Education since 2012.

We did an Employer Satisfaction Survey with 2013 graduates during 2014. The average rating on the question “How would you rate your overall satisfaction with this employee?” on a scale from 1 Not Satisfied to 5 Extremely Satisfied was 4.43. We will be following up with employers to find out more about what we can do to make our graduates even more successful. The average rating on the question of “How satisfied are you with the employee/OLC graduate's performance in relation to the following job skills or qualities?” was a 4.5. There were 10 qualities rated which include work ethic (4.75), punctuality (4.61), written communication (4.51), and knowledge of computers (4.49).

Employers on the Reservation told us there was a great need for certified social workers. We revised our social work program and since 2012 we have graduated 26 students with a Bachelors in Social Work.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe alone has 184 positions for administrative assistants and accounting techs. We have graduated over 34 AAs in these areas since 2012. The Tribe also has 78 director or administrator positions and we have graduated 42 Bachelors in Business since 2012.

Our degrees are tied to needed jobs on the Reservation and in all of Lakota country. We are transitioning to more Bachelors degrees and are strengthening the Associates degrees that lead to jobs or job promotions.

## College Information

### Students Fall 2014

Enrollment	1,423	
Indian Students	1,357	(93%)
Full-Time Equivalent	1,139	
Male	428	(30%)
Female	995	(70%)
Entering Freshmen	162	
Seniors	231	
Graduate Students	46	

### Graduates 2014

Master's	3
Bachelors	71
Associates	73
Certificates	15

### Staff

Postsecondary Staff	126
Full-Time Faculty	68
Adjunct Faculty	101
Head Start	139

### Budget Information

(Fiscal Year ending 9/30/14)		
Payroll/Fringe	\$	16,986,497
Construction/Equipment	\$	727,289
Facilities/Maintenance	\$	600,378
Other Operating Costs	\$	8,121,502
Student Support	\$	3,407,977
Pell	\$	4,500,000

### Endowment 12/14

Faculty	\$	24,859,362
Student Scholarships	\$	15,658,623
Maintenance	\$	1,308,699
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>41,826,684</b>

## Graduation 2014



*Jobaunna Dreamer-Brewer and Norma Dreamer. Jobaunna earned an MA in Lakota Leadership & Management. She is holding the umbrella.*

The highlight of any year is our graduation. We hold it at our powwow grounds at Piya Wiconi in conjunction with a three day powwow. The graduates lead the Grand Entry for Sunday afternoon as part of the graduation ceremony and OLC provides a traditional Lakota meal. Friends, family members and the entire Reservation community gather to honor a great achievement.

Male graduates are given eagle feathers and female graduates are given eagle plumes which are traditional symbols of achievement in Lakota culture.



*Nursing students gather in front of a tipi erected next to the pow wow grounds as part of OLC's graduation ceremonies.*



*Norma Brown Bull earned an MA in Lakota Leadership & Management. Her proud father, Walt Hernandez, prepares to tie on her eagle plume.*



*Lenora Garcia is congratulated by President Tom Shortbull upon receiving her BS in K-12 Lakota Studies Education degree.*



*Cecilia Fire Thunder, former President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, received a Certificate in Lakota Language. She also offered the prayer at the beginning of the graduation ceremony.*