

Policy 5.33 Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies

Part 1. Policy Statement.

It is the purpose of this policy to clarify the college's position with respect to smudging and pipe ceremonies by American Indians on college premises.

Part 2. Policy.

Dakota County Technical College is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and creating an open and respectful campus climate for all. The college recognizes tobacco, sage, sweet grass and cedar as traditional American Indian medicines and essential elements of purification and sacred ceremony. This policy is meant to provide direction to the college community in engaging in these traditions while respecting everyone on campus.

Upon appropriate notification to the Director of Operations (or designee), students, faculty, staff, elders and cultural teachers who identify as American Indian are free to use tobacco, sage, sweet grass and cedar to conduct individual or group traditional practices including but not limited to Opening/Closing prayers, Individual or Group Smudging, Feasts, Pipe Ceremonies, Pow Wows, and Drumming/Singing.

Organizers of spiritual or cultural ceremonies held indoors shall be expected to work with the Director of Operations or designee to ensure that active fire alarms or sprinkler systems do not inadvertently activate. The college will delineate expectations and flexibility in usage, locations, and notifications in order to promote an inclusive, open, and respectful campus climate for our diverse community members and guests.

The responsibility for implementing this policy is assigned to the Associate Vice President of Equity & Inclusion in consultation with the Director of Operations.

This policy shall control in the event of any conflict with DCTC Policy 4.30 Tobacco-Free Environment.

Related Documents:

Minnesota's Clean Air Act (Minnesota Statutes 1997, §144.4167 and §144.4165),
American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA),
Dakota County Technical College Policy 4.30.

Responsible Administrator: Associate Vice President of Equity and Inclusion

Date of Implementation and Policy History:

Date of Adoption: 04/01/2020

Last Revision Date: 04/01/2020

Date most recent policy revisions go into effect: 04/01/2020

Date and subject of revisions:

2020: Creation of policy