



TOCC Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Introduction

Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC) was chartered by the Tohono O'odham Nation in 1998, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission in 2005, and is one of 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities recognized by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). TOCC is an open admissions institution with an enrollment of over 700 students, 95% of whom are Native American. The majority of students are Tohono O'odham and other O'odham, with representatives from over 50 tribal nations.¹

Vision

Tohono O'odham Community College's vision is to become the Tohono O'odham Nation's center for higher education, and to enhance the Nation's participation in the local, state, national, and global communities.

Mission

As an accredited and land grant institution, TOCC's mission is to enhance our unique Tohono O'odham Himdag by strengthening individuals, families, and communities through holistic, quality higher education services. These services will include research opportunities and programs that address academic, life, and development skills.

T-Şo:şon (Core Values)

T-Wohocudadag – Our Beliefs

T-Wohocudadag provides balance, strengthens, and helps us respect ourselves, other people, and cultures.

Things in our lives (e.g., nature, people, the environment, animals) keep us in balance. Everything is here for a reason, to learn from, to care for, and to respect.

T-Apedag – Our Well-Being

T-Apedag includes what is healthy and good for us (physically, spiritually, emotionally and mentally) and all that is around us.

¹ TOCC's strategic plan was drafted during a Board of Trustees retreat in June 2021. Trustees, administrators, and staff members reviewed retention, persistence, enrollment, and student success measures as well as data provided by administration that captured ideas from staff, faculty, and students who had completed emergency relief surveys during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How we interact with the world and our relationships influences our health. Well-being is how you give, how others give to you, and how to take care of yourself and others – (mentally, spiritually, emotionally and physically). Self-reflection provides understanding of one's place in the world, one's effect on others, and vice versa.

T-Pi:k Elida – Our Deepest Respect

T-Pi:k Elida is a deep sense of respect for the land, the people, and the things upon the land, yourself, and your life.

This includes valuing the people and the culture.

I-We:mta – Working Together

I-We:mta is crucial for the success of the college.

In years past, when someone shot a deer they shared it with the people. This was also true when planting and harvesting the fields where everyone helped one another. Providing food was not just for oneself; it included the concept of sharing, taking care of others, and giving back to the community. Tohono O'odham provided help when help was needed, particularly in times of loss and death.

Tohono O'odham Community College

TOCC's Strategic Initiatives – 2021- 2026

5 Initiatives in Brief

- 1. Strengthen the Himdag:** Prioritize and practice O'odham culture, language, and lifeways.
- 2. Enhance Access, Reach and Community:** Serve the Tohono O'odham Nation and beyond while creating a vibrant local academic community.
- 3. Establish Curricular Pathways:** Build on TOCC's strengths and on community needs to support students' academic and career interests.
- 4. Model Sustainability:** Adapt to, and address the challenges posed by the changing environment.
- 5. Promote Excellence:** Engage students in learning experiences that support and challenge them to change themselves and the world.

Initiatives and corollaries

1. Strengthen the Himdag: Prioritize and practice O'odham culture, language, and lifeways.

- A. Continue work to make the campus and sites recognizably "O'odham."
 - B. Continue to develop the O'odham Language Center to serve the O'odham Nations.
 - C. Engage in Nation Building that supports TOCC's Vision and Mission.
 - D. Develop a stronger emphasis on O'odham language and culture in the everyday life of the College community.
 - E. Evaluate and support ongoing efforts to strengthen the Himdag through provision of quality education and research.
 - F. Engage with the community in wild food harvests and in other cultural events when possible.
 - G. Continue regular blessings and cleansings of all campuses and facilities.
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2. Enhance Access, Reach and Community: Serve the Tohono O'odham Nation and beyond while creating a vibrant local academic community.

- A. Establish and nurture a vibrant community of student residents and commuters at S-cuk Du'ag Maşcamakuđ
- B. Enhance facilities at Wişag Koş Maşcamakuđ to better serve solar, green energy, and apprentice program initiatives.
- C. Strengthen online program delivery.
- D. Strengthen cyberinfrastructure to ensure satisfactory speed and dependability for employees, students, and community members.
- E. Establish a TOCC site at Pisinemo
- F. Support and develop S-ki:kig Maşcama Ki:
- G. Provide wellness programs for students and employees
- H. Continue work with San Carlos Apache College site toward their independent status.

3. Establish Curricular Pathways: Build on TOCC's strengths and on community needs to support students' academic and career interests.

- A. Provide two or more 4 Year Degrees and/or 2 + 2 opportunities.
- B. Partner with TONHC (Tohono O'odham Nation Health Care) to assist development of a health care workforce.
- C. Enroll and graduate students in the Arizona "College Credit Pathway" so they can earn a High School Equivalency diploma for 25 distributed college credits.
- D. Partner with local High Schools toward providing sufficient dual enrollment opportunities so that students can graduate from high school with an AA degree from TOCC.
- E. Develop solar and green energy Associate of Arts programs that provide gainful employment.
- F. Continue to partner with Baboquivari Unified School District toward a joint project that results in a viable Tohono Kosin Restaurant that provides the basis for OJL and other needed education so that high school and college students can earn Culinary Arts Certificates and enter the workforce.
- G. Revitalize the apprenticeship program in construction trades to include carpentry, plumbing, and electrical.

4. Model Sustainability: Adapt to and address the challenges posed by the changing environment.

- A. Safely reopen to a face-to-face on campus modality during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

- B. Ensure that the TOCC oidag and gardens survive and produce to capacity in the face of global heating.
- C. Reduce dependency on fossil fuels to cool and heat TOCC facilities.
- D. Develop full potential of the Land Grant Office for Sustainability (LGOS).
- E. Link Tohono Kosin food sources to TOCC's agriculture and wild foods initiatives.

5. Promote Excellence: Engage students in learning experiences that support and challenge them to change themselves and the world.

- A. Make holistic wellness experiences available to all students.
- B. Require a minimum of one course for all degree seeking students that uses a critical and action-oriented pedagogy.
- C. Continuously evaluate academic achievement data and adjust practices as indicated.
- D. Include a nation building framework in education in accord with TOCC's mission statement.
- E. Critically situate faculty and employees within the historical and social context of the Tohono O'odham Nation and indigenous peoples.