ABOUT THE PROJECT

The College of Menominee Nation, located in one of Wisconsin’s more rural and economically disadvantaged areas, plans to upgrade and expand public computer services for the Menominee Indian tribe of Wisconsin as well as the broader public in the region through its Comprehensive Community Technology Center project. The project plans to upgrade speed and capacity primarily to serve the more than 5,000 members of the Menominee Tribe living on or adjacent to the 365 square mile reservation. The project proposes to provide certificate and/or technical diploma training, skills-building activities ranging from GED assistance to math and reading coaching, career exploration and placement, and special workshops for economically vulnerable populations including people with disabilities, at-risk youth, tribal populations, and the unemployed.

The Comprehensive Community Technology Center also proposes to:

- Deploy as many as 130 new workstations, increase hours of operation by up to 20 additional hours per week, and serve an estimated 660 additional users per week.
- Train as many as 2,500 residents with up to 62,500 hours of teacher-led training annually over the three-year life of the project.
- Upgrade computer centers to enable an average increase in access speeds of up to 90 Mbps.

ORGANIZATION’S HISTORY

College of Menominee Nation, established in 1994 and fully accredited in 1998, is one of 34 tribally controlled community colleges in the United States. CMN’s campus consists of state-of-the-art technology labs, biology and chemistry labs, a new library, and a distance education center and has been providing limited public access to computers as a regular part of its curriculum for several years.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, including its Aging Division and Police Department
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- American Indian Chamber of Commerce
- Gresham Community School
- Menominee Tribal Day Care
- Menominee Head Start
- University of Wisconsin Extension
- Bowler School District
- Menominee Vocational Rehabilitation
- Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.
- University of Wisconsin Oshkosh