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Proposal Title: An Online Learning Prep Course for Indigenous Students

Category: Indigenous Peoples and Technology

Subcategory: Cultural attitudes and technology acceptance

Abstract: Leech Lake Tribal College serves the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in northern Minnesota. LLTC recently entered the field of distance education and has experienced some difficulties getting students to use the learning management system and to access grades and coursework online. In order to improve student adoption of the system and use of online communication tools, an online prep course was created that incorporated the seven Anishinaabe values upon which the college was founded: humility, truth, courage, honesty, respect, love, and wisdom. Each aspect of online learning, from viewing attendance and grades to participating in discussions and being a good cybercitizen, was connected with one of the values. Students watched a series of instructional and informational videos designed to familiarize them with the LMS and completed activities to ground their new knowledge in practice. Use of the LMS increased, and students reported a higher level of comfort with technology skills.

Objectives:

1. To encourage participants who work with Indigenous students to consider the importance of culturally relevant practices in student success

2. To demonstrate the ease with which cultural values can be imbedded in the curriculum for any subject

3. To share ideas for creating an online prep course for Indigenous students

Outline:

1. History of distance education at LLTC
2. Successes and challenges
3. Our Anishinaabe philosophy and values
4. Objectives for use of the LMS
5. Creation of the online prep course
6. Sample of video from the course
7. Handout for attendees
8. Q & A