

Enhancing Tribal College Curriculum and Student Experiences through Research

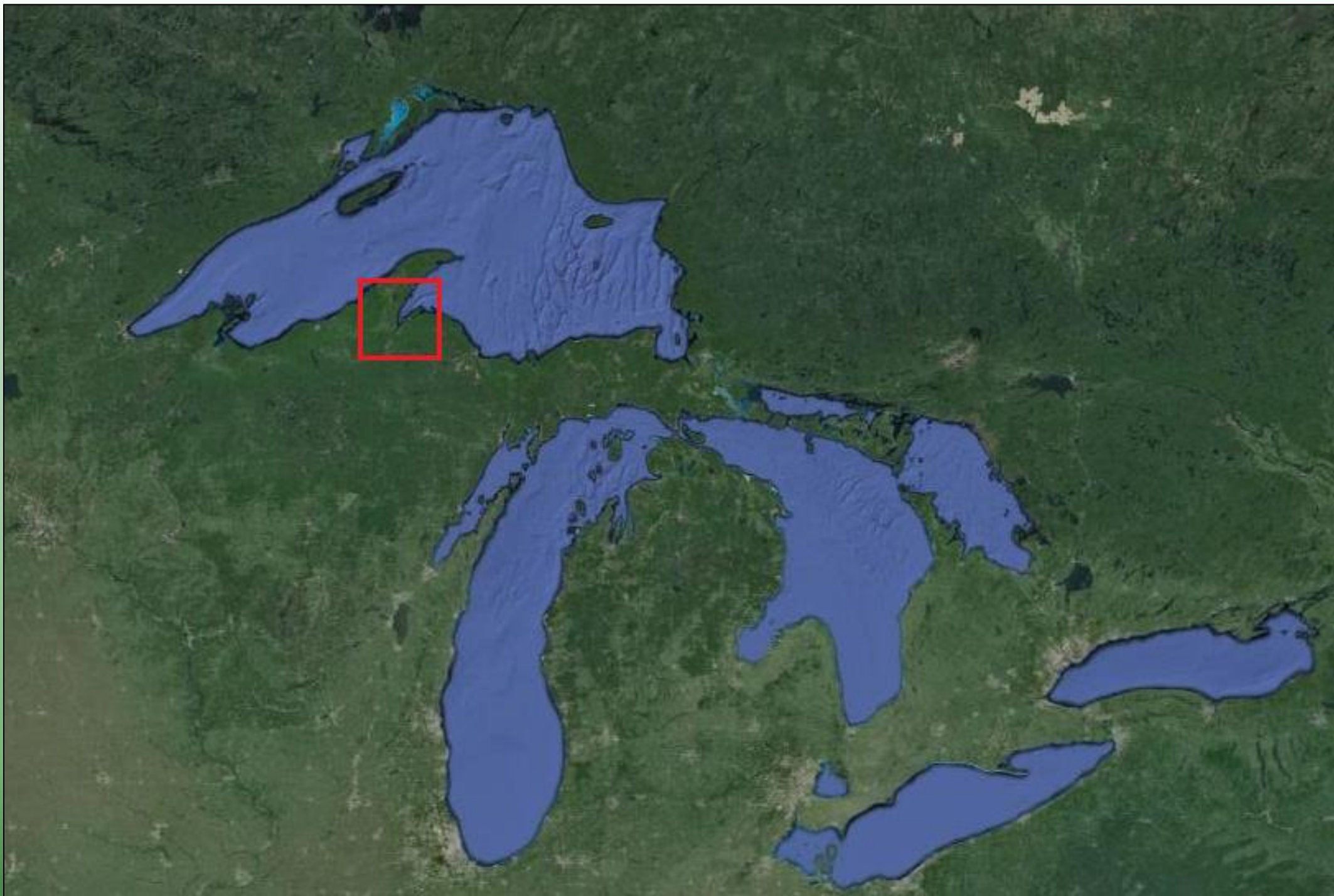


Andrew T. Kozich, Ph.D.

Environmental Science Department

Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College

andrew.kozich@kbocc.edu





KEWEENAW BAY
OJIBWA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Goal of this story: Lessons learned

- What is research, and how to get started
- Positive impacts of research



What is research?

- “Research is creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge” (Wikipedia)
- “Research is ceremony” (Shawn Wilson)
- “Research can be anything, and you’re probably already doing it” (Andrew)

Why do research?

- Provide rich experiences/support for students
- Enhance curriculum
- Increase institutional capacity
- Guidance for community leaders
- Well-being of residents
- Be a good scientist/scholar

How to get started?

- All the best words start with “R”
- Acknowledge the TCU faculty reality
- Know your policies & resources
 - Workload scenarios and abilities: Be humble and know your limits
 - Approvals, timelines, etc.
 - Grant funding sources
- Money makes things possible
- Start small

Faculty Involvement in Research

Sponsored Projects

Faculty members are encouraged to seek external funding to support research. Grant applications submitted on behalf of the college must have prior approval by the Dean of Instruction in consultation with the President or the president's designee. A faculty member's involvement in work on sponsored projects may be initiated by the faculty member or by the college.

Full time and permanent part time faculty members may serve as project directors or principal investigators (PI) of a grant-funded project. Exceptions to allow adjunct faculty members to serve as project director or PI may be granted by the Dean of Instruction.

Contracts on behalf of the college must be signed or countersigned by an appropriate administrative official; individual faculty signatures are not sufficient.

Funded projects at KBOCC shall comply with the applicable regulations, particularly those for the protection of human subjects from risk and for the humane care and use of living beings. This includes seeking Institutional Review Board approval when appropriate, or other safeguards when applicable, for example, an environmental impact or response burden assessment. Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College upholds the principles of academic freedom in research as well as in the classroom. The primary obligation of the faculty to their disciplines is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To support the faculty pursuit of truth, the College promotes conditions of free inquiry and dynamic exchange of ideas. Sponsorship of research may not inhibit these freedoms. Specifically: 1) no project sponsorship can be accepted if a condition of sponsorship is that the College may not reveal the existence of the grant or contact (donors may remain anonymous if they so desire) and 2) the results of all research at KBOCC must be freely publishable. The publication requirement refers to post-analysis research results only. Research data and individual responses will be maintained as specified in the participant's informed consent and described in the research proposal. In special circumstances, the President or President's designee may approve negotiated agreements to withhold publication for a specified period of time, generally not to exceed 180 days from completion of the study.

Faculty Time for Funded Projects

During semesters, faculty time for funded projects may be either reassigned time or overload.

- o Reassigned time for work on sponsored projects means that a faculty member's regular responsibilities are reduced to allow the work to be done within the faculty member's existing time commitment. When teaching duties are reduced, a teaching contact hour is counted as equivalent to three (clock) hours of project work.
- o Faculty may also add the obligations of a sponsored project to their normal college workload as an overload. When project work is done as an overload, any compensation would be paid by the research sponsor, either directly or through the College.

For faculty involved in research, the total time commitment during Fall and Spring semesters (overload when more than 100 percent) shall be limited to 125 percent of full time. Exceptions for short-term projects may be requested on a case-by-case basis. Faculty members conducting research as an overload are responsible for ensuring that their regularly assigned duties are carried out satisfactorily.

Pay Schedule for Research Duties

Typically, compensation for assigned time is the same as the faculty member's regular salary rate, unless the assignment involves a significant increase in responsibility level.

For released time, principal investigator compensation will be as stipulated by the grant. Compensation for new research project positions will be specified in the position descriptions, typically included in the grant proposal. Non-institutional awards made to individual faculty (e.g. fellowships, individual stipends) will be determined by the granting organization.

Student Research

The College encourages student involvement in research. Students may be involved in research as part of their course work, as an independent research project, as service learning, or as paid research assistants. The status and conditions of student involvement in research shall be clearly specified in writing at the beginning of their involvement. Student involvement in research may not interfere with students' regular course work. If appropriate, absences from classes to assist in research or report on research results must be approved in advance by the course instructors.

Procedures for Funding and Research

Procedure Steps for External Funding:

1. Faculty members may be assigned to prepare a proposal or may initiate a proposal.
2. If a proposal is initiated by a faculty member, approval in principle from an appropriate administrative official (the Dean of Instruction in consultation with the President) should be sought before devoting time to proposal development. When approval in principle is given, the official will specify the form and timing of additional or final approval requirements.
3. If the initiating faculty member is an adjunct or part time instructor and intends to serve as Principal Investigator or Project Director, permission to do so must be obtained from the Dean of Instruction. For projects unrelated to the college, adjuncts serving as PIs or PDs must inform the Dean of Instruction of their commitments to avoid any potential conflicts of interest.
4. When the assignment is made or approval in principle is granted, the administrative official will ensure that the college's registrations for grant submission systems are up to date to allow on-time submission of the finished proposal.
5. Completed proposals must be submitted to an appropriate administrative official in time to allow for review for signature as administrative representative or financial officer, as specified in the funding application instructions. Proposals may be presented for review in semi-final draft form. At least five business days should be allowed for review, unless prior arrangements have been made with the signing official (see step 2, above).
6. If the proposal is funded, the faculty member or members involved in the project will meet with the Dean of Instruction to define the workload and compensation conditions for the project.
7. Upon receiving notification of funding, the Principal Investigator or Project Director will meet with the college President or the President's designee, the Dean of Instruction, and the Director of Sponsored Programs to ensure that designated procedures are followed.

Research topics & relevance

- The “R words”, again
- Start with what you know
- Student interests
- Community concerns
- Cultural integration
- Your expertise matters, but it’s not all about you







Positive impacts

- Student engagement
 - Skills, experience, preparation
 - Conferences & networking
- Curriculum enhancement
 - Links to capstone research
 - Enriched courses & learning experiences
- Putting your TCU on the map
- Community benefits



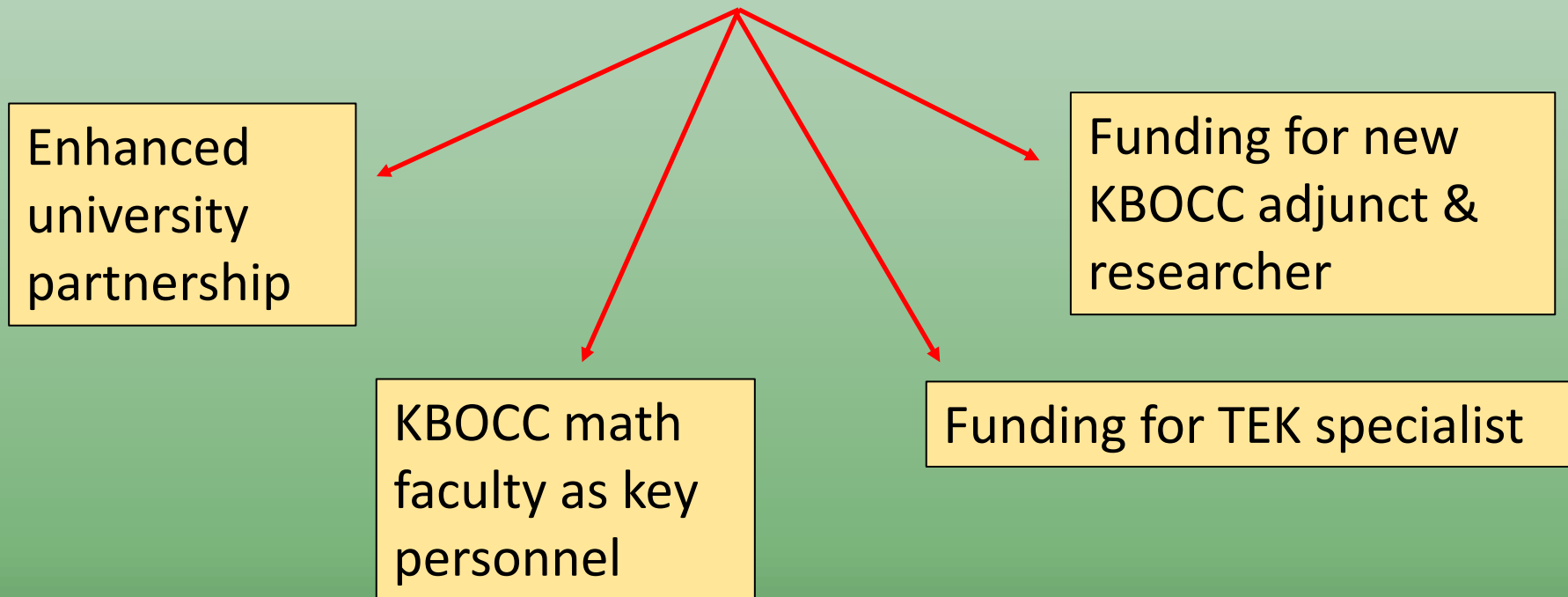


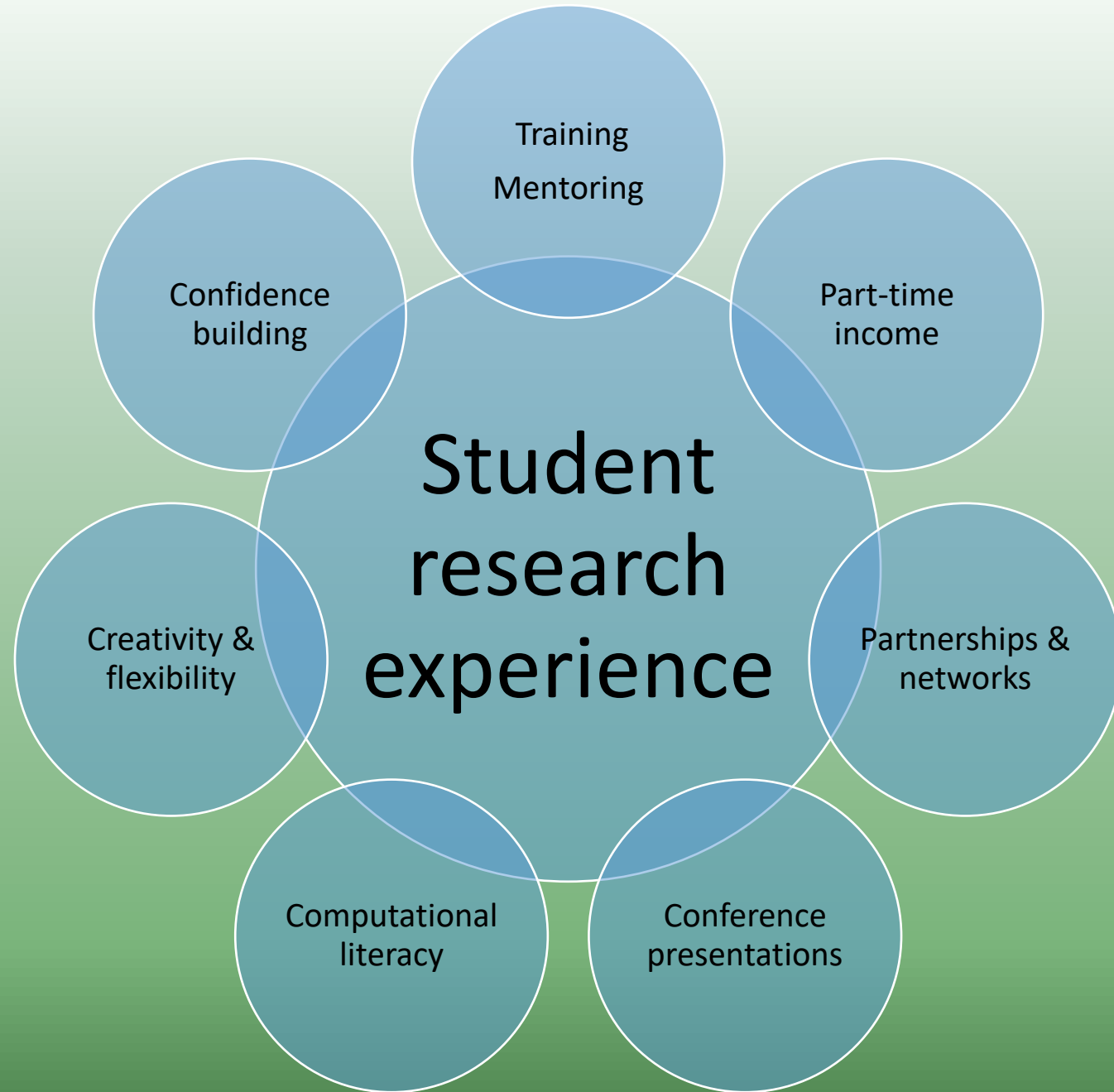




2023 new USDA grant:

Enhancing research in aquatic ecosystems that provide traditional foods and medicines for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (\$650,000)





Final thoughts:

- This is what works for me, but can it be replicated?
- Could institutional policy changes have an impact?
- Is it manageable and sustainable?

Acknowledgements

- My research occurs on the ancestral homeland of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community of the historic Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians.
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Thank you!

Andrew T. Kozich, Ph.D.
Environmental Science Department
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
andrew.kozich@kbocc.edu

