

UTC Relationships with Native American Community

Mid-America Transportation Center for Transportation Safety and Equity (MATC-TSE)

US DOT Region 7 University Transportation Center



June 11, 2024



MATC-TSE Consortium Partners

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Dr. Aemal Khattak)

Nebraska Indian Community College (Dr. Mike Oltrogge)

Missouri University of Science & Technology (Dr. Genda Chen)

University of Iowa (Dr. Paul Hanley)

University of Kansas (Dr. Alexandra Kondyli)

University of Missouri-St. Louis (Dr. Haitao Li)

MATC-TSE Priorities

Statutory Research Priority Area: Promoting Safety

- Improve safety and equity of the transportation system in Region 7 and beyond
- Recruit and train students to enter the transportation industry
- Build on existing relationships with the Native American Communities in Region 7
- Address acute commercial motor vehicle driver shortage

Background

Education and Outreach programs

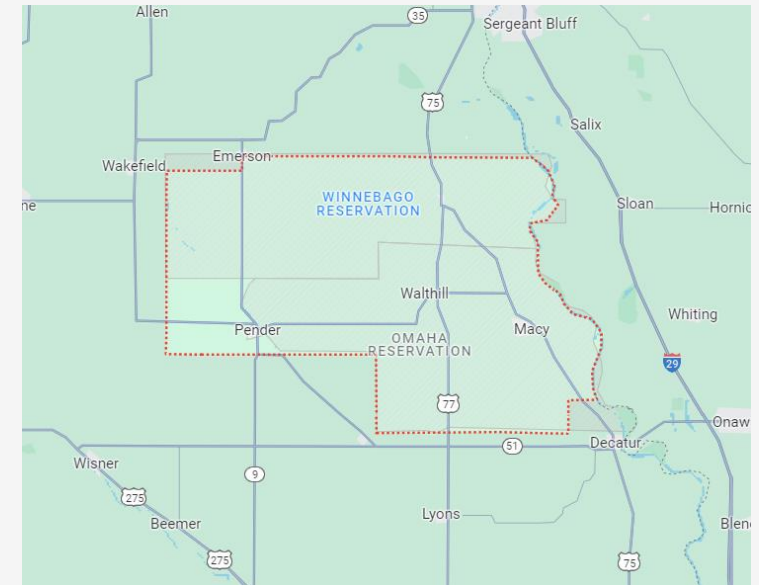
Relationship with the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs (NCIA)

Research on transportation safety on Native American Reservations and other small communities in Nebraska (funded by the 2016 UTC)

Thurston County, Nebraska is home to the Winnebago and Omaha Reservations

Need for employment

Truck driver shortage in Nebraska (and nationwide)



Nebraska Indian Community College

Transportation safety and employment are major concerns on Native American Reservations in the region, while commercial motor vehicle driver shortage is both a regional and national issue.

The main campus of the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) is in Macy, Thurston County

Idea to Establish a Safe Driver Academy

The Academy can improve safety on Native American reservations and provide employment during and beyond the MATC-TSE UTC duration

Currently, no such program exists in easy reach of the Native American population in Nebraska

This effort is unique due to its potential broad impacts on the Native American Communities in Nebraska, Region 7, and beyond

Safe Driver Academy at Nebraska Indian Community College

Establish Safe Driver Academy at Nebraska Indian Community College

NICC's Macy Campus is on the Omaha Reservation, Santee Campus on the Santee Reservation, and urban campus in South Sioux City

NICC operates a fourth campus in conjunction with the Pawnee Nation in OK

NICC President, Dr. Mike Oltrogge is leading the effort



Safe Driver Academy at NICC

Relevant Grand Challenges: Vision Zero, Equitable Mobility for All

Supported USDOT Strategic Goals: Safety, Equity, Economic Strength and Global Competitiveness

Relevant USDOT Plans: US DOT Equity Action Plan; US DOT National Roadway Safety Strategy, US DOT Strategic Plan, Justice40

Safe Driver Academy at NICC – Outcomes and Impacts

Safety improvement on Native American Reservations through student driver training and workforce development resulting in gainful employment in the transportation industry

The effort will result in wealth creation for Native Americans in Nebraska and the region

Over the course of the grant period, the project will address regional and national commercial motor vehicle driver shortage

Safe Driver Academy at NICC

Year One:

Start acquisition of needed equipment to implement the CDL Program/Driver's Education program

Start creation of curriculum

Years Two–Four

Complete curriculum, conduct coursework for college and non-college credit-seeking students

Research sustainability methodologies for continuation beyond project/UTC duration

Year Five

Conduct the coursework for college and non-college credit-seeking students

Create programmatic and quarterly reports as needed

Implement sustainability options for continuation beyond project duration

Sovereign Native Youth STEM Leadership Academy

- 5-day program on the UNL campus for high school students
 - Offers an extended learning opportunity in STEM subjects
 - Introduce attending students to post high school educational options
 - Empower attendees to positively impact their communities while gaining a greater appreciation for Native American Culture

JUNE 18-JUNE 22, 2023
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

MID-AMERICA TRANSPORTATION CENTER
**Sovereign Native Youth STEM
Leadership Academy**



MID-AMERICA
TRANSPORTATION CENTER



MATC-TSE Scholars Program

Scholars Program for Tribal Colleges and Universities (SPTCU)

- Provides informational sessions and panels to support Native American tribal college students who are interested in transitioning from a two-year to a four-year institution



2022
OCTOBER 5 - OCTOBER 7

**MATC Scholars Program
for Tribal College Students**



MATC-TSE After-School Program

Roads, Rails, and Racecars Program

- Promotes new entrants to the transportation field
- Offered at any middle school that wishes to participate
- Expansion to Native America Reservation middle schools
- A new aspect will be indigenous food sovereignty



In Summary

Consider your involvement a long-term investment

The time to get involved is now

Too late by the time NOFO comes around!

Start with your university entities (e.g., tribal extension office, student organizations, Native American faculty)

Above all, establish a genuine relationship

Questions