



October 2008 Story
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Haskell Indian Nations University

Haskell Indian Nations University, located in Lawrence, Kansas, began in 1884 as Haskell Institute, intended originally to assimilate Native youth into the American culture. It later became a high school, adding vocational classes, and in 1970 it was accredited as a junior college. Today, Haskell is known as the ‘Harvard’ of Native American education in the United States.

The 900 students on campus who represent over 130 tribes from 40 states present a unique opportunity to evangelize, recruit and train Native Americans for professional church work vocations in the Lutheran Church.

Haskell LIGHT (Lutheran Indians Gathering and Helping Together), the Lutheran Student Ministry at Haskell, is a ministry of the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. (LAMP-USA) and the Council for Lutheran American Indians Ministries (CLAIM). The LIGHT House began as a ministry to students and faculty on campus in 1972 when Wiley and Caryn Scott recognized the need to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through Bible study fellowship. Wiley, a Native American, is a graduate of Haskell.

Patricia Main, a Cree Indian, now serves as Director of the Haskell LIGHT House Ministry. Patricia’s husband Will, a Sioux, serves the Haskell ministry part-time while enrolled in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) to become an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Will’s desire is to serve “First Nations” people. Less than 3% of the approximately 3 million Native American people know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

The \$95,000 grant will enable the Haskell LIGHT Directors, Will and Patricia Main, to expand the campus ministry to include intentional programs for Bible study and Christian counseling and encouragement and to identify, recruit and equip Native American youth to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their home communities through leadership training.