



UNITED TRIBES  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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3315 University Drive, Building 9A  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504  
701.255.3285 | www.uttc.edu

August 11, 2020

Greetings United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) Campus Community!

UTTC continues to closely monitor Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic data and recommendations for decreasing the spread at the national, state, county, and tribal, levels. Student and employee health and safety continues to be priorities during this unprecedented time.

The following indicators as provided by the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) are the primary drivers for making our data driven decision:

- 1) The number of active cases in North Dakota has increased by over 20% in the last 5 days.
- 2) Burleigh/Morton counties lead in the State with 380 active cases.
- 3) The number of deaths has reached 113 and with additional 48 individuals currently hospitalized.
- 4) Sixty-seven percent of UTTC students are from North Dakota American Indian reservations, which are also seeing surges in active cases.

Based on available data and reopening recommendations, the UTTC Administration has come to the decision to move all UTTC academic based courses and Theodore Jamerson Elementary School (TJES) to a synchronous virtual learning environment. Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses will be provided by a combined virtual and face-to-face format for the Fall 2020 term. A synchronous virtual learning environment is defined as learning that occurs at the same time, but not in the same place.

UTTC faculty will teach virtually from their classrooms or their homes via Zoom and TJES will be using Google Classroom, and ClassDojo. All students will attend classes virtually through these formats. The Child Development Centers (Daycares) will maintain operations on behalf of students and employees on campus. All remaining full-time regular personnel will be considered essential personnel to ensure core operations continue across campus. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) will be followed for all qualifying personnel for COVID-19 related absences.

Refurbished computers will be provided by IT for free to UTTC students upon request and new laptops will be available for purchase at the Bookstore as part of the student financial aid package. Chromebooks will be provided to TJES students. Campus Housing, Cafeteria, Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar, and Wellness will remain open. The Gymnasium and Fitness Room will be open to only students and employees. Students residing in dorms will be assigned a private room for social distancing reasons; whereas, students residing in family housing will follow the established process. The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) has moved the start of the basketball season to second semester.

Facemasks, sanitizing, temperature checks, and social distancing, will be mandatory for all employees and students working or residing on campus in accordance with the UTTC COVID-19 Manual. More detailed information for students, UTTC faculty, and TJES teachers is being developed and will be provided by the end of the week.

Blessings on you and your families!

Leander R. McDonald, PhD  
President

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*“Leadership begins here”*