

## Mix of technical, academic and transferrable courses available at tribal colleges

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Public universities aren't the only ones seeing growth around the state. Tribal Colleges are growing as well.

Deana McNabb, admissions officer and registrar at Blackfeet Community College in Browning, said they saw an increase of approximately 50 students this school year.

There are 525 students enrolled. Membership in the Blackfeet Tribe is not required at the two-year school.

Because of the growth, McNabb said the college is working at expanding some of its degree and certificate programs.

"A lot of our students are job-ready when they leave here," she said.

Blackfeet Community College is looking to add a pre-engineering program, entrepreneurship program, and health and physical-fitness program.

McNabb said administrators also are hoping to add a welding program and a two-year sociology degree that will transfer into other four-year universities around the state.

The campus at Fort Belknap College in Harlem is slightly smaller, but has between 130 and 140 students, a few more this year than before.

The college offers associate of arts degrees and associate of science degrees, as well as training in the Native American Career and Technical Education Program.

Education programs range from elementary education and American Indian studies to allied health and natural resources.

Fort Belknap College offers online courses for students as well.

Fort Peck Community College in Poplar was chartered by the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes in 1976 and aver-



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Bernadette Rider works in the new library at Fort Belknap College recently. The library is housed in the same arrow-shaped building as the technology facility and two new classrooms.

ages 435 students each year, according to the college's Web site. More than 75 percent are Native American students and residents of the Fort Peck Reservation. Female students comprise 59 percent of the enrollment.

In May 2009, Fort Peck Community

College awarded associate degrees to 32 students and one-year certificates to 29 students.

The college has articulation agreements with Montana State University-Bozeman, MSU-Northern in Havre and University of Mary in North Dakota, making it easier

for students to transfer into bachelor's and master's degree programs.

Fort Peck Community College offers associate of applied science degrees in addition to associate's degrees of science or art, for students to gain immediate employment upon graduation.

Everything from business administration to environmental science and automotive technology are offered at the college.

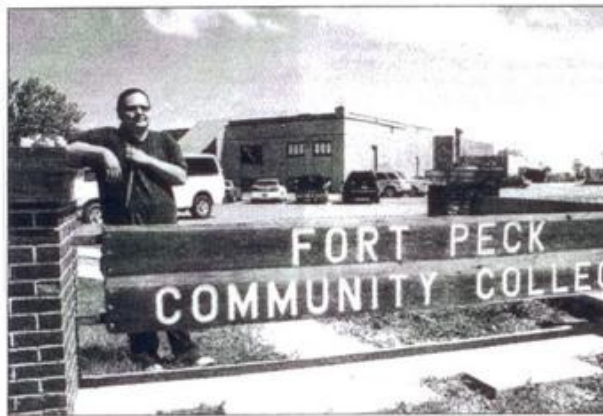
Stone Child College, approximately seven miles east of Box Elder in Bonneauville, is home to approximately 300 students seeking associate's degrees or certificates and this year the college has a lot of new programs to offer.

Health promotion, industrial technology, water quality, health and physical education, and industrial-technology education are all new associate of arts degree programs.

Allied health is a new associate of science degree program and physical-fitness training, pre-engineering assistants and pre-nursing assistants all are new certificate programs at the two-year college.

The college, tribally controlled by the Chippewa-Cree, was chartered in 1984, but is open to anyone to apply.

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RICHARD PETERSON PHOTO/FILE

Heather Snell of Poplar is one of several hundred students attending Fort Peck Community College in Poplar.