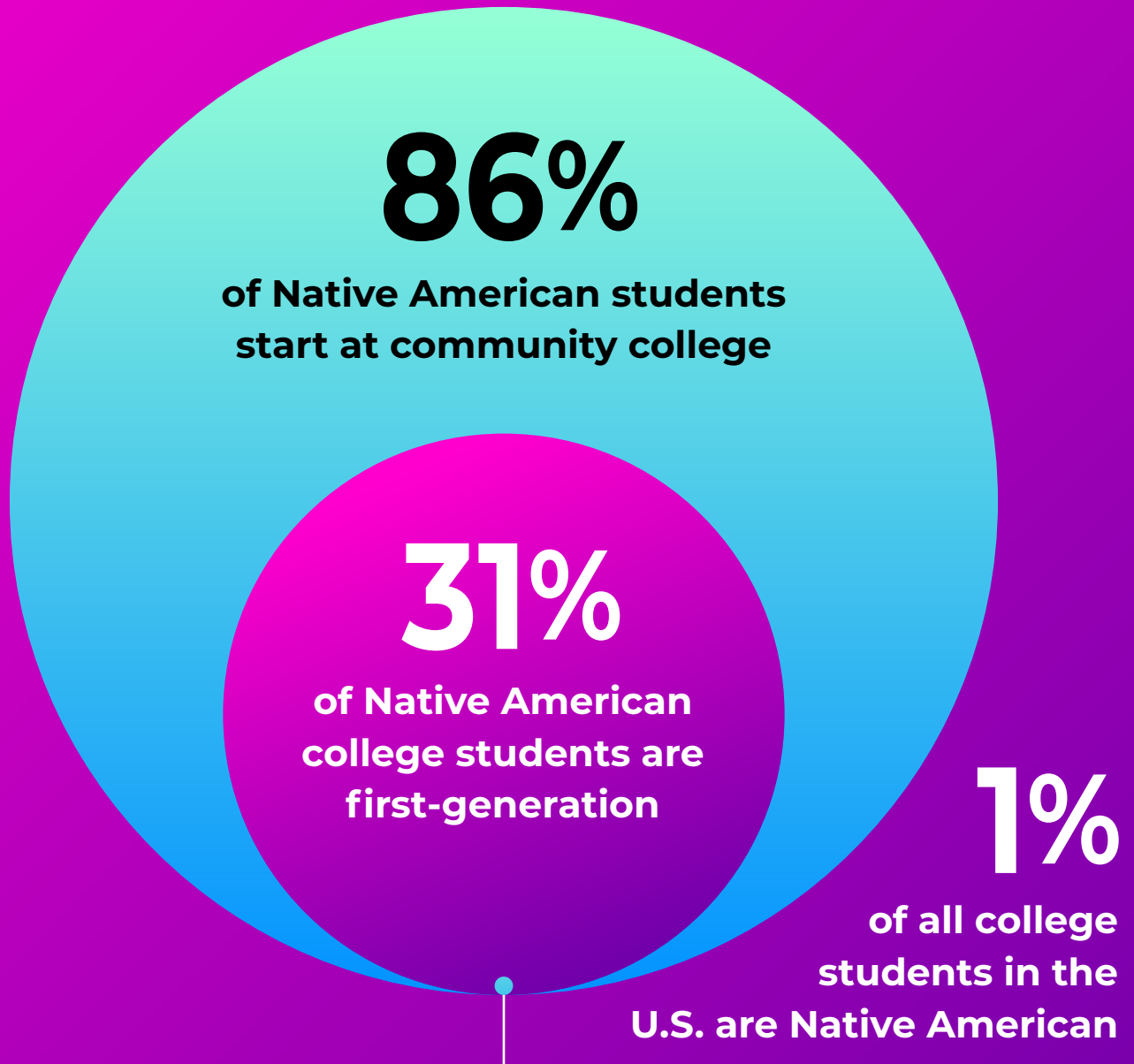


Native American Success Begins at Community College



Guidance and Support are Key

Many Native American students begin their postsecondary education at community college, typically the only **accessible, affordable** education option close to home. Cherokee Nation citizen Kelly Parsley was raised in a **low-income family** without much stability, but she was still able to earn **three degrees** from Tulsa Community College.

Federal TRIO programs provide nearly **\$400 million** in student **support services** for low-income, **first-generation** college students like Kelly. Native Americans complete community college at lower rates, with only 20% graduating within three years compared to the national average of 30%. This underscores the critical role of programs like **TRIO** for **underserved populations**, including Native Americans, Latinos, Blacks, and economically disadvantaged white Americans, all of whom face significant barriers to higher education.

Students from **diverse populations** take advantage of **financial aid**. For example, 72% of Black, 66% of Hispanic, 34% of White, and 87% of Native American students have benefited from **Pell Grants, scholarships, and tax credits**. Kelly Parsley was a recipient of the **Jack Kent Cooke scholarship** and plans to attend medical school after graduating from the University of Tulsa.

Sources:
American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)
Postsecondary National Policy Institute (PNPI)
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)