

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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Little Priest Tribal College To Receive New College/Public Library

Norfolk, Nebraska, October 18-The Little Priest Tribal College (LPTC) received in late September \$135,000 in USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant funds for the construction of a new college/public library. Additionally, the Lilly Foundation will provide \$635,000 towards the project. The college's existing library does not meet the standards for a community college library in terms of its standard core circulating collections, seating space, staff numbers or services.

The existing LPTC library consists of 2,600 square feet of non ADA compliant space that is several decades old, originally designed to serve as a laundry facility for the Mission School. The work and study spaces for the patrons are confining and the shelves are overcrowded with books. The library's sagging ceiling (propped up with a 2 X 6) and large ceiling hole, accentuate the need for roof repairs. Lack of dependable and energy efficient infrastructure causes the library high heating and cooling bills.

Robert Prochaska, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development states, "When finished, the LPTC will have a new 7,000 square foot, two-and-a-half stories library. The larger facility will allow the library to expand its present standard core of circulating collections from 12,000 to 80,000. The new ADA compliant college and public library will feature space for classrooms, public meetings, a separate children's reading area, comfortable reading and study areas, workspaces for staff, and a hospitality center."

Located on the LPTC campus within the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska reservation of Winnebago, Nebraska, the new library will serve as both a community college library and a public library to over 1,100 patrons. The library will be open to community students and residents to provide materials and services, which will assist them in meeting their personal, educational and professional information needs.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture whose mission is to provide financial assistance to rural communities who are unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere for housing, community facilities, and business development. Assistance provided can be in the form of grants, direct loans, and guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders.

The USDA Rural Development grant funds for the library were provided through the Community Facility Grant Program. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Programs contact Robert Prochaska in the USDA Rural Development Office, 1909 Vicki Lane Suite 103 Norfolk, Neb. 68701 or phone (402) 371-5350. Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/.

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