

Stone Child College

**Written Response to Year One Peer-
Evaluation Report**

June 10, 2011

Introduction

This is a written response report to the Year One Peer-Evaluation Report recommendations for consideration by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Board of Commissioners when the matter is considered at its July 2011 meeting.

Located on the Rocky Boy's Indian reservation in north central Montana is Stone Child College (SCC), a tribally controlled community college. The Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation is the smallest of seven reservations in Montana. We have approximately 3,427 people residing on the reservation with a total of 6,200 enrolled members of the Chippewa Cree tribe.

In 1984 Stone Child College was chartered by the Chippewa Cree Tribal Business Committee. It was the belief of tribal leaders that the establishment of a college was necessary for the preservation and maintenance of the Chippewa Cree culture, Cree language, history and educational training of our tribal membership. Off reservation training and college studies programs were not adequately meeting the needs of the Rocky Boy's community. Stone Child College accepted the challenge to provide quality post secondary education opportunities by offering degree and certificate programs.

Stone Child College held classes in a wide variety of locations during the first five years of its existence. Any empty structure that could be used to hold classes was utilized. A public school housing unit was used for offices for the administration of the college. The tribe donated a facility that had been a tribal high school to Stone Child College in 1989. All Stone Child College activities were conducted from this facility until 1993 when an academic building, Kennewash Hall, was constructed. The Sitting Old Woman Center was constructed in 1996 to accommodate the growth of the institution. The main facility began to have structural problems as the student population continued to grow.

A series of needs assessments were completed and indicated the need for a new campus. Funds and location for the new campus became available and Stone Child College moved forward with the construction of the new campus. In 2001, Stone Child College built a log cabin structure donated by the American Indian College Fund (AICF), which currently houses the displaced White Sky Hope Center during the flood of 2010. In 2002, Stone Child College completed the Sitting Old Woman Center that houses the library, Registrar/Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Services, Business Office, Bookstore and numerous other offices. In 2003, Stone Child College completed yet another phase, Kennewash Hall, which houses 11 large classrooms, faculty offices, administration, Foundations and Research, and a conference room. Both Sitting Old Woman and Kennewash Hall building names were transferred to the present Stone Child College campus. In 2006, the Jon "Cubby" Morsette Vocational Center was completed, which houses 2 large shop areas, 1 large gathering area, office space, fine arts and pre-engineering classrooms. Beginning in the early spring of 2009, Stone Child College began the construction of a Health Center, which includes a gymnasium. It was completed and dedicated in December 2010. Funding for this project was provided in part by the Title III program and Rural Development Administration (RDA) in the amount of \$3,140,000.00.

Stone Child College is a healthy and growing institution that has a clear mission and purpose in continuing to meet the educational and training needs of the local community and surrounding area. As the educational institution of the Chippewa Cree Tribe, Stone Child College will continue to meet its objectives and fulfill its mission for the residents of the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation.

Following the completion of the Year One Self Evaluation report in March 2011, Stone Child College received two recommendations from the three-person peer-evaluation team from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

On May 23, 2011, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities notified Stone Child College of the option to prepare a written response report to Recommendations 1 and 2 of the spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report. Recommendation 1 and 2 are stated:

1. The evaluators recommend “that General Education Outcomes are made accessible to students and other appropriate college staff. (Standard 2.C.2)*”
2. The evaluators recommend “that the Mission Statement be inclusive of and aligned directly with the Core Themes. (Standard 1.A and 1.B)”

*This recommendation relates to a recommendation from a previous evaluation (Recommendation 3 of the Spring 2008 focused Interim Evaluation Report), which was addressed by the institution as required in the Year One Report. The Standard cited here reflects the appropriate new Standard upon which this Recommendation is based.

Therefore, this written response report addresses recommendation One (Standard 2.C.2) and Two (Standard 1.A and 1.B).

Response to Recommendation One - Standard 2.C.2

The General Education Outcomes are located in the 2010-2012 Stone Child College Catalog (page 32). In addition, an electronic version of the SCC catalog is available on the Stone Child College website at www.stonechild.edu, by clicking on the “Academics” tab.

Further compliance with the recommendation will include providing the General Education Outcomes on all college program brochures, disseminating them throughout the campus and disbursing the information. Any discussion or necessary changes to the General Education Outcomes will be addressed at the annual retreat, planning meetings and staff/faculty meetings. All appropriate college staff will be informed of any changes.

The college will provide access to the General Education Outcomes by including them in student packets at fall and spring student Orientation. In addition, information will be provided to students in the Freshman Seminar class held each fall and spring semester. The Freshman Seminar class is a sixteen week class offered for three credits to prepare the students for college campus life.

Response to Recommendation Two - Standard 1.A and 1.B

In response to recommendation two, we have scheduled a series of meetings in June and July to address this recommendation. Our goal is to have the Mission Statement revision completed by September 2011.

The Stone Child College Administration will work with a consultant, SCC’s Board of Regents, students, and Assessment Committee members to revise the Mission Statement capturing the identity of the college. The revised statement will be inclusive of and aligned to Core Themes, as recommended by the evaluation team.

Further, Dr. Ronald Baker, Executive Vice-President of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities visited our campus on June 8, 2011 to provide information on the new guidelines and

accreditation process. The meeting was very informative and provided guidance to our staff, administration and Board of Regents.

Concluding Statement

Stone Child College is committed to providing the best possible educational environment to its students, a process that can only be accomplished by constantly evaluating and updating programs, processes and policies.

Stone Child College is extremely indebted to the NWCCU for their tireless efforts in the self study processes, as these recommendations have enabled Stone Child College to strive for continual improvement.