

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 2, 2023 **CONTACT:** Dr. Twyla Baker, President tbaker@nhsc.edu 701.627.4368

NHS COLLEGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF IMPACT FOR THE MHA NATIONS

New Town, N.D. – Today, Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College celebrates a major milestone of fifty years of serving the educational needs of the MHA Nations. Founded on May 2nd, 1973, in New Town, ND, Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College has grown over the last five decades to become an integral part of the community by providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their academic and career goals.

In addition to traditional higher educational coursework, Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College offers immersive educational experiences, centered on the traditions of the Indigenous community. With specialized coursework in Tribal languages, culture, and history, students are able to gain an in-depth understanding of the legacy of their ancestors.

"Today, NHSC stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity Indigenous students. Throughout our 50-year history, this college has helped thousands of individuals and families in Tribal communities to improve their lives, leading to better futures," stated Dr. Twyla Baker, President of NHSC.

NHSC offered its first classes on an extension basis with partner accredited institutions. These institutions included University of Mary (Bismarck, ND), Minot State College (Minot, ND), and the University of North Dakota (Williston Center, Williston, ND). The College established long-range planning models to develop a framework for carrying out its mission and goals. This helped improve education and vocational services in communities throughout the Reservation.

Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College (NHSC) was accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges in 1988 and granted 10-year accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission of Schools and Colleges in 2006. NHSC is one of 32 tribal colleges to receive 1994 Land Grant Institution status.

The college is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). In 2011, NHSC was awarded approval to offer Bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education,

Environmental Science, and Native American Studies making NHSC a Four-Year Institution. In 2022, NHSC was awarded approval to offer Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

To celebrate its 50th year, the college is planning multiple special events. The first event will be the upcoming graduation taking place on May 12, 2023. More celebrations are expected to be announced in the coming months.

"As an alumnus of this college, it is a point of pride to be able to come full circle and honor their commitment and the dedication of the many individuals who have come after and are here to this day, continuing the work. Our campus team is looking forward to celebrating this important milestone throughout the year, and we invite everyone to join us in the upcoming events. I am excited and honored to be here to celebrate our first fifty years, and I look forward to envisioning the next as well," Baker said.

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