



Tohono O'odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuđ 2024 & 2025 Ahidag Ha'icu A:ga

He:kigcul g t-gokko hetasp 'ahidag
Celebrating Twenty-five Years!



Class of 2025, S-ape 'o mapt na:to g 'e-maşcamama

Ñia, Oya G T-Taccui Am Hab E-ju: — Our Dream Fulfilled

TOCC Vision

Our vision is to become the Tohono O’odham Nation’s center for higher education, and to enhance the Nation’s participation in the local, state, national, and global communities.

Mission

As an accredited and land-grant institution, TOCC’s mission is to enhance the unique Tohono O’odham Himdag by strengthening individuals, families, and communities through holistic, quality higher education services. These services will include research opportunities and programs that address academic, life, and development skills.

About the Front Cover

The Class of 2025 gathered before TOCC’s 25th Commencement. Photo by Cody Chavez. The photo below was taken at TOCC’s first Commencement in 2001. If you know the photographer, please tell us!



T-Şo:şon – Our Core

T-Wohocudadag – Our Beliefs

We at Tohono O’odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuđ believe that T-Wohocudadag provides balance, strengthens us and helps us respect ourselves, other people and cultures.

Things in our lives (e.g. nature, people, the environment, animals) keep us in balance. Everything is here for a reason, to learn from, to care for and to respect.

T-Apedag – Our Wellbeing

We at Tohono O’odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuđ believe that T-Apedag is inclusive of what is healthy and good for us (physically, spiritually, emotionally and mentally), and for the things around us.

How we interact with the world and our relationships influences our health. Well-being is how you give, how others give to you, and about taking care of oneself and others – mentally, spiritually, emotionally and physically. Self reflection provides understanding of one’s place in the world, and one’s effect on others and vice versa.

T-Pi:k Elida – Our Deepest Respect

We at Tohono O’odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuđ believe that T-Pi:k Elida is a deep sense of respect for the land, your surroundings, the people, things upon the land, and also for your own self and your life.

This includes valuing the people and the culture.

I-We:mta – Working Together

We at Tohono O’odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuđ believe that I-We:mta is crucial for the success of the college.

In years past, when someone shot a deer they shared it with the people. This was also true when planting and harvesting the fields where everyone helped one another. Providing food was not just for oneself; it included the concept of sharing, taking care of others, and giving back to the community. Tohono O’odham provided help when help was needed, particularly in times of loss and death.

Tohono O’odham Community College Board of Trustees



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 Counselor, Tohono O’odham
 Behavioral Health
 From Ge Aji District

**Scan Me To Learn
 More about the
 Trustees’ History**



This QR code leads to <https://tocc.edu/history-of-tocc>, where you can find *Our Story Part I* and *Our Story Part II*, which include history and photos of the trustees over the years.

Recognizing those who served as trustees over the years:

Albert Alvarez baꞑ
 1998-1999

Joanne Anita baꞑ
 1998-1999

Anthony M. Chana baꞑ
 2007-2022

Alberta Blaine Flannery
 2002-2010

Elizabeth ‘Libby’ Francisco baꞑ
 2002-2022

Alice S. Frank baꞑ
 2000-2006

Veronica Geronimo, Esq.
 1998-1999

Juana Clare Jose baꞑ
 1998-2004

Albert Lopez baꞑ
 2000-2004

John B. Narcho baꞑ
 1998-1999

Dr. Alice Narcho Paul baꞑ
 1998-2005

Benjamin Pintor
 1998-2001

Darrell W. Rumley baꞑ
 2006-2011

Bernard G. Siquieros baꞑ
 2002-2024

Message from the President

S-ke:g taş wesij 'em wui. Şa: 'am 'a'i masma? Good day to everyone out there. How are you?

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and—most especially—our students, it is my privilege and honor to share with you this special edition of the Tohono O'odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuđ (Tohono O'odham Community College, or TOCC) annual report.



*Stephen Schoonmaker, Ed.D.
College President*

TOCC is the only institution of higher education on the Tohono O'odham Nation. Our mission is multi-faceted: we proudly advance the revitalization of the O'odham Ńi'okĩ (O'odham Language), the preservation and advancement of Tohono O'odham history and culture, the offering of rigorous and relevant transfer programs of study deeply rooted in Indigenous Ways of Knowing, and the provision of trainings and skills that prepare students to enter the workforce immediately or start a small business, to name a few.

At our core are three foundational truths about why TOCC was founded, and why we have been successful for the past 25 years. We are here to support and empower Nation building for the Tohono O'odham Nation, to prepare a workforce to meet the needs of our students, our community, and the Nation for today and tomorrow, and—most of all—to honor, respect, demonstrate, and instill in our students the Tohono O'odham Himdag (the unique O'odham way of life) to be passed on from generation to generation, for generations to come.

Because TOCC is celebrating 25 years of existence, this report covers two academic years: 2023-24, and 2024-25. Beginning this year with the issuance of this special two-year report, future annual reports will be issued in the summer in honor of the start of the Tohono O'odham new year at Ha:şañ Ba:k Maşad, the Saguaro Fruit Ripening Moon.

I encourage you to explore the many events and accomplishments of our students, as well as the recognition of the tireless efforts of our faculty and staff in support of our students' success, found in these pages. These include:

- Serving all of our students with respect and creativity.
- Key partnerships with the Tohono O'odham Nation integrating education-to-workplace pathways.
- Strengthening our involvement in the Tribal College movement, especially by introducing many of our students to national opportunities to interact with Native students from other Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).
- Pictures from the College's 25th Anniversary Celebration! Sincerest thanks to Antonola Antone, Jane Latané, Rosemarie Ramon, June Starr, Evan Thomas, and Liz Zepeda for organizing, as well as to the many volunteers for contributing to this successful event.

I began my journey with TOCC in 2017 as a Leadership Coach, and was honored to be chosen by the Board to serve as the College's sixth President beginning July 1, 2024. I have learned much in this first year. I have enjoyed meeting more of our students, and visiting the Nation's eleven Districts on my presidential listening tour. It has been my esteemed privilege to work alongside the College's staff and faculty, who are so dedicated to—and care deeply about—our students.

I have sat in classes with students and with colleagues learning about the Tohono O'odham History and Culture, and gaining both vocabulary and practice speaking O'odham through the Elementary Tohono O'odham language course. I earnestly thank the campus and Nation's community for welcoming my wife, Joy, and me to our new home here in Arizona and for supporting us in this year of transition and growth. I look forward to many more years to come.

Nt o a 'ep m-ñei (I'll see you again),

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Schoonmaker". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Stephen Schoonmaker
President

College Celebrates Its Twenty-fifth Anniversary

During 2023, the TOCC community remembered the College's establishment 25 years earlier in 1998. On March 8, 2024, Tohono O'odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuđ celebrated this 25th anniversary of its founding. The ceremony featured former and current Trustees and College Presidents who shared stories from TOCC's history and answered questions about its past, present, and future.

The keynote speaker for the day was former Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman and current Tohono O'odham Legislative Council Representative Edward D. Manuel. He described his time as Chairman in the late 1990s bringing people together to create a college on the Tohono O'odham Nation. The College would like to thank the organizers of the celebration, which was held at the Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel.

Co-MC Alberta Espinoza bađ thanks keynote speaker, the Hon. Edward Manuel at the March 2024 event.



Below: Several ladies who have roots in Schuk Toak District, where the College's S-cuk Du'ag Campus is located, posed at the celebration.

From left to right: Reyna Noriega, Anita Nasewytewa and Pauline Nasewytewa, all from Garcia Strip; Mary Bliss and her sister Margart Blaine, from Santa Rosa Ranch. Ms. Bliss is a Trustee for the College and is from San Xavier District.



Founding Board Member and former TOCC employee Juana Clare Jose bađ spoke at the March 8, 2024 event. Next to her are current Trustees: Dr. Ofelia Zepeda, Board of Trustees Chair; Jonas Robles, Elder Trustee/Vice Chair; Trenea Parvello, Secretary; and Mary Bliss, Member. Standing: Co-MC Anselmo Ramon.



The anniversary years included a farewell to President Dr. Paul Robertson, who led the College from 2016-2024, through the pandemic and the expansion to serving Native American students across the U.S. At a goodbye on May 29, 2024, Director of Student Life Sylvia Hendricks gives well wishes to Dr. Robertson and his wife, Eileen Iron Cloud.

O’odham Ñi’okĩ Ki: Committed to Revitalizing the Language

The O’odham Ñi’okĩ Ki: (OÑK) focuses on active language learning for children, families, and community members. These are the main initiatives.

Immersion at Head Start Centers

OÑK is working with the Tohono O’odham Nation Head Start to increase O’odham language teaching and learning in North Komelik, Pisinemo, and Santa Rosa Head Start Centers, with training for teachers and language learning support for families and in the classroom.

Youth and Family Language Learning

Various activities engage young people and families in learning O’odham Ñi’okĩ together, such as the Mentor/Apprentice Program, Youth Language Gatherings, and Family Engagement Nights.

O’odham Ñi’okĩ Ha-Maşcama

O’odham speakers meet together to learn how to become community-based teachers. The speakers prepare to teach O’odham conversation classes in their own villages and districts.

Cicwida Hemapada

The OÑK partners with other language programs on the Tohono O’odham Nation to host carnivals that showcase fun and creative ways to learn O’odham Ñi’okĩ.

To Become Involved, Contact OÑK

520-479-2300x1751 / oodhamniok@tocc.edu



During a summer language youth gathering in 2024, young people learned language they can use in their daily lives such as how to introduce themselves and their families and how to ask questions. This event was hosted in partnership with several language focused programs across the Tohono O’odham Nation. OÑK Consultant Andrea Ramon, in the white hat, helped facilitate the gathering. Photo by Lynn Liston.



During a two-week summer training, teachers, coordinators, and aides from North Komelik, Pisinemo, and Santa Rosa Head Start Centers learned strategies and methods for teaching O’odham language to young language learners. Photo by Lynn Liston.

O'odham Ñi'okĩ Ki: Grand Opening – November 19, 2024



O'odham Ñi'okĩ Ki: (OÑK), the O'odham Language Center, held its Grand Opening in November 2024. Bottom right: Wavalene Saunders, Chairwoman of the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council, speaks at the ceremony; top right: Jenny Narcho, OÑK Language Specialist, poses during a tour of the center; top left: the OÑK building faces east; bottom left: Director Ron Geronimo talks with TOCC alumna Teresa Choyguha.



Strengthening Students for the Journey Ahead

START: Students Thriving, Achieving, and Rising Together

The College’s START initiative works with high school students to help them prepare for their next steps—college or university, post-secondary training, apprenticeships, and careers. START has brought back a summer bridge program for recent high school graduates preparing to enter college, as well as a summer work/study program for other high schoolers. (See explanation of T O S-AP at right.)

START also includes workshops during the school year, college tours and preview days, career fairs, and dual enrollment. The activities are informed by a commitment to supporting students as they make decisions and take steps towards long-term success.

Dual Enrollment

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Dual Enrollment is the offering of college courses to high school students who then earn both high school and college credit for their coursework. The College typically offers Tohono O’odham language, O’odham history, math, and writing courses at high schools. During academic year (AY) 2023-2024, TOCC held dual enrollment classes at Baboquivari High School and Indian Oasis High School. During AY 2024-2025, the College provided dual enrollment at four high schools:

High School	# of students in Fall 2024	# of students in Spring 2025
Ajo High School	27	9
Ha:šań Preparatory & Leadership School	6	11
Indian Oasis Alternative High School	2	9
Tohono O’odham High School	0	16
Total students served	35	45

San Carlos Apache College’s Dual Enrollment serves students at San Carlos, Globe, and Fort Thomas High Schools.

T O S-AP – You Can!

T O S-AP, the Tohono O’odham Summer Achievement Program, immerses students in a college environment centered around academic and professional development. High school graduates and continuing high school students participate in cultural experiences which embody T-Şo:şon to prepare them for the next stage in life, whether entering college or the workforce or preparing for their next year in high school.

The first four-week T O S-AP was held in June 2025 with 20 students enrolled, 14 of whom were recent high school grads who stayed in E-Maşcamdam Ki:kĩ (the dorms). Six others were continuing high school students who participated daily. The students took two courses, Native American Literature and Becoming a Master Student, and participated in many other activities. In 2026, information about T O S-AP will be posted to <https://www.tocc.edu/s-t-a-r-t-program>.



Financial Aid Technician Ashlynn Siqueros presents to high school students at the College Preview Day in February 2025. One hundred one students from four partner high schools attended this outreach day. Photo by Jai Juan.

Enhancing Connections and Promoting Student Success

College President's Listening Tours

When President Schoonmaker joined the College on July 1, 2024, he committed to visiting all 11 Districts of the Tohono O'odham Nation in his first year. Accompanied by Special Assistant to the President Evan Thomas, our new College President met with members of the Nation to share updates on the College's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan and to hear from District Council members and community representatives about their perspectives on TOCC's future. According to the President, "each visit taught me a great deal about the rich diversity of the Districts and the woven heritage and culture of the people and lands of the Nation, bringing the Himdag to life." This annual report will be presented in another round of visits starting in mid 2025.

S-cuk Du'ag Maščamakuđ: A Center for Community

TOCC's focus on student success and learning manifests in the hands-on learning and vibrant community activities at its main and satellite campuses. The photos on this page show how community grows from people interacting with each other and with the land.



Collaborating with the company that constructed Ma:cidag Gewkdag Ki and O'odham Ni'okį Ki, TOCC is developing a new building that will serve student life by providing space for athletics, food service, academic support, and more. This multipurpose building will be available to the community. Rendering of the 28,870-square-foot structure is from ESB Design+Build.



In spring 2025, TOCC's Fine Arts program organized hands-on activities including a trip to the University of Arizona, where Prof. Karen Zimmerman led a print-making class. Two of the students above display the Himdag O'odham prints they made. The group also saw the UA's CATalyst Studios, a maker space. Visits like this help students prepare for transfer to university.

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Students work together on Ma:cig Oidag, the "Learning Garden," also known as the TOCC Living Laboratory (TLL). This project, which was funded by the National Science Foundation, channeled water and increased native plants on campus. Photo by Principal Investigator Dr. Teresa Newberry.

Advocacy and Opportunity Through AIHEC

AIHEC (the American Indian Higher Education Consortium) is the “collective spirit and unifying voice” (as expressed by its website) of Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) in the U.S. Serving this community of 35 accredited TCUs and 2 emerging institutions, AIHEC has created a nationwide community of Tribal students, educators, and administrators. AIHEC sponsors programs that promote growth and advocacy.

Every February, AIHEC holds a TCU Summit in which tribal college student leaders, faculty, executives, and board members meet with Congressional representatives and senators in Washington, DC, to influence federal budgets and lawmaking. In March, the AIHEC Student Conference convenes over 1,000 students, faculty and staff from TCUs to participate in professional development and to compete in academic, cultural, and artistic exercises. AIHEC facilitates a banquet where Students of the Year receive scholarships from the American Indian College Fund. Through these and other activities, AIHEC provides numerous opportunities for TOCC students to expand their horizons.

2025 Student of the Year: Isaiah Pashano

Growing up in the villages of Walpi and Sichomovi in Hopi, Isaiah Pashano learned about life from his twelve older siblings and his family’s cattle and other animals. He played music and sports in high school, eventually bringing these skills to TOCC, where he formed a band with fellow students and ran cross country in 2023. Clearly a person with many interests, Isaiah seeks a career working with animals. He is pursuing an associate of science degree in life science and plans to transfer to a state university to follow his dream. Isaiah received the Student of the Year recognition at the 2025 AIHEC Student Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota. He is pictured below at TOCC’s main campus in his role as Research Assistant with Ma:cig Oidag (the Learning Garden, described on page 7). Photo by Teresa Newberry.



A smiling duo of coach and student appear in this photo taken after the chess matches at the 2025 AIHEC Student Conference. Raymond Butler, Jr. (wearing a fun paper crown) won first place in the individual chess matches and brought home team first place for TOCC. Senior Systems Administrator Shawn Nez served as the chess team coach.



Student Voices Heard Across the United States

Advocacy on the National Stage

The AIHEC Student Congress is the representative body for TCU students, promoting self governance and leadership development. In 2024, Thurman Lynch, a TOCC student majoring in life science, was elected President of the Student Congress. Through this role, Thurman traveled to Washington, DC for a White House Tribal Summit in December 2024, where he met then President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. He returned to Washington for the TCU Summit in 2025 (pictured on this page) and advocated for lawmakers to support tribal college students.

Tribal College Journal: Outlet for Student Creativity

The *Tribal College Journal (TCJ)* serves as a record of progress for tribal colleges, as well as a connector for all involved in the tribal college movement. *TCJ* holds yearly creative writing, film, and art contests, encouraging students to share their visions. In 2025, TOCC students had winning creative writing submissions: “For the Love of the Library” and “Life After You” by Danelle Jishie, and “Old Tires” by Raymond Butler, Jr.



Below: The whole TCU delegation in February 2025.



Above: Student Thurman Lynch, who in 2024 was elected President of the AIHEC Student Congress, takes a selfie with Trustee Treena Parvello, College President Stephen Schoonmaker, and Phoenix Center Director Cassandra Scott. Top: The TOCC and SCAC delegations with Senator Mark Kelly in 2025.



Campus Life



Tim James, a dorm resident from Gila River, shows his "S-Wagima" sticker, a reminder to work hard.



Rhiannon Franklin and Karina Cannon enjoy walking on campus.



Students play volleyball outside the dorms.

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Pottery class in spring 2024, scenes from digging soil for clay to firing finished pots.

Jegos Athletics



The 2024 Archery Team poses at AIHEC's Student Conference in Minneapolis.



Members of the 2025 Archery Team practice on campus.



Preparing for the 2025 Cross Country Season

Head Coach Marlinda Francisco began recruiting in spring 2025. As of May 2025, seven offers were made, and six were accepted. Joseph Mease, Sr. will serve as Assistant Coach. TOCC participates in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) with at least six meets in the fall.

Recognizing the 2024 Cross Country Team

- Landen Goseyun – Completed the season
- Tristin Reidhead – Ran two races
- Head Coach Anthony Francisco, Jr.
- Assistant Coach Marlinda Francisco



Landen Goseyun, left, represented the Jegos at the University of California Riverside Cross Country Invitational in September 2024.

TOCC Alumni Continue Their Journeys

Keeping in Touch and Always Learning

Through social events and frequent communications, TOCC encourages its alumni to remain connected to the College and each other. If you're an alum and haven't heard from us recently, please contact Yolanda Pacheco, Dean of Student Services, at ypacheco@tocc.edu. Here are two examples of graduates who stay connected.

Jamie Siquieros: Transferring to University



Jamie Siquieros

Ms. Jamie Siquieros (Tohono O'odham) grew up in Tucson knowing about her Tohono O'odham background, but not feeling connected to her heritage. She struggled in high school and put off entering college for over a decade. In her early 30s she felt it was time to commit to a new pathway. Thinking about how she would like to contribute to the world, she chose to prepare for a career in nursing. She knew about the shortage of Native American and Tohono O'odham nurses and felt she could make a meaningful contribution to her community by joining this field.

Ms. Siquieros enrolled in TOCC in 2019 and started earning general education requirements. She found a connection to her culture that grounded her and gave her the focus to study hard and prepare for her future. She graduated in 2023, earning an Associate of Arts in Life Science, emphasis on Pre-professional Nursing. Now a senior at the University of Arizona in Health Sciences, she plans to soon enter the College of Nursing. She also works for A Student's Journey, the transfer program she participated in while at TOCC.

Erica Kleinman: Sharing Stories Through Radio

During the pandemic, Ms. Erica Kleinman (Diné) saw a social media advertisement that changed her life by opening so many doors. The ad led her to enroll at TOCC, where she studied life science and liberal arts, earning an associate degree in each of these areas in 2023 and 2024, respectively. During her studies, Erica connected with the College's radio show *Em Ma:cidag Wui*, also known as "The Road to TOCC." Now as an alumna, Erica continues to serve as a deejay for the show, which airs on KOHN 91.9 FM and other O'odham Hewel Ñi'ok stations. She enjoys sharing her interests with listeners. One of her favorite shows focused on citizen science, introducing several projects that make it possible for anyone to get involved with science.

Erica Kleinman is now studying biology at Northern Arizona University. She lives in the Phoenix metro area and stays in touch with TOCC through the Phoenix Center and via radio.



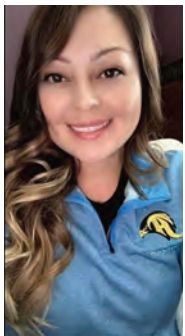
Deejay Erica enjoys producing radio shows for The Road to TOCC.

Class of 2024, S-ape 'o mapt na:to g 'e-maşcama



In-person graduates gathered at the Baboquivari High School Fine Arts Center before Commencement on May 17, 2024. Photo by Cody Chavez.

2024 Student of the Year: Ashley McCreery



While studying social work at San Carlos Apache College (SCAC) in 2024, Ashley McCreery was invited to attend the American Indian Higher Education Consortium Student Conference in Albuquerque. At first she declined, hesitant to compete in the conference activities. However, when she was selected as Student of the Year by TOCC/SCAC, she decided to go for it! She attended the awards dinner and competed in the traditional plants and public speaking competitions. “It was amazing to see so many tribes come together,” she said, “and that’s something I shared with my daughter: to get out there, attend as many Native conferences as possible and learn to network.” Ms. McCreery works at White River Indian Hospital. In May 2025, she graduated with an Associate of Arts in Social Work, with honors, and a Certificate in Substance Abuse and Addiction Studies. Congratulations, Ashley!

Faculty and Staff Photo, Commencement 2024



For faculty titles and directory information, see page 24. Front row: Isaac Furlonge, Dr. Heidi Wallace, Erin Aguilar, Wendi Cline, JD, Dr. Laura Sujo-Montes, Alberta Espinoza bał, Susanna Battin, Diona Williams, Ofelia ‘Liz’ Zepeda, Dr. Adrian Quijada, Andrea Ramon. Back row: Dr. Hamidou Keita, Shaodong Lin, Dwayne Manuel, Dr. Edison Cassadore, Jackson Doe, Dwayne Pierce, Dr. Mario Montes-Helu.

Class of 2024 — Celebrating Many Graduates!

Associate Degrees and Certificates

Leisha Albert-Tulene
Veronica Alvarez
Stephanie Arndt
Ralph Bead
Sissy Beatty
Angelica Bedonie
Cacie Begay
Kiana Begay
Daphne Bolman
Charm Chee
Ava Coleman
Laurel Collier
Marcilla Cruz
Raquel Dahkoshay
Danielle Davis
Jeremy Dearly
Mychal Denny
Tasheena Egan
Victoria Egoak
Cameron Farley
Keshia Garcia
Olivia Garcia
Kenisha George
Sanisa Gilmartin
Meriel Goklish
Isabel Gomez
Bria Gray
Kassie Gullick
Tanner Harwell
Jolene Hoffman
Vanessa Hoffman
Matthew Honanie
Rosalyn Jackson
Danelle Jishie
Christopher Juan
Mary Juan
Marie Kayson
Erica Kleinman
Danielle Kouyoumdjian

Jhericia Laskey
Erica Leon
Deidre Leonard
Tricia Logan
Cheryl Lopez
Dionne Lopez
Heather Lopez
Jasmine Lopez
Cayden Macktima
Magalina Martinez
Sarah McCovey
Karen Meade
Lorinda Molina
Kristina Morago
Jerilyn Nozie
Amber Ortega
Sylvia Pahe
Isabella Palmer
Kateri Parker
Daniella Parley
Raelenia Patterson
Brenda Paxson
Virginia Pedro
Avarista Perez-Chatlin
Laura Pinal
Sheila Pope
Ginger Preston
Sheryl Qotswisiwma
Charmayne Quintero
Nicole Quintero
Agatha Quiyo
Juliette Ramirez
Felicia Rivera
Marlana Robinson
Cheryl Roman
Belen Sanchez
Nicole Shirley
Sommer Silva
Anna Silverhorn
Ashlynn Siquieros

Alexander Sixkiller
Jamen Smith
Kathaleen Smith
Vetasha Smith
Laynell Spoonhunter
Melissa Spriggs
Anaysa Stark
Artie Steele
Elizabeth Tan
Todd Tate
Sanjiv Thompson
Noah Titla
Jennifer Trone
Quintana Tso
Vianna Turner
Rachel Valdez
Kimberly Velasco
Cory Ventura-Ramon
Cassandra Villegas
Sarah Viramontes
Taviea Walker
Teronica Walker
Astaro Walking Eagle
Felicia Whitegoat
Dana Wilcox
Claudia Wilson
Nicholas Wycliffe
Yolanda Yallup
Latoria Yazzie
Diavian Zazueta

High School Equivalency—College Credit Pathway

Diana Miles

High School Equivalency—General Education

Diploma (GED)

Sara Gutierrez, March 2024

Danielle Ignacio, September 2023

Class of 2025 — TOCC & SCAC Commencements



TOCC celebrated its Commencement on May 16, 2025. The 75 graduates listed here earned a total of 79 credentials. The Class of 2025 photo is on the front cover.

Associate Degrees and Certificates

Jerome Dakota Antone
Lorraine Jasmine Badillo
Todd Arthur Bean
Beulah Begay
Chasity Renee Begay
Letica Ann Bell
Kaysha Brown
Seth Carlos
Claudia Marisol Chavez
Renee LaRae Cruz
Miranda Delores
Alyssia Dempsey
Alexandra Marie Edmo
Emya Edwards
ReaShannon Friday
Olivia Elizabeth Garcia
Tanisha George
Jacqueline Claire Grater
Elayne Rose Gregg
Kassie Gullick
Nicholas Hargrove
Peyton Lorene Haskins
Gary William Honani
Tina Ann Hoover

Jamie Lynn Hopkins-Irizarry
Alisha L. Howard
Danelle Lynn Jishie
Taylor Angel Johnson
Frances Louise Juan
Roniva Keevama
Tawny Kelly
Elizabeth Janel Kettle
Angelita Lee
Marquerita Ann Lincoln
Lorenza Earlean Lockett
Saulina Binvuralria Lockuk
Kayla Jeann Lonewolf
Irma Bernadine Lopez
Zavannah Mia Luna
Leia Rose Lupe
Shane Louis Manygoats
Tiffany Amber Marks
Joshua Chad Massey
Zachary Quentin Mendez
Raphael Mendoza
Veronica Yasaret Meraz
Kayla Leslie Monte
Joseph Morales
Cherilena Carol Nelson
Jeffrey Numkena
Ashley Elyse Onsa
Alyssa Faye Orosco
Tyra Jean Palomo
Autumn Lacey Louise Parra
Shaunanthony Pashano
Tara Perez
Mariah J. Peterson
Joseph Salcido
Serena Abrianna Monet Sanchez
Leticia Santiago
Stephanie Lynn Scott
Hon'mana Rae Seukteoma
Kerri Jean Shebola
Grace Salcido Siquieros
Gregory John Spencer

Jessica Lorraine Taylor-Lewis
Vianna Vishan Turner
Watauna Marie Velarde
Courtney Augustina Mendez Waggoner
Charles Robert Wells
Megan Diane White
Jolene Wilson
Shawna Leigh Wilson
Charmane Yazzie
Rueotison Yazzie

High School Equivalency—College Credit Pathway

Rosa Vavages

Pre-College GED Graduates

Marissa Delgado, December 2023
Angel Enriquez, May 2024
Emilio Ramon, February 2025
Lehaulti Serious, March 2024



SCAC held its Commencement ceremony on May 17, 2025, in Peridot, Arizona. Twenty-nine students participated.

S-Ki:kig Maščama Ki: – the Phoenix Center

Fifth Anniversary, New Move

In summer 2024, at the time of its fifth anniversary, S-Ki:kig Maščama Ki:, the “Many Houses Site,” also known as the TOCC Phoenix Center, moved to a new two-story building in Midtown Phoenix. Since its founding, S-Ki:kig Maščama Ki: has enjoyed support from the Tohono O’odham Nation, the Salt River Pima–Maricopa Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Gila River Indian Community.

Art, mathematics, Tohono O’odham language, and writing are offered in person at the Phoenix Center. Students also use the space at the site for studying or for taking online or virtual classes. The Center hosts student and community activities including monthly in-person advising, art demos, and craft fairs. It is a resource for O’odham members in the Phoenix Valley Metro area. S-Ki:kig Maščama Ki: represents TOCC at the Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day, the annual Native American Recognition Day, and at other events in the Valley Metro area.

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4041 N Central Ave, Bldg B, Phoenix AZ 85012 (480) 590-3447

Theresa Jackson, Phoenix
Center Site Technician
tjackson@tocc.edu



College President Stephen Schoonmaker, far right, speaks to Phoenix Center students, graduates, faculty, and staff at an end-of-semester celebration on April 29, 2025. The group enjoyed dinner in the spacious common area at S-Ki:kig Maščama Ki:. Photo by Cassandra Scott.

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San Carlos Apache College (SCAC)

In 2024-2025, SCAC saw a number of developments:

- Fond farewell to its founding president, Dr. Martín Ahumada.
- Welcoming its second president, Dr. Linda Sue Warner, an expert on Indigenous pedagogy and Native ways of knowing. She has served as president of Haskell Indian Nations University and is a member of the Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma.

- Difficult time during the Watch Fire of July 2024. Gratitude for help to TOCC and to many across Arizona.
- Reaching the stage of eligibility for accreditation with the HLC (Higher Learning Commission). Meanwhile, SCAC continues to operate as a site under TOCC’s accreditation.



Dr. Linda Sue Warner, SCAC President

Wişag Koş Maşcamakuđ - Hawk's Nest Campus

This 21.2-acre site, also known as West Campus, is located at Milepost 111 South, Arizona Highway 86. Wişag Koş is the home for several important programs and offices, which are featured in the pages that follow.

Wişag Koş Maşcamakuđ is undergoing changes to improve the experience for students, employees, and community members who use the campus. Breakfast and lunch are now offered to all on campus through the College-subsidized Food Program. As the campus continues to grow, the goal is to connect the community and the College, with services to enhance success in workforce development and academics.

Staff Focused on Success and Learning at Wişag Koş

While all employees at this campus focus on student success, the College would like to highlight several newer employees and their roles.



Workforce & Community Development Success Coach Edwina Moreno is available to advise and coach all individuals involved in programs at Wişag Koş campus. Contact Ms. Moreno for advising, art for wellness, goal setting, program details, and more at emoreno@tocc.edu or at 520-993-3198.

Pre-College GED Program

While based at Wişag Koş, the GED program serves students across the Tohono O'odham Nation and the state through in-person and online options. More information on Pre-College is at www.tocc.edu/ged-before-college.



Linda Gates
Pre-College GED Math Tutor

The Pre-College GED Program is part of Workforce and Community Development. Contact: anramon@tocc.edu



Gabriel Cutler
Pre-College GED Instructor



Bridget Taylor
Online Pre-College GED Instructor

Clifford Pablo Receives Resilience Award



In February 2024, Wişag Koş's Clifford Pablo (center), Extension Agent/ Farm Manager, received an Indigenous Resilience Leadership Award from the University of Arizona's Indigenous Resilience Center (IRes) for his lifetime work of sharing traditional knowledge in agricultural and water preservation. Amy Juan, right, a TOCC alumna who works on traditional medicine and food, was also honored. Dr. Karletta Chief, IRes Director, left, hosted the ceremony for the honors at the Southwest Adaptation Forum, a regional gathering of practitioners, researchers, and community members who seek to mitigate climate change in the Southwest.

TOCC: A 1994 Land Grant Institution with a Land Grant Office of Sustainability (LGOS) and Agriculture Extension

As a Land Grant Institution, TOCC has steadily grown its programs in agriculture, natural resources, sustainability, and traditional foods. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) and the Native American Agriculture Fund (USDA NAAF) are key funders of these initiatives.



NOVA recognized Ag Extension's work in Harvesting the Future: Legacy of the Land. Scan the QR code at left to see the NOVA video from 2024 on YouTube.



From left: Clifford Pablo, Extension Agent/Farm Manager; Vina Sarmiento, student Ag intern; Serenity Ventura, student Ag intern; Lace Ortega, student Ag intern; Anica Jose, student Ag intern; Sequoia Ramon, student Ag intern; and Joyce Miguel, Extension Agent/Farm Manager Assistant. Front: To:ta Baw'i, Farm dog



Extension Fields at the Wişag Koş Maşcamakuç.

Horseshoeing Training

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In spring 2024, TOCC offered an 8-week Horseshoeing Training program, providing the 7 graduates with the skills and equipment for starting their own businesses. This equipment included horseshoe tools and farrier essentials such as an anvil stand, hoof jack, and forge. The graduates were Genae Antone; Oriana Apkaw, Kyon Hendricks, Carvell Jones, Jayson Juan, Antonio Lopez-Cooche, and Daydrion Yazzie. The program leads were George Goode, Master Farrier & President of Native American Horse Education Foundation; Mel Cody, Assistant Instructor; Adrian Morgan, Assistant Instructor; and Adrian Quijada, Project Director. Partners for the program were the Native American Horse Education Foundation, TOCC's Land Grant Office of Sustainability, the Operations Division, the Workforce Program, and the TON Natural Resources Department. The Tohono Kosin provided support for student meals, while the TON Natural Resources Department offered access to the TON Rodeo area.



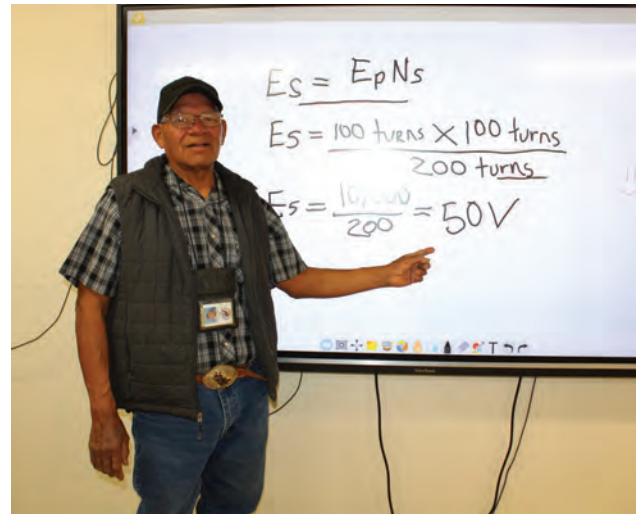
Ag Extension Serving Communities

The agriculture extension program is dedicated to promoting sustainable agricultural practices by offering technical advice tailored to the specific needs of farmers and community members in the Nation. It addresses various challenges related to plant health, including pest management, soil health, and crop disease prevention, while providing valuable resources and information to empower local growers. In addition to its advisory role, the program includes an internship initiative specifically designed to create career training opportunities for individuals within the community. The program employs five interns who are members of the Tohono O'odham Nation, allowing them to gain hands-on experience in agricultural practices and extension services. Through this program, interns develop essential skills that support their professional growth and contribute to the sustainability of agricultural practices in their community.

Experienced Instructors Teach Apprenticeship Trades

During 2024-2025, the Apprenticeship Program grew to serve over 40 individuals in Carpentry, Electrical, and Plumbing. Apprentices begin with a Core course that covers the basics of construction skills and safety, then master instructors teach the various trades and supervise on-the-job learning.

In fall 2024, the Apprenticeship Program helped Tohono O’odham High School (TOHS) re-open its construction trades workshops, which were closed in the early 2000s. In spring 2025, the program offered a Core course at TOHS, with 14 students enrolling. Apprenticeship will continue partnering with TOHS to revitalize its technical education programs. The program also offered a Core course for Baboquivari Unified School District employees in spring 2025.



Michael Antone, Master Electrician & Electrical Instructor, shows a formula for electromotive force. Mr. Antone is a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation. mantone@tocc.edu



Ambrose Lopez, Journeyman Carpentry Instructor
Member of the Tohono O’odham Nation
alopez@tocc.edu



Michael Moyer, Master Plumber & Journeyman Plumbing Instructor
mmoyer@tocc.edu



Jeremy Tashquinth, NCCER-Certified Core Instructor & Journeyman, with the Winter 2025 Core Apprenticeship Class. From left: Mr. Tashquinth, Rae Anna Joe, Arianna Antonio, Lennix Felix, Patrick Conde, Quint Blaine, Adiran Ortiz, Patrick Bautista, Kade Claw, Nadine Cruz, Kayo Haven, and Davion Zazueta. Mr. Tashquinth is a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation and can be reached at jtashquinth@tocc.edu.

Apprenticeship Program
Jackson Doe
Director
jdoe@tocc.edu

Ernestine Segundo
Office Coordinator
Member of the Tohono O’odham Nation
esegundo@tocc.edu
Tel. (520) 479-2300 x 2511

Workforce and Community Development Focuses on Skills

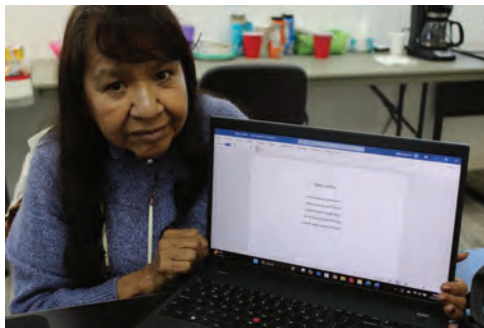
Holistic Approach to Economic Development

Through its Workforce and Community Development (WCD) arm, the College invests in skill development, occupational education, and career advancement opportunities for the community, as well as relationship building with employers to create a homegrown workforce of Tohono O’odham Nation members. The WCD office, based at Wişag Koş Maşcamakud, develops and runs the programs shown on this page and many others. For information, contact WCD Chair Anselmo Ramon at 520-479-2300 x 2212 or anramon@tocc.edu.

Hewel Wepegi Macidag kc, wog – Learning the Internet Road

This program, funded by a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grant, has increased the computer literacy of community members across the Tohono O’odham Nation. Over 100 people from ten of the Nation’s eleven districts participate in the program. Many of them are basket makers, cooks, district and/or community leaders, or other entrepreneurs who are learning how to use technology and software to sell their wares and manage their small businesses or their government offices.

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Lillian Espuma from Chukut Kuk District shared a poem she wrote for one of the NTIA class assignments.

Small Steps
Small steps a good start.
Small steps a wise choice.
Small steps a long ways
Small steps a great feeling.
Small steps a goal reached.



The Baboquivari District class in the Hewel Wepegi Macidag kc, wog program in January 2025. Front: Yvonne Harris, Margo Felix, Merla Conde, Jasmine Francisco. Back: Computer Literacy Trainer Marvin Carmen, Cathryn Carmen-Lee, Kathleen Carmen, Amos Stephens, Jenny Johnson, Ophelia Patten, and Computer Literacy Instructor Coordinator Walter Serrano.



The Schuk Toak District class in January 2025. Front: Edward Noceo, Ruby Lopez, Mary N. Lopez, Jasmine Francisco. Back: Computer Literacy Trainer Cody Lee Juan, Joshua Lopez, Mary Carrillo, Stanley Stephens, District Monitor Isabel Encinas, Paul Andrew (from Sif Oidak District), Ophelia Campillo, and Trainer Marvin Carmen. Not pictured: Monique Pablo-Johnson.

First Emergency Medical Technician Cohort at TOCC

In spring 2025, TOCC partnered with the Tohono O’odham Nation Health Care (TONHC) and the Tohono O’odham Nation Fire Department (TONFD) on an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program. TONHC’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the TONFD offered the instruction, and TOCC provided facilities and marketing.

The EMT class took place in spring 2025 with 4-hour classes on Tuesday evenings and 8-hour classes on Saturdays. Additionally, the group experienced clinical time and ride-alongs in fire trucks and ambulances with experienced EMTs and paramedics. For more about the program, please contact anramon@tocc.edu.



The EMT students took a break from their evening class in March 2025 to pose for a photo. From left: John Wright, EMT Program Coordinator, Fernando Saraficio, Natalie Cowart, Marcileena Mark, Erika Reyas, Phatima Alvarez, Vivian Alvarez, Maribel Betancourt, Jason Celestine, Rosa Buendia, Cachora Standifer, and Shane Campillo, EMT Instructor. Mr. Wright is a Paramedic and Training officer with Tohono O’odham Nation Health Care–EMS, and Mr. Campillo is a Firefighter with the Tohono O’odham Nation Fire Department. Photos by M. Lee.



Mr. John Wright, from TONHC-EMS, leads a class. Vivian Alvarez, right, practices with Phatima Alvarez. Erika Reyas notes Marcileena Mark's blood pressure.

Directory of Full-time Faculty – College Instructors

Erin Aguilar, MEd
Elementary Education Instructor

Susanna Battin, MFA
Fine Arts Instructor

Edison Cassadore, PhD
Literature & Humanities Instructor
San Carlos Apache

Wendi Cline, JD
Business Instructor

Timothy Foster, MA
Computer Information Systems
(CIS) Instructor

Isaac Furlonge, MEd
Mathematics Instructor

Hamidou Keita, PhD
Chemistry Instructor

Shaodong Lin, MS
Mathematics Instructor

Dwayne Manuel, MFA
Fine Arts Instructor
Salt River Pima–Maricopa

Teresa Newberry, PhD
Science Instructor

Caroline Patrick-Birdwell, MS
Geographic Information Science
Instructor

Curtis Peterson, PhD
Social and Behavioral Sciences
Instructor

Michelle Rountree, PhD
Social Work Instructor

Reva ‘Mariah’ ShieldChief, PhD
Tohono O’odham Studies Director
Tohono O’odham

Neal Wade, MBA
Business Instructor

Heidi Wallace, PhD
Writing and Humanities Instructor

Diona Williams, MEd
Early Childhood Education Instructor

An online directory that includes adjunct faculty is at <https://www.tocc.edu/faculty-adjunct-faculty>.



College faculty and leaders gathered before the Commencement in 2025. Full-time instructors’ titles are listed above, and others’ titles appear here. Back row, from left: Dr. Hamidou Keita; Teresa Choyguha, Tohono O’odham Studies Instructor; Susanna Battin; Dr. Sandra Knight, Psychology Instructor; Dwayne Manuel; College President Dr. Stephen Schoonmaker; Dr. Michele Rountree; Dwayne Pierce, Tohono O’odham History & Culture Instructor; Jackson Doe, Apprenticeship Program Director. Middle row: Elizabeth Ortega, Tohono O’odham Studies Instructor; Dr. Laura Sujo-Montes, Dean of Academics; Shaodong Lin; Wendi Cline, JD; Julie McIntyre, Curriculum Coordinator; Diona Williams; Erin Aguilar; Caroline Patrick-Birdwell. Seated: Dr. Curtis Peterson, Dr. Mariah ‘Reva’ ShieldChief, Dr. Edison Cassadore.

Financials, Fiscal Year 2024

Statement of Financial Position as of 6/30/2024 and 6/30/2023

Assets	Audited – 2024	Audited – 2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$14,907,301	\$13,785,304
Student accounts receivable	\$212,709	\$298,223
Grants and contracts receivable	\$8,377,802	\$4,005,440
Inventory	\$241,408	\$232,318
Investments	\$2,359,289	\$2,219,136
Capital assets, net of depreciation	\$12,362,802	\$10,592,491
Total assets:	\$38,461,311	\$31,132,912

Liabilities	Audited – 2024	Audited – 2023
Accounts payable	\$462,667	\$472,492
Salary-related payables	\$1,362,689	\$1,650,204
Other payables and accrued expenses	\$2,231,687	\$418,002
Deferred grant revenue	\$11,029,979	\$11,929,245
Total liabilities	\$15,087,022	\$14,469,943
Equity	\$23,374,289	\$16,662,969
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$38,461,311	\$31,132,912

Tohono O’odham Community College ended 2024 with assets of \$38.4 million and \$23.3 million in equity. TOCC’s financial statements, audited by Windes, Inc., are available from the TOCC Finance Office.

Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position

	Audited – as of 6/30/2024	Audited – as of 6/30/2023
Operating Revenues		
Tuition and fees	\$184,518	\$138,941
Less Waivers and scholarships	(184,518)	(138,941)
Government grants	11,946,344	6,197,893
Bookstore sales	185,262	275,099
Miscellaneous income	42,222	22,728
Operating revenue & other support	12,173,828	6,495,720
Nonoperating Revenues		
Legislative contribution – Tohono O’odham Nation	5,096,045	5,096,045
Tribal Community College Act funds	6,594,404	4,959,735
Other government grants	911,813	48,848
Federal Pell grants	2,267,141	1,658,282
Investment income, net	131,235	58,266
Contributions	88,691	52,622
Nonoperating revenues	15,089,329	11,873,798
Total Revenues	27,263,157	18,369,518

Expenses		
Instruction	2,834,322	2,906,499
Academic support	550,268	458,202
Student services	2,611,147	2,049,919
Student assistance	2,877,161	2,082,990
Institutional support	5,180,760	5,854,953
Facility operations and maintenance	1,466,766	1,857,895
Grants to other entities	3,159,541	858,603
Community engagement	1,049,949	71,478
Depreciation and amortization	821,923	831,417
Total Expenses	20,551,837	16,971,956

Change in Net Position	6,711,320	1,397,562
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By the Numbers

Personnel Profile, Spring 2025

Full-time employees, staff and faculty	111
Commuters*	48
Local*	63
(*Determined by address and distance from workplace)	
Tohono O’odham	42 or 38%
Other Native American.....	35 or 32%
Of other ancestry.....	18 or 16%
Unspecified/didn’t answer/2 or more heritages.....	16 or 14%
Gender	62 female, 44 male
Gender percentage	56% female, 40% male
Unspecified gender/didn’t answer	5 or 4%
Part-time employees**	19
(**including student workers, interns, tutors, and staff)	
Adjunct faculty members	36
Open positions at time of this report	5

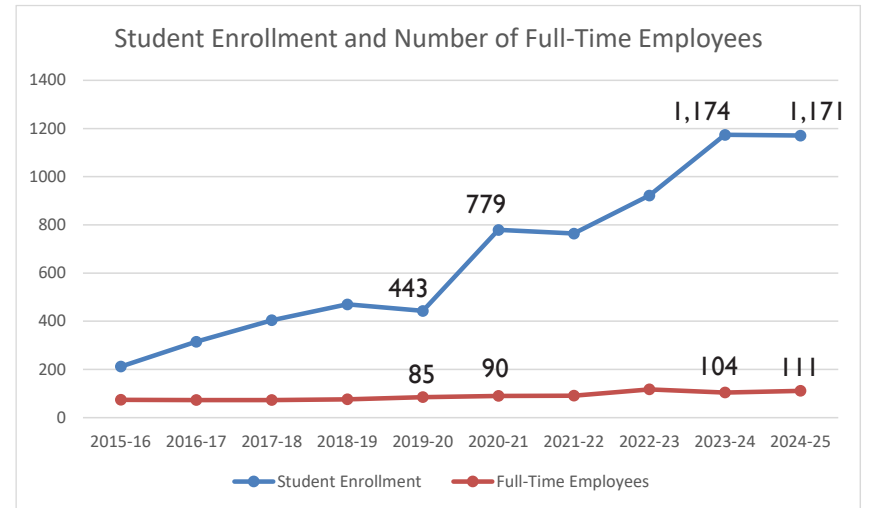
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Comparison of Distance Ed & In-person Students

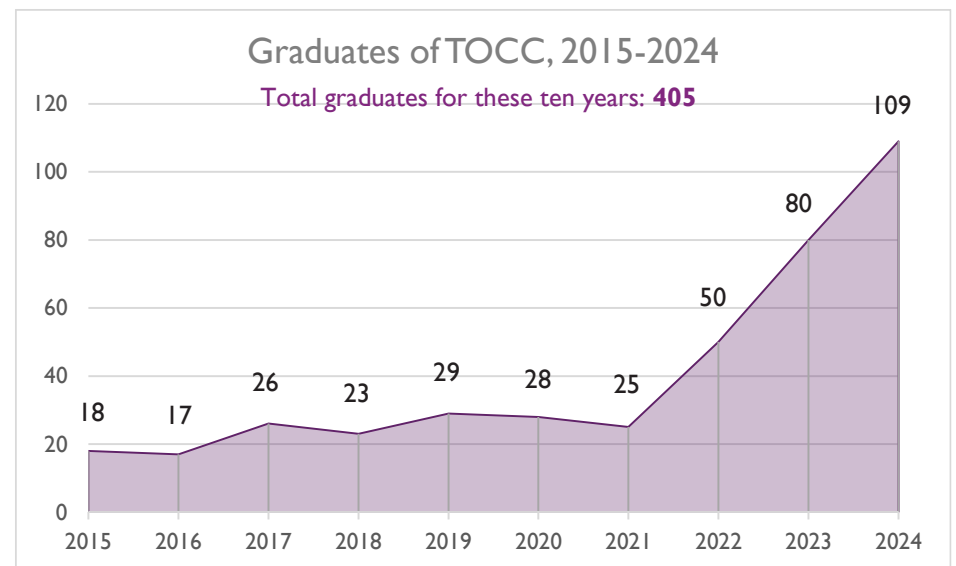
Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (EDEE/Online) vs. In-Person/Online Enrollment (Arizona vs. Other States)		
Unduplicated Headcount	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
EDEE - Living in Arizona	810	799
EDEE - Living in Other States	238	251
Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (EDEE) Total	1048	1050
In-Person or Mixed (In-Person + Distance Ed/Online) Enrollment	126	121
Total Enrollment	1174	1171

This table shows stability in “EDEE” enrollments (coursework offered online).

Data Related to Personnel, Students, and Graduates



The graph above shows how the student body (blue, unduplicated head-count) has grown dramatically in recent years, compared to slower growth in the number of full-time employees (red).



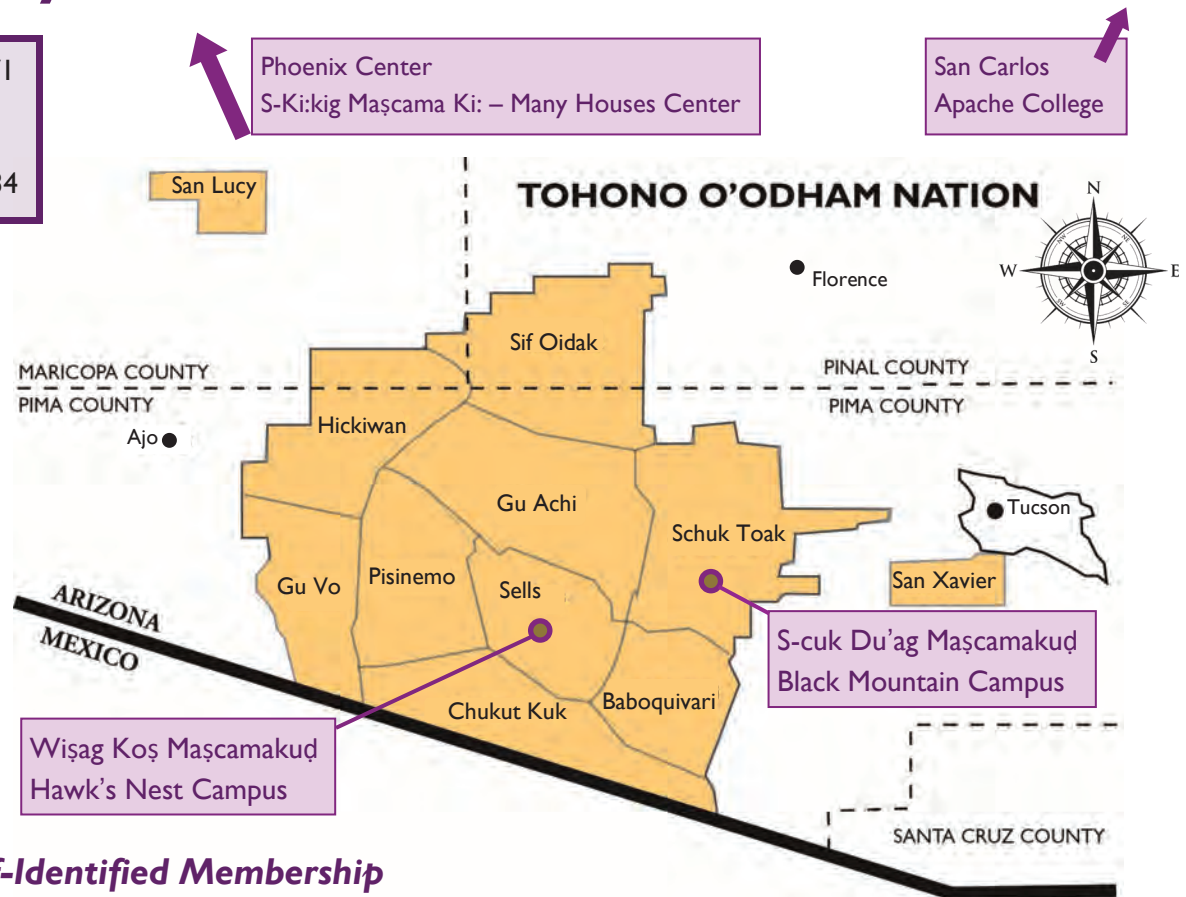
The graph shows how the number of graduates has grown in recent years.

Enrollment Consistently Over One Thousand Students

Student Body, Fall 2024 – Unduplicated headcount: 1,171
 Full-time student equivalent (at 12 credit hours): 770
 Females 941 (80%) and Males 230 (20%) Average age 34

District	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Baboquivari	37	51	33
Chukut Kuk	32	42	38
Gu Achi	29	34	34
Gu Vo	21	27	20
Hickiwan	18	25	19
Pisinemo	12	19	13
San Lucy	7	5	6
San Xavier	16	21	24
Schuk Toak	21	32	28
Sells	58	61	55
Sif Oidak	17	27	22
No District	3	2	2
Tohono O'odham Students	271	346	294
San Carlos Apache Students*	148	160	158
Other Native American Students	468	623	658
Non-Native Students	35	45	61
Total Unduplicated Headcount	922	1174	1171

*All San Carlos Apache students, whether they are enrolled in SCAC or TOCC.



Self-Identified Membership

The table to the left shows students' self-identified membership over the past three years. The data set was provided by TOCC's Institutional Effectiveness unit in January 2025.

Annual Report Notes and Photo Credits

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Ñia, Oya G T-Taccui Am Hab E-ju: — Our Dream Fulfilled



A Student's Journey (ASJ) is a partnership with the University of Arizona that prepares tribal college students to transfer to university. Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC) and San Carlos Apache College (SCAC) students enrolled in ASJ meet with guest speakers, study environmental social justice, and conduct internships during the summer. Here the ASJ students and staff from 2024 pose after meeting with guest speaker Gabriella Cazares-Kelly, Pima County Recorder and former TOCC employee. Back row, from left: Mayra Vargas, UA Project Manager; Millie Reede; Ms. Cazares-Kelly; Sandra Cordova; Thurman Lynch; Tossi-Masso Molina; and Rhiannon Franklin. Front row, from left: Brandi Espuma (kneeling), Dual Enrollment Coordinator; Annie Riley; Rosy Jackson; Jordania Livingston, UA Program Coordinator; and Karina Cannon.

Tohono O'odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuđ

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