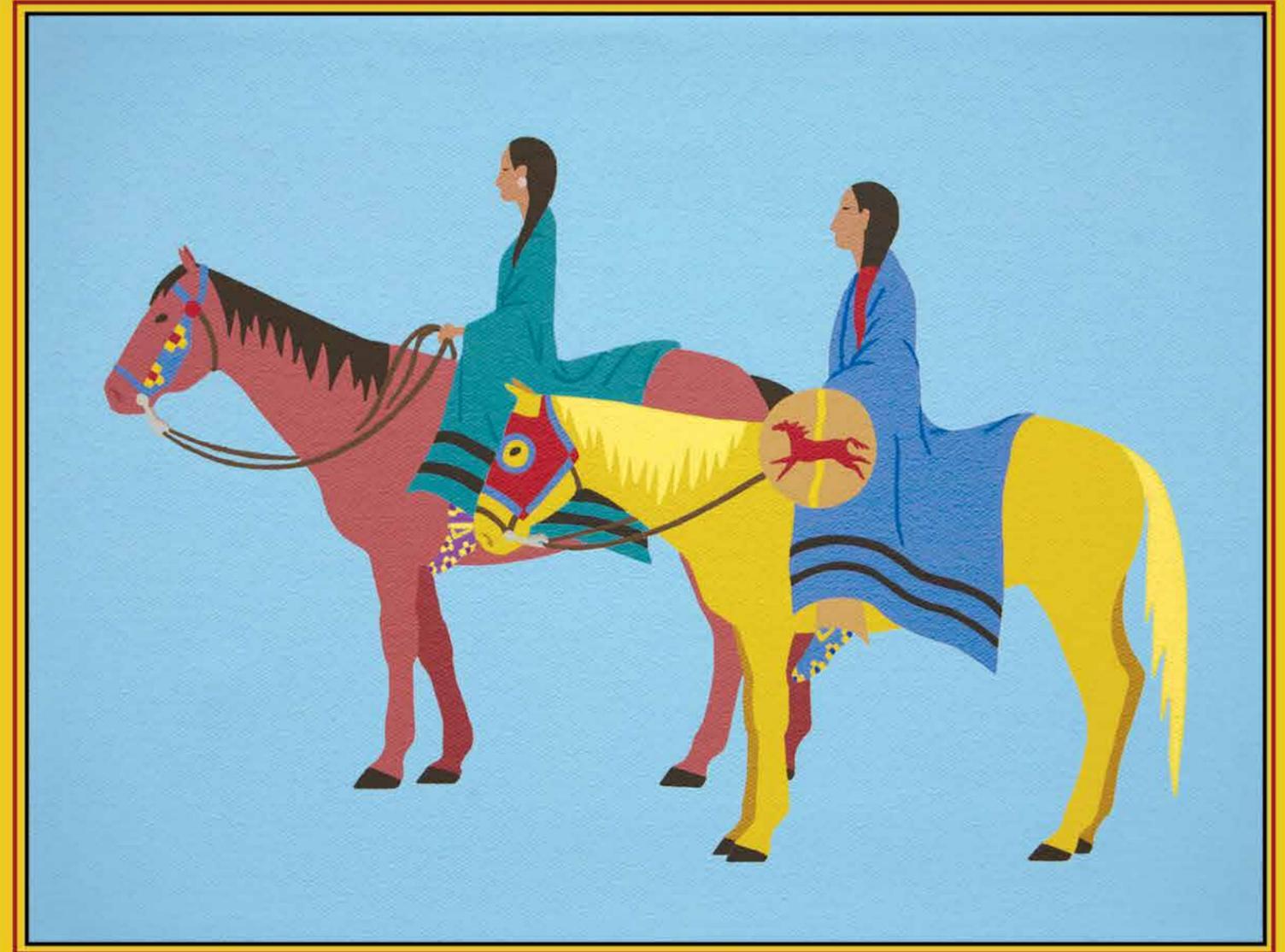


Oglala Lakota College

Rebuilding the Lakota Nation through Education

Oglala Lakota College
490 Piya Wiconi Road
Kyle, SD 57752
www.olg.edu



Annual Report 2015

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), *Woyuonihan* (Respect), *Woonspe* (Learning), *Woslolye* (Knowledge), *Wookahnige* (Understanding) and *Woksape* (Wisdom).



OLC's Hand Game Team and staff are pictured at the 2015 AIHEC Conference where the students placed second in competition.

Cover art by Carmelita Gibbons © 2014.

Corporations and Foundations for 2014-2015

Black Hills Corporation
Charles Frueauff Foundation Inc.
Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation
Golden West Telecommunications
Huisking Foundation
John T. Vucurevich Foundation
Lannan Foundation
Northern Star Foundation
St. Francis Foundation of Michigan
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
The First National Bank of Gordon
William M. Hales Foundation
Winky Foundation

Oglala Lakota College would again like to thank all those who contributed in 2015 including OLC staff, faculty, Board of Trustees, Oglala Sioux Tribe and a number of districts, community members, federal agencies, foundations and corporations. A very special thank you to the thousands of individuals throughout the country who made donations to the College in 2015.

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 please go to www.olec.edu.



Matching Gifts for 2014-2015

Aetna Foundation
AT&T Foundation
Ball Corporation
Chevron Texaco Corporation
Carillon
Dow Corning
Eli Lilly & Company Foundation
ExxonMobil Foundation, Inc.
Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund
IBM Matching Grants Program
Johnson & Johnson
JP Morgan Chase Foundation Matching Gift Program
Merck Partnership for Giving
Millennium Pharmaceuticals Matching Gift Program
Monsanto Fund
Northwestern Mutual Life Foundation
Novartis
P & G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Raytheon Matching Gift for Education Program
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Rockwell Collins Matching Gifts Program
The Boeing Company
Verizon Foundation
Xcel Energy Foundation Matching Program

Pictured is the Tipi Raising Workshop held during Cultural Day at Pejuta Haka College Center located in Kyle, SD.

Valentina R. Merdanian

A member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Valentina “Tina” Red Ear Horse-Merdanian is a lifelong resident of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. She was raised in her earlier years by her grandmother at Collier Community in Oglala. She later grew up along the White River where she said, “many lessons were learned as the oldest of four sisters and one brother. I made a promise to myself at a young age to share the Oglala Lakota story with the wider public - the story of our proud culture, history and values.” This promise, she said, was due to witnessing the mistreatment of her grandmother and so many other relatives by mainstream communities.

Tina is the Director of Institutional Assessment and Research at Oglala Lakota College on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Her department is responsible for generating the statistical data for the institution to move forward. Following her graduation from Red Cloud High School, she attended Creighton University and Black Hills State University before graduating from Oglala Lakota College (OLC) with a bachelors degree in business administration and Master’s degree in Leadership and Management. Tina then began her journey with her family’s support to earn a Doctorate in Adult Higher Education. Merdanian received her doctorate in December 2015 from the University of South Dakota.

Believing in the importance of economic development on the Reservation, she helped to form the Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce. She is a resource to the South Dakota Department of Tourism and served in the capacity of lead consultant of marketing and development for Native Discovery, a partnership with the development organizations of South Dakota’s three largest reservations - Cheyenne River, Pine Ridge and Rosebud—as they work together to stimulate the largely untapped culturally-based tourism economy. In 2010, she was selected as a member of the first cohort of the Bush Foundation’s Native Nation Rebuilders, a two-year program recognizing emerging Native American leaders.

Former Governor Mike Rounds appointed her to the Serve South Dakota Commission for National and Community Service, the SD Department of Education, and the Hagen-Harvey Scholarship Committee. She also served on the Dacotah Territory International Visitor Program (DTIVP) Committee.

Tina said, “I am very much honored to be a part of my family and to assist in the operation of a cattle ranch with my husband, Russ Merdanian. We have been married for over 23 years and continue to reside in the community of Blacktail Deer Creek. I am the mother of two children, Alexandria, who is a Senior at Black Hills State University and Russell, an eighth grader at Red Cloud Elementary School. I also have a granddaughter, Aria, who just turned three years old.”

“Oglala Lakota College is a place of community. When I returned to OLC for my Master’s, the skills and knowledge prepared and propelled me for the Doctoral program. OLC not only offers a wide array of college courses, but infuses Lakota concepts and values into those courses. OLC is a way of honoring the past while preparing for the future. OLC fulfills a vital role in maintaining and preserving our irreplaceable language and cultural traditions - the foundation of who we are as a people.”

“Overall it is a great opportunity for the students across six counties in South Dakota to gain a higher education. More importantly it’s a tribal college. Wow! How fortunate we are that our elders cared for the future generations to plan for higher education designed for our people! Students are not forced to assimilate to mainstream culture and norms. OLC provides solidly grounded perspectives in Lakota culture and traditional wisdom. It helped me to preserve the earlier lessons I learned from my family and grandmothers.”

Tina encourages all students to work towards completing their education goals. “It is through education we will change the negative variables we live in today,” she said.

She plans to continue working for Oglala Lakota College. “I am a product of OLC and am taking the opportunity to give back for the quality education that I received.”



President’s Letter

OLC is successful in our effort to be a leader among Tribal Colleges and Universities in graduating bachelors and graduate degrees. Over the past years due to changes in PELL requirements and other conditions OLC began emphasizing four year degrees. In this reporting year OLC was number one in awarding Bachelors degrees and 2nd in awarding Master’ degrees among tribal colleges.

We spent the year preparing for the Higher Learning Commission visit and responding to their report. We received the report from the HLC Visiting Team in August 2015 that recommended OLC be taken off Notice and we will receive word from the HLC Board in March 2016 on the final decision which we are very hopeful will be favorable. As we said last year we feel the work we did was a chance for self-improvement. We continued implementing our Enrollment Management Plan which includes goals for enrollment, retention, persistence and completion, updated our Strategic Plan, improved assessment at all levels, and fine-tuned the Institutional Effectiveness planning and reporting process. We also continue to impress on HLC that tribal colleges are unique and serve the neediest and most underrepresented groups in higher education. This is not an excuse, but a request that HLC not measure results according to a formula that does not accurately measure what we are doing. We are not just a regular college, we are the base for development of a nation and a necessary service to Lakota people.

We have also collaborated with the Tribe through our Campus Suicide Prevention grant to help deal with the epidemic of suicides on the Pine Ridge Reservation (from 10/14 to 6/15 there were 17 suicides and 112 attempts). Lance Christensen, Project Director, provided QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training to over 562 students and staff for Oglala Sioux Tribe programs, Oglala Lakota College and reservation schools. He also participated in the OST/IHS Crisis Intervention Task Force, the Empower Youth Summit and implementation of the Reconnecting Youth Program in reservation high schools.

We had a special e-mail from the Indian Health Service which thanked us for producing a video on sexual violence on Pine Ridge. This is a topic nationally on college campuses and we were proud to contribute to dealing with it. “First I would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” for allowing us to work with the Oglala Lakota College on the Falling Plumes video. The film was well reviewed and we appreciate all the work from Mr. Brave and the students. While the topic is a difficult one, this is exactly what we were hoping to achieve in order to address sexual violence on Pine Ridge in a meaningful way,” wrote Terry Friend, IHS, on behalf of the Tribal Sexual Assault Team.

During 2015 OLC also contracted with Economic Modeling Specialists International to do a study of the economic impact of OLC on our region. The study produced a report titled, “The Economic Value of Oglala Lakota College” that revealed an economic impact to the region of \$58.8 million dollars. This includes our impact from salaries, purchase of services and our alumni.

The Pine Ridge Reservation was designated as only the second Federal Promise

Zone on a reservation in 2015. This designation for 10 years should put the focus of federal programs on the Reservation. Oglala Lakota College assisted the Tribe and local organizations in gaining the designation. We have already received points on proposals for funding and had a visit from the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in September. OLC hosted the Promise Zone Kickoff at Piya Wiconi in October with representatives from many federal agencies meeting with tribal and local groups.

The success of our Rebuilding the Lakota Nation Through Education Phase V campaign which raised the Student Scholarship Endowment to \$16 million at the end of 2014 allowed us to distribute over \$3,200,000 in student scholarships in 2015 over and above PELL.

In 2015 we launched our Rebuilding the Lakota Nation Through Education – Scholarship Endowment Campaign called Iwicacaga Sakowin (The Seventh Generation) to meet the unmet financial need of any student who wants to attend Oglala Lakota College. According to our Financial Aid Office the need in 2015 was \$10,200,000. In order to meet this need each year from an endowment earning 6% we need to raise the Student Scholarship Endowment to \$170,000,000. It took us 40 years to get our endowments over \$40,000,000 so we feel we can reach the goal by the 100th Anniversary of the College in 2071. We are not proposing a free ride but are proposing that based on FAFSA and OLC policies any student who wants to attend OLC will not be kept back by financial unmet need.

Although our endowments’ overall values were hit this year by market fluctuations our earnings remained steady and we should be all right going forward. We received a number of bequests from deceased donors and next year we will place a \$632, 000 lawsuit settlement for the government not paying correct indirect costs over the years into the Student Scholarship Endowments. We also began looking at our fundraising program and exploring all avenues including Internet and social media.

We continued to operate the Pine Ridge Reservation Early Head Start and Head Start Program for over 450 children aged 0-5 and their families. We plan on exploring the expansion of Early Head Start in three communities that have long waiting lists. We also continued to operate the Lakota Woglaka Wounspe Immersion School for grades K-5. The school had their South Dakota Accreditation visit in 2015 and we are working on implementing the recommendations.

One of the things we are most proud of in 2015 is our Lakolyapi Ki Glus Unpi in May of 2015 where we honored 262 Oglala Lakota elderly who are fluent speakers of the language and whom we recognized as helping to preserve the language. Each received a plaque, monetary award and handshake from myself and Board of Trustees members.



Board of Trustees and Administration

OLC's Board of Trustees is comprised of nine the representatives elected from the nine districts of the reservation and representatives of the Oglala Sioux Tribal President, OST Education Committee of 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 2015 were:

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

Dennis Brewer, BOT Vice-Chair and Pine Ridge District Representative; former Director of Transportation for Shannon County Schools, Pine Ridge, SD.

Denise King-Red Owl, BOT Secretary and Medicine Root District Representative; Substance Abuse Counselor, Anpetu Luta Otipi, Kyle, SD.

Anthony Wounded Head, BOT Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair and Porcupine District Representative; Security Officer, East Winds Casino, former Tribal Councilman, Porcupine, SD.

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

Alice Perkins, Tribal Education Committee Representative; Oglala Sioux Tribe Employee Assistance Program, Pine Ridge, SD.

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

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

Garfield Apple, Wounded Knee District Representative; former Tribal Councilman, Director, Oglala Sioux Tribe Social Nutrition Program, Manderson, SD.

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

Donovan Youngman, White Clay District Representative; Bus Driver for Shannon County Schools; Community Leader, Oglala, SD.

Tada Vargas, Student Senate Representative, Rapid City, SD.

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

All BOT members are members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

The current administration is:

President, Thomas Shortbull, Oglala Lakota, Master's in Public Administration, University of South Dakota.

Vice President for Instruction, Dr. Dawn Frank, Oglala Lakota, Bachelors and Master's, Oglala Lakota College; PhD from South Dakota State University.

Vice President for Business, Julie Johnson, Master's in Business, Chadron State College, NE.

Financial Aid Director, Billi Archambault Hornbeck, Oglala-Hunkpapa Lakota, Bachelors Degree from Oglala Lakota College.

Development Director, Marilyn Sherman Pourier, Oglala and Mnikoju Lakota.

Registrar, Leslie Mesteth, Oglala Lakota, Bachelors degree from Oglala Lakota College.

Dianne Amiotte-Seidel

Dianne Amiotte-Seidel is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe (Eagle Nest District) and currently lives in Rapid City, SD. Her parents are Gordon Amiotte and Hanna (Saveslife) Amiotte.

"I was inspired by my father who recently passed away," she said. "If it wasn't for him I would not be where I am today."

She is currently Project Director/Marketing Coordinator for the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) and just finished up an Administration for Native Americans Grant (ANA). This grant consisted of researching and promoting marketing for the ITBC member tribes. As the ANA Project Director/Marketing Coordinator she provided assistance to 58 tribes that show interest in marketing buffalo meat through tribal businesses or tribal schools.

"There are different steps to identify and develop what the tribes want and need for their labels on their products," she said. "Many product labels that include marketing claims must be submitted to the Food Safety and Inspection Service. The ANA grant seeks to help decrease adverse health risks by the incorporation of buffalo meat into children's diets. Buffalo is low in fat and rich in omega 3's, which helps to fight against cancer. It is a nutrient dense food which is low in calories and has a greater concentration of iron and Vitamin E. All of these qualities have a positive impact on helping to combat diabetes, heart disease and other health issues." As of today, she currently has 29 Tribal schools that are serving buffalo meat through their school lunch programs.

"I received my GED from the Oglala Lakota College (OLC) at the age of 17, then started classes with the College. I received my AA in General Studies, then got married and had my children. When I got a divorce, that's when I decided to go back to school to get an education." She has one son and three daughters and is now married to Billy Seidel.



"I received my Bachelors of Science from Black Hills State University in American Indian Studies and Sociology. I started my Master's degree with Oglala Lakota College and did my thesis on the current job that I am doing today, incorporating buffalo meat into Tribal schools and helping our Native children become healthier. Before I worked for ITBC, I was a Foundational Studies Instructor for OLC and received an Instructor Award from the Pine Ridge College Center."

"While working for the College I met a lot of intelligent Native students. I am honored to have been part of Oglala Lakota College."

Clinton Knife

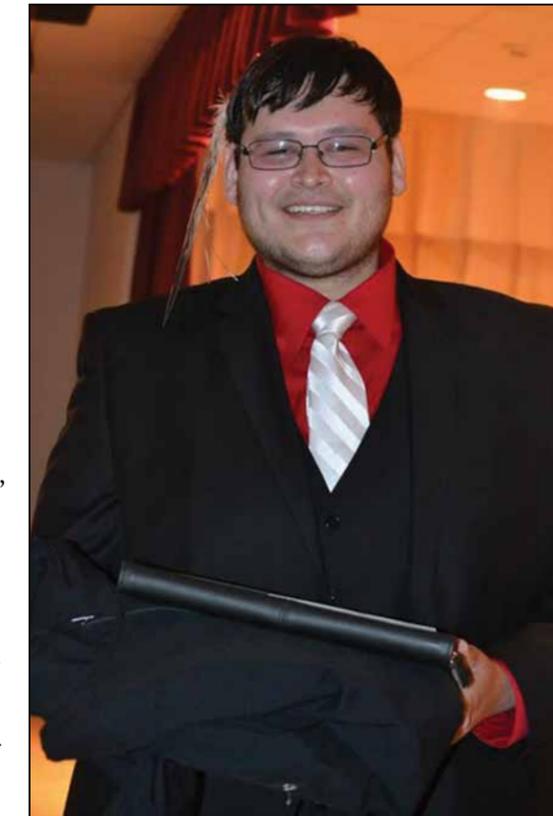
Clinton Knife is Mnikoju and was born in Eagle Butte, SD where he attended kindergarten through High School, graduating in 2007. He was raised by his grandmother Elverna Dupris. Growing up on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, Clinton spent most of his childhood in the country on the west end of the reservation near the communities of Red Scaffold, Takini, and Cherry Creek.

"Growing up with my family meant a lot to me," he said. "Having a strong bond with my family is a reason I set goals and wanted to further my education." He has two brothers, three sisters, two nephews and four nieces.

"I decided to enroll at the Oglala Lakota College - Cheyenne River College Center in the spring of 2011," Clinton said. "I started my first semester and continued until I graduated with my Bachelor in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management."

Clinton has worked for OLC since the Fall of 2013 as an Academic Counselor. He said, "I am very grateful to be working at OLC, to help and encourage our Lakota people to continue their education and make a difference on the reservation and in the communities."

Clinton said, "I set another goal which is to earn my Master's Degree. Currently I am undecided where I would start and finish my degree, but I keep OLC in my mind. I would like to also teach more classes to help students gain knowledge and pass it on. I will always be thankful for OLC and for the opportunities they have given me."



Anna Diaz-Takes the Shield

Anna Diaz-Takes the Shield is a 26 year old single mother of three children, Violet, Sylvan and Josephine. She graduated from OLC with two Associate's Degrees in Liberal Studies and Lakota Studies and is currently completing a Bachelors in Social Work with an emphasis on Chemical Dependency Counseling and Native American Substance Abuse.

"I want to open a Native-based inpatient treatment facility and counseling center," she said, "so that the people of the reservation and elsewhere can get the help they are truly seeking and deserve. I know and understand that there are other treatment facilities currently available, but I want to be able to offer more with a more culture-based approach to different treatment options for a better chance at overcoming addiction."

Anna is a 2006 graduate of Red Cloud High School, "where I dedicated all my years of education. I was active in both my cultural ways and sports throughout my entire high school career."

She represented the tribe as Miss Oglala Lakota Nation 2005-2006. Anna grew up in Oglala, SD with her mother Lexie Shield who is a US Army Veteran and her grandparents Lillian and Pedro Sharpfish. She is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Anna formerly served as an employee of OLC having worked for the Student Support Services Program for a number of semesters under Milton Fineran as a Peer Mentor and Tutor. She is currently a tribal employee working for the Tribe's Benefits Office where she handles various insurance policies of current tribal employees. She said her true calling is in politics and finding ways to build relations that will benefit the betterment of our people.

She is a Cohort 6 Bush Foundation Native Nation Rebuilder. According to Anna, "This is a leadership program operated through Arizona State and the Harvard Project that assists Natives from various regions who have a passion for learning about innovative tribal governance practices and how they can take these ideas and approach our own Native Nations to make a positive difference."



"When I was 22 years old I made the decision to try my hand at politics and the opportunity presented itself with an upcoming open seat on what was at the time, the Shannon County Commission Board. I was able to fulfill the obligations to run in an open election and won. So at 23 years old I became the youngest Native American woman elected to a governing office in the state of South Dakota. The term I hold is a four year term with my election term up at the end of the 2016 year. I do plan to run again. Within my four years on the Commission board I was able to work on many aspects that concerned both state and tribal politics."

"One accomplishment that I am proud of is the name change of Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County in 2015. With help from current state legislator Kevin Killer I am working on many other projects with the State to help our county take a step closer to sovereignty. I want to learn all I can on the state level and come back and hopefully one day work on the tribal level to help the people with a true meaning and understanding of how politics work beyond our scope."

"To be able to attend a tribal college has opened many doors for which I am forever grateful. Without the help of OLC, I am not sure I would be where I am today having accomplished all that I have in my short life-span. Being a non-traditional student a lot of educational opportunities seemed unobtainable at one point, but now I can work hard every day to make these once unobtainable dreams a reality. Thank you OLC!"



Student Success

Our Math and Science Department shifted its focus in all science courses to student participation with faculty to do research. In academic year 2014-2015 23 students worked directly on research projects with the Oglala Sioux Tribe Environmental Protection Program, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority and the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board.

Projects included research on Reservation streams, bison nutrition, medicinal plants, box turtles, hepatitis C, bobcats, cultural resources, and sustainable energy. Future study areas include bighorn sheep, prairie dogs, and preservation of the Yellow Bear Canyon diverse habitat. The Math and Science Department also provided a model greenhouse in Kyle and is working with the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology on a solid waste project. We also did research for the Natural Resources and Regulatory Agency on water quality. The Department has also set up recruitment pipelines to Black Hills State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Our students made oral presentations at the National Science Foundation and American Indian Higher Education conferences.

Each district has a student organization and OLC maintains a Student Senate. Students participate in College governance on the Piya Wiconi Okolakiciye which is a policy recommending body composed of staff, faculty and students.

OLC students did very well again at the 2015 AIHEC Spring Conference. 110 OLC students participated in the AIHEC competitions with the following results: Business Bowl - 1st Place, Critical Inquiry - 1st Place, Science Oral - 1st Place, Chess Team - 1st Place, Chess Individual - 2nd Place, Quillwork - 1st Place Speech, Individual Oral Interpretation Serious - 1st and 3rd Place, Individual Oral Interpretation Humorous - 1st Place, Speech: Informative - 1st Place, Speech: Persuasive - 2nd Place and 3rd Place, Speech: Duo Interpretation Serious - 1st Place, Speech: Duo Interpretation Humorous - 1st Place, One Act Play - Best Actor Award, One Act Play (Team) - 2nd Place, Archery: Men's Team: 2nd Place, Archery: Women's Individual - 1st Place, Archery: Women's Team - 3rd Place, Hand Games (Team) - 2nd Place, Best Singers (Team): 1st Place, Hand Games: Best Hider 1st Place, Hand Games: Best Guesser 1st Place, and in Women's Basketball the OLC Lady Bravehearts won the Division II Championship.

College Information

Students Fall 2015

Enrollment	1,381	
Indian Students	1,311	(95%)
Full-Time Equivalent	1,117	
Full-Time Students	801	(58%)
Part-Time Students	580	(42%)
Male	454	(33%)
Female	927	(67%)
Entering Freshmen	140	
Seniors	244	
Graduate Students	35	

Graduates 2015

Master's	6
Bachelors	55
Associates	72
Certificates	6

Staff

Postsecondary Staff	124
Full-Time Faculty	68
Adjunct Faculty	136
Head Start	118

Budget Information

(Fiscal Year ending 9/30/15)	
Payroll/Fringe	\$ 17,480,096
Construction/Equipment	\$ 961,050
Facilities/Maintenance	\$ 362,006
Other Operating Costs	\$ 7,870,353
Student Support	\$ 3,866,037
PELL	\$ 4,500,000

Endowment 12/15

Faculty	\$ 24,174,970
Student Scholarships	\$ 15,948,825
Maintenance	\$ 1,244,334

Graduation 2015

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 on 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.



Pictured at left in the traditional dress is Yvonne Chase In Winter who graduated with a BA in Social Science. She is standing with her mother, Frances Ice.

Dancing is Alex Loeb who graduated with an AA in Lakota Studies.



Pictured above are Merle (Misty) Brave, TCUP Outreach Coordinator/Faculty, and Math/Science & Tech students Jordan Cano (Natural Science, Emphasis on Earth Science) and Matthew Janis (Natural Science, Emphasis on Conservation Biology).

Pictured below are some of OLC's students that took part in the Procession of Flags at the 2015 AIHEC Conference.



Dani J. Daugherty

Dani J. Daugherty presented the keynote address at OLC's 2015 graduation ceremony. Daugherty is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Nation and was raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. She is also eligible for enrollment with the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin. She is the daughter of Anthony Fresquez and the late Shirley Fresquez. Her grandparents are John L. Cornelius and Bessie "Sungnuni Wi" Trimble.

Daugherty was an outstanding student at Oglala Lakota College (OLC) and graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 2000 while raising a family, working full time and carrying a full academic load. She participated on OLC's championship Knowledge Bowl team at AIHEC in 2000. Daugherty was an honored alumni speaker at the 2012 American Indian Higher Education Conference attended by more than 1,000 students and faculty representing 35 tribal colleges.

Daugherty went on to receive a joint degree in Public Administration and Law from the University of South Dakota (USD) in 2003. While at USD, Daugherty was the first Indian Editor in Chief of a Law School's primary law review. After law school, Daugherty went on to become the first Indian federal judicial clerk for the District of South Dakota serving under Federal Judge Karen Schreier. After her clerkship, Daugherty went into private practice with a specialty in Indian Law at the firm of Bantz, Gosch & Cremer in Aberdeen, South Dakota in 2005. Since

2007, Daugherty has worked for the Great Plains Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior in economic development, tribal government, and most recently as the Deputy Regional Director – Indian Services.

Daugherty lives in Aberdeen, SD and has five daughters – Amanda, 23, Norah, 15, Madison, 11, Cloe, 10, and Hayley, 7.

