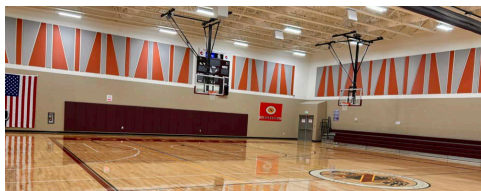


Oregon



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation - Nixyaawii Education Center

Pendleton, OR (2019)

Nixyaawii Education Center opened in 2019 and houses the Confederated Tribes early education programs and high school education classes. The school practices Tribal ways by teaching and preserving language, cultural practices, and historical and sovereign knowledge within services provided. With NMTC financing, the Tribes were able to move out of old, outdated facilities and combine programming into a new 68,000 sq. ft. school site.

FINANCING

NMTC Financing: Chickasaw Nation Community Development Endeavor, LLC, Ecotrust CDE, LLC: \$7 million
Equity Investor: Wells Fargo Community Investment Holdings, LLC
Total Project Cost: \$27.6 million

NMTC investment in Indian Country benefits tribal students

IMPACT

- 50 construction jobs
- 48 permanent jobs
- 140 students, 3,100 tribal members
- 93% student minority population

When bids were opened for development of the site, the lowest bidder's budget was \$3.3 million above what had been estimated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). CTUIR secured \$17.25 million in NMTC financing from Ecotrust CDE, which filled the gap created in the capital stack by the construction budget overage. CTUIR secured an additional NMTC allocation from Chickasaw Nation CDE, LLC for \$5.4 million to complete the financing requirements.

COMMUNITY

- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is a coalition of three tribes: Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla. CTUIR has over 3,100 tribal members. The reservation has over 172,000 acres (273 square miles)
- 30% of membership is composed of children under age 18
- 15% are elders over age 55
- Poverty Rate: 22%

The project created 50 temporary construction jobs (of which 25 percent were filled by Native Americans) and 10 additional permanent jobs, which are a mix of teaching, student support, and administrative positions. Within the Tribal Personnel Manual, CTUIR members are given an employment preference on all jobs, permanent or temporary. The new facility allowed for the following opportunities: expanded enrollments for both preschool and high school students; an additional gymnasium to support community activities; three new classrooms to support native language programming for each of the Tribes within the confederation; a recording studio for elders to preserve language for future generations; and a centralized food service kitchen to support their campus.

“Without the funding from the NMTC program, the school facility could not have been constructed. Our school’s vision reaffirms our commitment to educating our children, families, and greater community while honoring Tribal Sovereignty now and for future generations.”
-Ryan Heinrich, Principal