

**Tribal College Research Grant Listening Session 11/16/2022**  
**National Institute of Food and Agriculture**

**Discussion Topic 1: Finding new ways to help build research capacity at the 1994's.**

- Funding for full time research scientist at each 1994
- Limited time to engage because of the lack of release time
- Hire research scientists that have significant capacity to lead grants
- Do away with the collaboration requirement
- Support visiting researchers
- Funding to train research scientists
- More research space and money for infrastructure
- Allow construction
- Promote meaningful, direct, and frequent engagement between the 1994s and collaborating institutions
- Reward the ability to make other 1994s a research partner
- Challenge in research time for faculty
- Increase funding for lab equipment
- Professional grant writing training for Tribal College faculty

**Discussion Topic 2: Exploring ways to ensure that Tribal College Research programs are achieving the goals of the program.**

- Discussion on 2+2 or 4+4 programs or longer research programs so students can be tracked over 4 years
- 1994's do not have access to journals and library articles so they cannot access journal articles to assist with writing the TCRGP grants
- There is a gap between what USDA thinks the TCU's have and what they really have. Don't limit applications to only PhD's
- Remove the requirement for research experience
- Have annual meetings for the Research projects paid by USDA NIFA to present their work like NSF does
- Let PD's and PI's be TEK knowledge holders and clan members which means they may not hold western degree titles, but they hold lots of ITEK knowledge

- Clan members and systems is a traditional way of leadership and trusted leadership models
- ARS colleagues and successful internships with Tribal Programs
- Add internships to the program
- Add REEU and indirect partnerships
- Provide Experiential learning activities
- Enable the maximum number of students outside the campus bubble. Bring researchers onto the campus from the outside world
- Encourage post-doctoral research positions
- More research- specific capacity
- Increase research focused staff

**Discussion Topic 3: What NIFA can do to increase the leadership skills, knowledge, and qualities that are necessary to prepare students to be globally competitive for agricultural and related careers in the private sector, government, and academia.**

- Teach students how to advocate for themselves. They don't have a voice. Bring people into the TCUs to create the relationships
- When collaborators are brought into the research project and not forced to collaborate, students are more likely to graduate and seek advanced degrees
- The challenges students have relocating so they cannot relocate due to housing and childcare issues which is a barrier to their success
- Students have no relationships with an outside collaborator so they may not feel comfortable going off campus
- Increase student access to experiential learning and research activities
- Need for research scientists
- REU programs that have direct links to ARS or other partners

**Discussion Topic 4: What NIFA can do to increase the number of proposals in Traditional Ecological Knowledge.**

- If there is a post doc position and providing topics relating to TEK potentially TCRGP could provide funding for the Post Docs doing research on TEK
- Have 3 to 6 week rolling admission for proposals

- TCUS need to take the lead on working with the Tribes as to what the parameters are on ownership
- Make a model how intellectual property rights would be dealt with
- Develop Institutional Research Boards and safeguards and communities and indigenous data and sovereignty models. How information will be safeguarded
- A need for a widely accepted understanding of what TEK includes, developed by TCUs and Tribes
- Have a TEK data strategy in the RFA, such as a requirement for a resolution from the Tribal Council to know how the information can be stored or collected.
- Important to distinguish TEK from technology and industry focused research and education

**Discussion Topic 5: What NIFA can do to increase research capacity at the 1994's.**

- NIFA needs to highlight the good research that people at the TCU's are doing
- Workshops and invite the Presidents of the colleges and AIHEC to meetings so they can see the good research that is happening and support more (success stories at annual meetings)
- Housing and childcare are a huge issue
- Food safety, communities need food security before anything.
- Having a research coordinator
- Administrative capacity to manage multiple grants
- A need for a Research Director at TCUs
- Longer periods of funding
- Having a full-time research scientist
- Increase the number of students
- Need for a model for the Tribal-University team science research agreements
- Include conference grants in the TCRGP

**Discussion Topic 6: Information that should be included in the RFA grant.**

- Longer project lengths need to be addressed.
- Put a full list of requirements for the proposal in a list located in the RFA

- Increase the New Discovery to \$350,000 over three years
- Have projects have longer grace periods
- Have a strategy for data sovereignty and data governance
- Students grants
- Encourage new researchers
- Raise the amount to share with research partners and limit their Indirect Cost Rate
- Shorter proposal requirements
- Summary page
- List the percent of applications funded for each type

**Discussion Topic 7: What NIFA can do to support TCU faculty, especially regarding large teaching loads.**

- More money in the equity grants program so they can decrease the teaching loads. This will help with freeing up Researchers to do what they can.