



Lesson Plan:

Funding Your Education

General Information

Grade Level:	10th, 11th, 12th grade
Focus Area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Career Development & Planning ✓ College Planning ✓ Native American Culture
<p>Overview of the lesson:</p> <p><i>This lesson will provide Native American students with information pertaining to the basics of financial aid and funding sources for paying for college. As a result, students will have insight to begin searching for funding streams and opportunities specifically for Native Americans to pay for college. Additionally, students will be able save opportunities for future consideration and application.</i></p>	

Targets & Outcomes

ASCA Student Standards Targeted:

Mindsets & Behaviors

- B-LS 4. Self-motivation and self-direction for learning
- B-LS 5. Media and technology skills to enhance learning
- B-SS 3. Positive relationships with adults to support success

Social and Emotional Learning Competencies Targeted:

- ✓ Self-Awareness
- ✓ Self-Management
- Social Relationship/Awareness
- ✓ Relationship Skills/Management
- ✓ Responsible Decision-Making

Student Learning Objectives:

Student(s) will:

- Review traditional, cultural uses of the buffalo.
- Identify at least three elements of the buffalo and how the element was utilized by the Great Plains Indians.
- Identify three main sources of funding a college education.
- Locate at least one Tribe/Nation scholarship opportunity.
- Locate at least three additional Native-specific scholarship opportunities for future consideration.

Materials:

- Handout: **Funding Your Education.**
- Buffalo Uses handout under Additional Resources (one copy) or view on the computer screen.
- Access to CollegeBound Journey™ (www.collegeboundjourney.com) which may include subscription/account login information, internet access, and technology tools (Chromebook, laptop, iPad, etc.).



Lesson Delivery:

Pre-Delivery Preparation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● If possible, identify the Tribe or Nation that the student associates with. This will be necessary to find potential scholarships later in this lesson.
Introduction:	<p>The Great Plains (or Plains) Indians depended on the buffalo for life's journey and survival. Every part of this great creature was utilized from the horns to the tail.</p> <p>Funding your education can be compared to the buffalo. While paying for college can be a great creature in itself, it can be broken up into pieces. Each piece can be utilized to fund our educational journey.</p> <p>Today we will spend some time learning about the uses of the great buffalo. Afterwards, we will use the buffalo concept to find ways to fund your college education.</p>
Teach Content:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask the student to do a simple internet search for an image of the American Buffalo. Then ask the student to guess what uses The Great Plains Indians had for the buffalo. Allow the student time to ponder and make guesses. Example: the fur could be used for clothing or blankets.2. Tell the student that you have a video to share about the uses of the video. Show one of the two video from the Additional Resources section. As they watch the video, have the student track how many uses they guessed correctly.3. Provide the student with the Traditional Uses of the Buffalo handout from the Additional Resources section. Have an informal discussion of the multiple uses of the buffalo...what surprised you? how do you think they...? why do you think...? how do you think that worked?4. Allow the student to add more information, like from family stories or generational knowledge, that they would like to share. Allow them time to teach you or share knowledge that they have.5. <i>Transition</i>...Indicate that the buffalo had three main uses: food, protection, and utility (bowls, spoons, fuel). The buffalo was essential for survival. We can use the concept of the buffalo as provision when understanding ways to fund a college education.6. Share the handout Funding Your Education with the students.7. Share with the student that funding your education will come from three main sources: Your community, through the FAFSA, and through outside opportunities.

8. Teach on each of these sources:

- a. Community - your community is composed of you, your family and extended family, and your Tribe/Nation.
 - i. You - sometimes students save money from odd jobs or part time jobs to use for college tuition and expenses. Consider obtaining a part time job afterschool and during the summer and use part of your earnings for college-related expenses.
 - ii. Your family - your family may have started a savings account or educational account for your college tuition.
 - iii. Your Tribe/Nation - many Tribes/Nations have educational trusts or scholarships available to support community members with college tuition and expenses.
 1. Ask the student if they know the name of their Tribe or Nation.
 2. Show the student how to access CollegeBound Journey.
 3. After the log in page, direct the student to choose "Scholarship Database"
 4. Choose the "Click Here for Additional Filter Options".
 5. Support the student to find their Tribe/Nation under the "Tribal or Residency Requirement" filter. Click the checkbox next to the Tribe/Nation name and then click "Search Now".
 6. Choose the scholarship or resource associated with the Tribe/Nation and review the information with the student. If a website appears, visit the site with the student to familiarize them with the site and general process of connecting with the scholarship department. If appropriate, have the student save the scholarship/resource into their account by clicking "Add to Saved List."
 - *Optional: Students who may not know their Tribe or Nation can use the first option in the search, "Any American Indian Student" to search for opportunities.*

- b. FAFSA - discuss with the student the main concepts of the FAFSA. Indicate that the FAFSA is usually the largest manner to support students with paying for college.

Here is a script to consider:

“The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or the FAFSA, is a free application for students to complete. The application is submitted to the US Department of Education to review. That department determines if they can support you with funding parts of your college education. The application can be completed anytime after October 1 of your senior year but try and complete it prior to March 1 of your senior year.

Your application will contain your information and your family information pertaining to income and a few other elements. Based on that information, the US Department of Education will work with the colleges of your choice to create a Financial Aid Award letter. That letter will outline if the US Department of Education can provide you government loans (money you borrow but have to pay back); work study (a guaranteed job on campus where your paycheck goes towards your tuition), and/or grants (free money direct from the government that you do not have to pay back). The letter will detail if the college has additional aid to support you based on the FAFSA you submitted. The letter will also indicate how much money you are expected to contribute and how much money your family is expected to contribute.

Once you have an award letter from each of the colleges you are considering, you will have a better idea how much college will cost you directly.”

Note: sometimes colleges provide academic or athletic scholarships that do not have anything to do with income or need. Since these do not impact most students, it is not covered in our handout, but please feel free to mention this to the student, if appropriate.

- c. Outside Scholarships & Opportunities - If your community and the FAFSA can not cover all of your educational expenses, then you may benefit from investigating outside scholarships and other opportunities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Scholarships are free money that does not need to be paid back. ii. Other opportunities- many colleges and states have decided to create unique opportunities for Native American students to afford college. These opportunities are called tuition waivers and in-state tuition rates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tuition waivers - colleges waive or do not charge a student for tuition, or the cost of running a class at college. This does not include other fees like books, dorms, food, etc. 2. In-state tuition rates - Oftentimes students who attend college in a state other than the one they live in are charged an extra tuition rate (more expensive). Colleges that provide Native American student in-state tuition rates will not charge the student that extra rate.
<p>Practice Content:</p>	<p>Let the student know that there are more than 1.7 million scholarships available in the US. Imagine having to research all 1.7 million to find ones that you can even apply for! CollegeBound Journey supports Native American students to find scholarships that are specific to them.</p> <p>Encourage the student to look at the filters in the Scholarship Database section and select ones that apply to them. They can do <u>one filter at a time</u> to find scholarships that may match them based on location, college major, or other identifier (enrolled, descendant, or self identified).</p> <p>As the student identifies potential scholarships to consider in the future, have them click the “Save to List” at the bottom of each individual scholarship page.</p> <p>Provide the student time to review information, ask questions, and request additional support.</p>
<p>Summarize/Close:</p>	<p>Ask student(s) to take a moment and reflect on today’s activity silently. After a few moments, ask the student(s) the following reflection questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is one takeaway you have learned today? 2. How was Native American culture valued (or emphasized, included) today’s activity?

Additional Resources

<i>Uses of the Buffalo Videos</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Native American Cultures: The Buffalo (https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/native-american-cultures-video)● Uses of the Buffalo - Tatanka (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz-AFcrXGjc)
<i>Uses of the Buffalo Handout</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Traditional Uses of the Buffalo (http://www.nationalmammal.org/pdf/traditional-uses-of-the-buffalo.pdf)
<i>FAFSA Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FAFSA website (fafsa.gov). Please let the student know that the FAFSA is free to complete on paper or online. If they are ever asked to pay for it, they have accessed a fraudulent website and should not proceed.● College Horizons FAFSA Resources (https://collegehorizons.org/programs/fafsa-resources/)
<i>Other Considerations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Some Indian Education Programs or cultural centers have Buffalo Trunks or buffalo artifacts to loan to educators for lesson use. Consider identifying resources and borrowing items for students to examine while presenting this lesson.● Tanka is a Native owned company that produces bars and bites made from buffalo meat. Their website is https://tankabar.com and contains a store locator to purchase products. Consider (with attention to any student health issues) having a sample of the product for the student to try. This can be effective to increase the learning opportunity.

Notes for future delivery or research: