

IMPACT BRIEF

Partnering for TCU Student Success Through Project Success

The year 2025 marks the 8th year of collaboration between Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and Carnegie Math Pathways, funded by Project Success. Collectively, we have worked to increase TCU student outcomes and completion in gateway math courses and to mathematically empower Native students and communities. This brief highlights how this funded partnership has helped more Tribal College students pass college-level math, supported faculty development, and helped TCU institutions meet key institutional goals.

Investing in Mathematics Teaching and Learning at TCUs

Improving Outcomes for Students in Math

Math pathways are helping more TCU students get to and through gateway college math.

The adoption and local adaptation of Quantway and Statway have helped TCUs cut costly cycles of remediation. These two alternative math pathways, designed by Carnegie Math Pathways to improve student outcomes and build students' confidence with math, have helped more TCU students achieve gateway college math credit needed to advance in their education.

Enhancing Students' Identities as Math Learners

TCU students are benefiting from an instructional approach and curriculum that empowers students in recognizing their innate mathematical abilities.

Through use of a group learning approach, contextualized curricula, and student supports that promote community building and embrace growth, students feel better connected with their instructors and peers and more supported in their learning journey—opening up possibilities for them to feel a greater connection to mathematics and more positive about their ability to learn math.

“We had students languishing in developmental math for several semesters, if not years. With Project Success and CMP, we cut the process in half while doubling the success rate.”

–Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
math faculty

Figure 1. Impact at a Glance

Total TCU students served by Quantway and Statway

4,310

Percentage of TCU students who either graduated or continued on in their studies after completing Quantway or Statway in AY 2024/25

94%

Percentage of TCU students who attained college math credit through completing Quantway or Statway or within the following academic year

73%

*based on data
from spring 2023*

The average course success rate across TCUs using Quantway and Statway

68%

*43% previous baseline
success rate*

Positively Transforming Faculty Practice

Project Success math faculty are facilitating a different kind of learning experience that is centered on engaging students in math learning with each other.

Through participation in Carnegie Math Pathways training and mentorship, instructors have strengthened their capacity to apply evidence-based, collaborative instructional classroom practices that promote deeper learning through student-led inquiry, discussion, and connections made across and around math concepts.

“Being part of this program changed the way I approach the classroom and teaching across all my classes.”

–Bay Mill Community College
math faculty

Supporting Teaching and Learning That Is Relevant and Aligned With TCU Missions

Project Success math faculty are centering Native American perspectives and values in mathematics teaching and learning.

TCU math faculty have led the redesign and development of Quantway and Statway lessons relevant to local Tribal contexts; implemented more comprehensive and flexible assessment strategies—rather than simply testing at key points—to determine mastery; and helped reshape the Carnegie Math Pathways student support practices and routines in ways that reflect the lives, traditions, and issues that matter to their local Tribal college students. And by introducing a group-based learning approach with a focus on community building, their classroom practices are in greater alignment with TCU missions and values, promoting student success and community empowerment.

Strengthening the Quality of Instruction in General Education at TCUs

Project Success math faculty are part of a network that has embraced a spirit of continuous improvement focused on enhancing gateway mathematics instruction for TCU students.

Connecting, sharing, and learning with peer math colleagues across TCU campuses, TCU math faculty have contributed to building a community of practice centered on growing their practice and rethinking mathematics teaching and learning at TCUs. And this learning is not just benefiting the participating schools—TCU faculty are presenting and sharing their knowledge at conferences and inspiring new proposals that will further work at more TCUs.

“Working with faculty from other TCUs, sharing our stories and strategies, has opened my eyes to new possibilities and empowered me to implement change.”

—TCU math faculty



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