



**Stone Child College**

**Achieving  
the Dream**

Between the fall of 2019 and spring of 2022, through the Serving Native American Students with Holistic Student Supports project, six Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) began redesigning the student experience through the development of a customized holistic student supports framework. This approach emphasizes the need for institutions to deeply understand their students and then collaboratively redesign services that are critical for the success of every student. The colleges participated in a community of practice with other TCUs in the project and received intensive, customized coaching from Achieving the Dream to strengthen their capacity to serve students in their communities. The overarching goal of the project was to help colleges dismantle barriers in structure, policy, and practice to make it easier for students to identify and access academic and nonacademic supports in a timely manner to support completion of their college goals.

## Using Co-Advisors to Scale First-Year Advising with Existing Resources

Until recently, Stone Child College's new students struggled through the onboarding and registration process. The college didn't have enough advisors to handle the volume of new-student inquiries at the beginning of each semester. To address this issue, Stone Child's Advising Reform Subcommittee created the "co-advising" model that equips faculty and staff volunteers with training, program-specific study plans, and protocols to effectively conduct first-year student advising.

The co-advisors meet with students from their designated program and connect them with orientation activities and other resources they can take advantage of before starting their first semester. The goal is for the co-advisors to start students off on the right path and then hand them off to their faculty advisor for career- and program-specific counseling.


To foster communication amongst this extended advising team, Stone Child created program-specific Microsoft Teams

### College Information

- Tribally chartered by the Chippewa Cree Tribes
- Location: Box Elder, MT
- As of 2020–21, SCC offers 14 associate degrees, one bachelor's degree, seven certificates, and three endorsements

pages, which serve as a central communication hub for faculty advisors and co-advisors. These program pages are both the primary source of information (e.g., education plans and student advising lists) and where all advisors log and track conversations, tasks, and next steps discussed with students.

With this reformed advising approach, Stone Child has built relationships and trust with students earlier and faster. More importantly, it has allowed them to troubleshoot and address students' needs before they become serious academic issues.



**Achieving the Dream (ATD)** is a partner and champion of more than 300 community colleges across the country. Drawing on our expert coaches, groundbreaking programs, and national peer network, we provide institutions with integrated, tailored support for every aspect of their work—from foundational capacities such as leadership, data, and equity to intentional strategies for supporting students holistically, building K-12 partnerships, and more. We call this Whole College Transformation. Our vision is for every college to be a catalyst for equitable, antiracist, and economically vibrant communities. We know that with the right partner and the right approach, colleges can drive access, completion rates, and employment outcomes—so that all students can access life-changing learning that propels them into community-changing careers.