

Despite the pandemic, Tohono O'odham Community College is open to students and the community

By TOCC Staff

Sells, AZ- With classes set to begin on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, Tohono O'odham Community College is preparing for its spring semester. Except for a brief holiday closure (December 24-31), TOCC campuses are open.

People who are vaccinated are welcome to visit the college. Each campus has a place on-site to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination and to complete a simple health screening in order to access the grounds and resources. All individuals on campus must wear a mask.

Here are updates from the various College campuses.

Wisag Kos Mascamakud (Hawk's Nest Campus), which is on Highway 86, Milepost 111 South (site of the former Career Center), offers many services to the community, including the following:

- **Pre-College/GED** is a year-round program that is only closed on recognized federal and TOCC employee holidays. Four options are available for students interested in earning high school equivalency.

The GED program offers in-person classes that are also available online via Zoom. Contact the GED instructors for how to enroll in the in-person or Zoom option.

Another choice is independent study, which gives students the flexibility of working at their own pace. The GED program provides school supplies to get a student started.

Another option is the Community College Pathway, in which students enroll in TOCC for 25 college credits to earn their high school credits. The Pre-college GED program provides free books to interested community members.

For more information, contact the



Participants and facilitators pose at the end of a Global Positioning System (GPS) workshop in November 2021. TOCC's GEO:SMART project offered the professional development to the Tohono O'odham Nation's Office of Emergency Management. Firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and others experimented with using GPS receivers to locate emergencies in rugged terrain. This training session and others like it are held at TOCC's Wisag Kos Mascamakud (Hawk's Nest Campus). Photo by M. Lee.

Pre-College GED program office at 520-479-2292 to speak to Pauline Nasewytewa, BCT Advisor, or Anselmo Ramon, Chair of Academic Programs in Workforce & Community Development.

- **Agricultural Extension:** The Extension Agent and staff continue to work on the extension fields to grow traditional and modern crops. Additionally, when requested, they can help with home/community/school gardens and answer farming-related questions. Contact Farm Manager/Extension Agent Clifford Pablo, cfpablo@tocc.edu, or Farm Manager Assistant Joyce Miguel, jomiguel@tocc.edu.

- The GEO:SMART Project holds workshops on navigation, drone mapping, and other topics for workplace groups and collaborates with the districts on mapping. Dr. Jason Post teaches college courses on the Global Positioning System and on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) online (and face to face when conditions permit). The GEO:SMART Project is introducing a ten-course career certificate program in GIS. For more information, contact GEO:SMART Project Director Jackson Doe, jdcoe@tocc.edu or 480-453-4075.

- **Apprenticeships** in the construction trades are currently not being offered to new applicants. The program is being restructured and plans are to recruit apprentice candidates in spring 2022. For more information, contact Justine Romero, Office Coordinator, at jromero@tocc.edu or 520-993-6457.

- **The Cultural Liaison** for the College, Ms. Juana Jose, is based at this campus. She chairs the Himdag Committee, which serves both the college and the broader community. Jose may be reached at jjose@tocc.edu.

Anselmo Ramon, Chair of Academic Programs in Workforce & Community Development, said, "Throughout the years, the Wisag Kos campus has gone through many program changes and name changes, but the focus remains the same: to provide the community a place to learn a trade, to study for the GED certification and to participate in the new programs that offer free workshops in GIS and Agriculture." Ramon can be reached at 520-279-2212 or anramon@tocc.edu.

S-cuk Du'ag Mascamakud (Black Mountain Campus), which is on Highway 86, Milepost 125.5 North (formerly called "Main Campus"), is the location where most of the college courses are offered or administered. Here are some of the services currently or soon to be available:

- **Admissions and Registration:** While these procedures can be done online at www.tocc.edu, students are welcome to come to the I-We-mta Ki: building to apply and register in person. Contact information: admissions@tocc.edu or 520-479-2305.

- **Dormitories** will open in spring 2022. The dorms have space for only 24 residents, so students who are interested are encouraged to apply online as soon as possible at www.tocc.edu/student-housing/.

- **Meals:** Starting in late January, free breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be served at the campus from Monday through Friday to all registered TOCC students.

- **Courses for spring semester 2022** include online, virtual via zoom, and face-to-face classes. The college also offers a "face-to-face/video" option in which classes held at one location are live streamed for students attending class at a different location.

- **S-Ki:kig Mascamakud:** (Many Houses Site) is TOCC's Phoenix Center, located in Suite 555 at 4520 North Central Avenue in Phoenix. The site offers face-to-face classes, a virtual learning environment, study space, and a computer lab. The contact person is Administrative Assistant Tashina Machain, B.A., tmachain@tocc.edu, 480-590-3447.

San Carlos Apache College (SCAC) is a TOCC site located in San Carlos, Arizona. SCAC and TOCC students may register for either college's courses. More information about SCAC is at <https://www.apachecollege.org/>.

Komckud 'E-Wa:osidk Mascamakud, the Wedged Turtle Campus formerly located behind the Indian Oasis Elementary Intermediate School in Sells, AZ, has been closed. Personnel from that location moved to other TOCC campuses.

TOCC's main telephone line is 520-479-2300.

BUSD 40 campuses will close during winter break

Sells, AZ- Campuses in Baboquivari Unified School District 40 will be closed for two weeks for winter break beginning Dec. 20.

The schools will be closed through Friday, Dec. 31, and classes will start on Monday, Jan. 3.

For more information call the BUSD40 administration office main

line at 520-719-1200. You may also call the schools: Indian Oasis Elementary Primary School at 520-719-1230; Indian Oasis Elementary Intermediate School at 520-719-1240; Baboquivari Middle School and High School at 520-719-1250; Indian Oasis Middle School and High School at 520-719-1260.