



WHAT IS THE SOUTH DAKOTA COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE?

The South Dakota College Access Challenge is a federally funded grant awarded to the South Dakota Department of Education. The grant's primary purpose is to inform and inspire underrepresented and underserved students in South Dakota to prepare for and access postsecondary educational opportunities.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

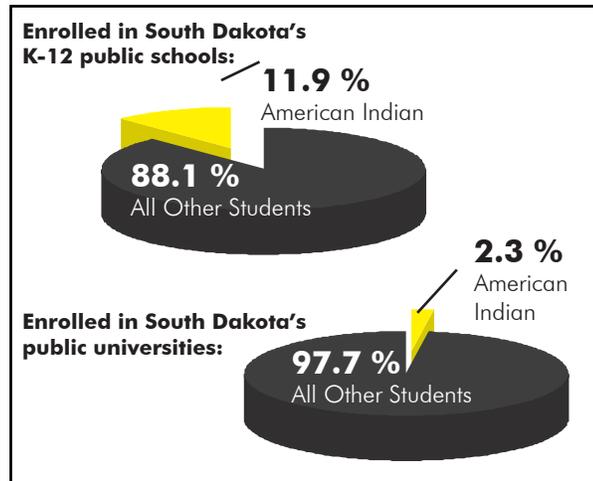
The College Access Challenge Grant focuses on developing partnerships with students, families and school staff to provide: financial aid awareness workshops; postsecondary planning and information activities; higher education transition and retention initiatives; career exploration opportunities; and need-based financial aid for postsecondary access to underrepresented and underserved students in partner schools across South Dakota.

The CACG works with students, families and partner schools to create clear and defined pathways to access, prepare for and finance postsecondary educational opportunities. The program engages postsecondary partner institutions to strengthen their transition and retention programs.

A key strategic goal of the CACG program is to increase the total number of underrepresented and underserved students and families across South Dakota that access need-based financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, process. The CACG program will coordinate with counselors from partner schools to insure that postsecondary planning and financial aid awareness opportunities are being provided to all students in CACG partner schools.

CACG staff and partner high schools will create a more responsive safety net for underrepresented and underserved students and families. This comprehensive support system will include providing information focused on the benefits of postsecondary education, accessing postsecondary opportunities, and participation in career awareness workshops.

The CACG program will create meaningful partnerships to expand the outreach efforts to underrepresented and underserved students to insure these students have access to all postsecondary transition and retention services at higher education institutions.





Postsecondary partners

Postsecondary partners include South Dakota's regental universities, the state's four technical institutes and the four tribal colleges serving students on South Dakota's reservations.

- Black Hills State University
- South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- Lake Area Technical Institute
- Western Dakota Technical Institute
- Sisseton-Wahpeton College
- Dakota State University
- South Dakota State University
- Mitchell Technical Institute
- Oglala Lakota College
- Sitting Bull Tribal College
- Northern State University
- University of South Dakota
- Southeast Technical Institute
- Sinte Gleska University

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More Information

Go to: indianeducation.sd.gov/collegeaccess.aspx