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## Student of the Year

POPLAR, MONTANA – FORT PECK COMMUNITY COLLEGE, every academic year FPCC recognizes one outstanding student for Student of the Year. This year Justin Gray Hawk Sr. was selected for this award because of his commitment to academics and leadership roles with campus activities. On March 12th Justin will be recognized amongst his fellow TCU peers at the American Indian College Fund awards banquet held at the annual AI-HEC Student Conference in Bismarck, ND. Congratulations Justin!

“My goal is to graduate with a degree as a Language Instructor and to start teaching the language in the schools and community. The Dakota Language is what defines us as a people. I want to bring awareness to the schools that allow the language to be spoken and taught within the schools” - Justin Gray Hawk Sr., FPCC Student of the Year 2017/18



## Washington D.C., Capitol Hill Visit

Jon Tester (D-Mt.) recently joined a bipartisan group of 22 U.S.senators passing a resolution unanimously in the Senate recognizing the week of February 11, 2018, as National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week. A delegation from Fort Peck Community College was sent to Washington D.C. on February 11th to participate in Capitol Hill visits in solidarity of National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week. FPCC, along with 30+ Tribal Collges & Universities (TCU’s), met with congressional representatives with the collective voice of supporting and funding Tribal Colleges. FPCC Student Senate Vice President Thomasine Azure shared her personal experience as a Tribal College student and helped reinforce the impact of TCUs within rural reservation communities.



The FPCC delegation consisted of student Thomasine Azure, FPCC Board of Director members Leslie Gourneau and Anna Eder, and Vice President for Student Services Elijah Hopkins. TCU’s from Montana included Little Bighorn College, Blackfeet Community College, Salish Kootenai College, Chief Dull Knife College, Aaniih Nakoda College, Stone Child College, and FPCC which all met as a group with U.S.Senator Jon Tester (D-Mt.), U.S. Senator Steve Daines (R-Mt.), and U.S. Representative Greg Gianforte (R-Mt.) during the week. Student tesimonials provided a powerful perspective for congressmen to consider as the federal budget is to be voted on in the coming weeks. The Higher Education Act Title III part F is set to expire in 2019 which would significantly impact TCUs funding. TCU’s continue to advocate for parity in federal funding along with recognition of treaty obligations.



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