

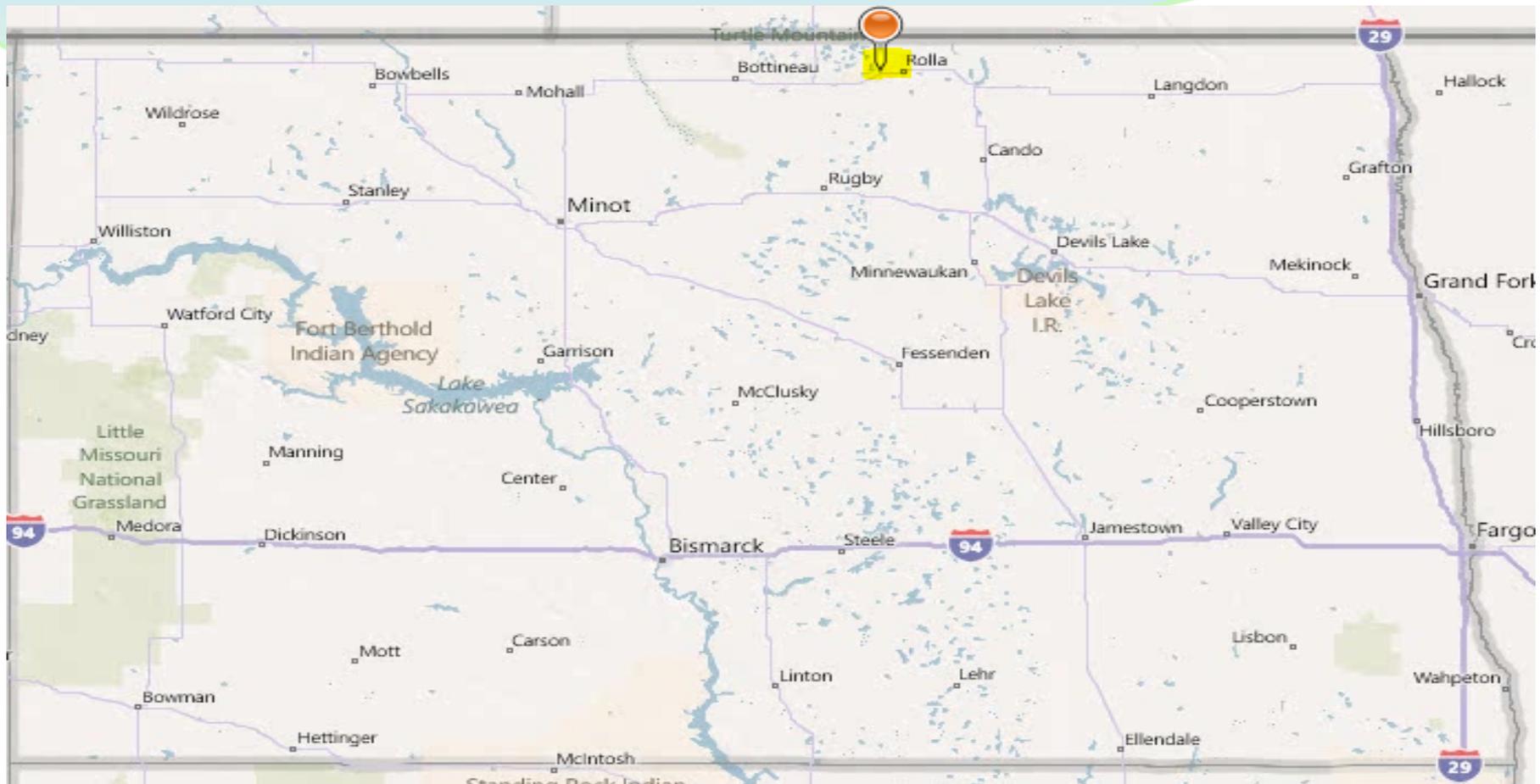
# Zhaabwii Learning Center



In the Ojibwa language, *Zhaabwii* means survival

Turtle Mountain Community College  
Belcourt, ND

# Where is the Turtle Mountain Community College?



The Turtle Mountain Reservation is located in extreme north central North Dakota. The 6 by 12 square mile reservation is the most densely populated reservation in the nation (total population of 10,793 Native Americans or 86+ people per square mile).

# Zhaabwii Learning Center

## *Language Background*

English became the dominant language of the Reservation in only the last two generations. The people were multilingual speaking Ojibwa, Cree, French and Michif. The latter is a language developed to facilitate trade with French trappers and combines elements of the other three languages. Although native language usage has declined, many adults and children continue to use some of the same language patterns when speaking English resulting in a non-standard English.



# Zhaabwii Learning Center

## *Language Background*

### Current Language Status

The largest schools are Turtle Mountain Community Schools (a tribal and public system) with an enrollment of 1625 students and Dunseith Public School with 438 students. These schools identify 503 students as being Limited English Proficient.



# Zhaabwii Learning Center

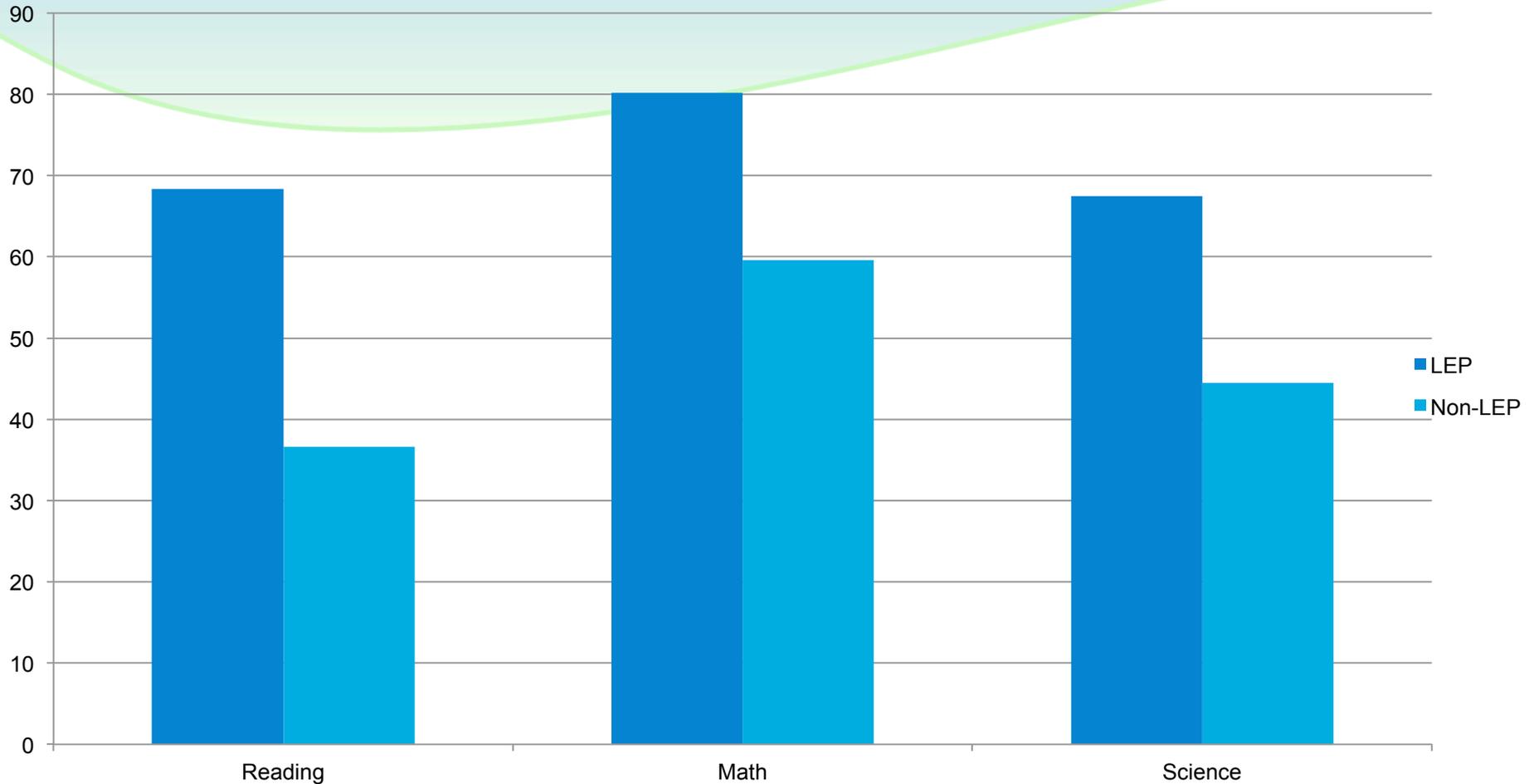
This is particularly important to this project as the acquisition of English language skills is a critical component of being able to successfully pursue postsecondary education. English language skills cut across the academic curriculum

1. Ability to read and understand complex written subject material including textbooks and journal articles

2. Ability to communicate complex thoughts in essay tests, research papers and oral presentations

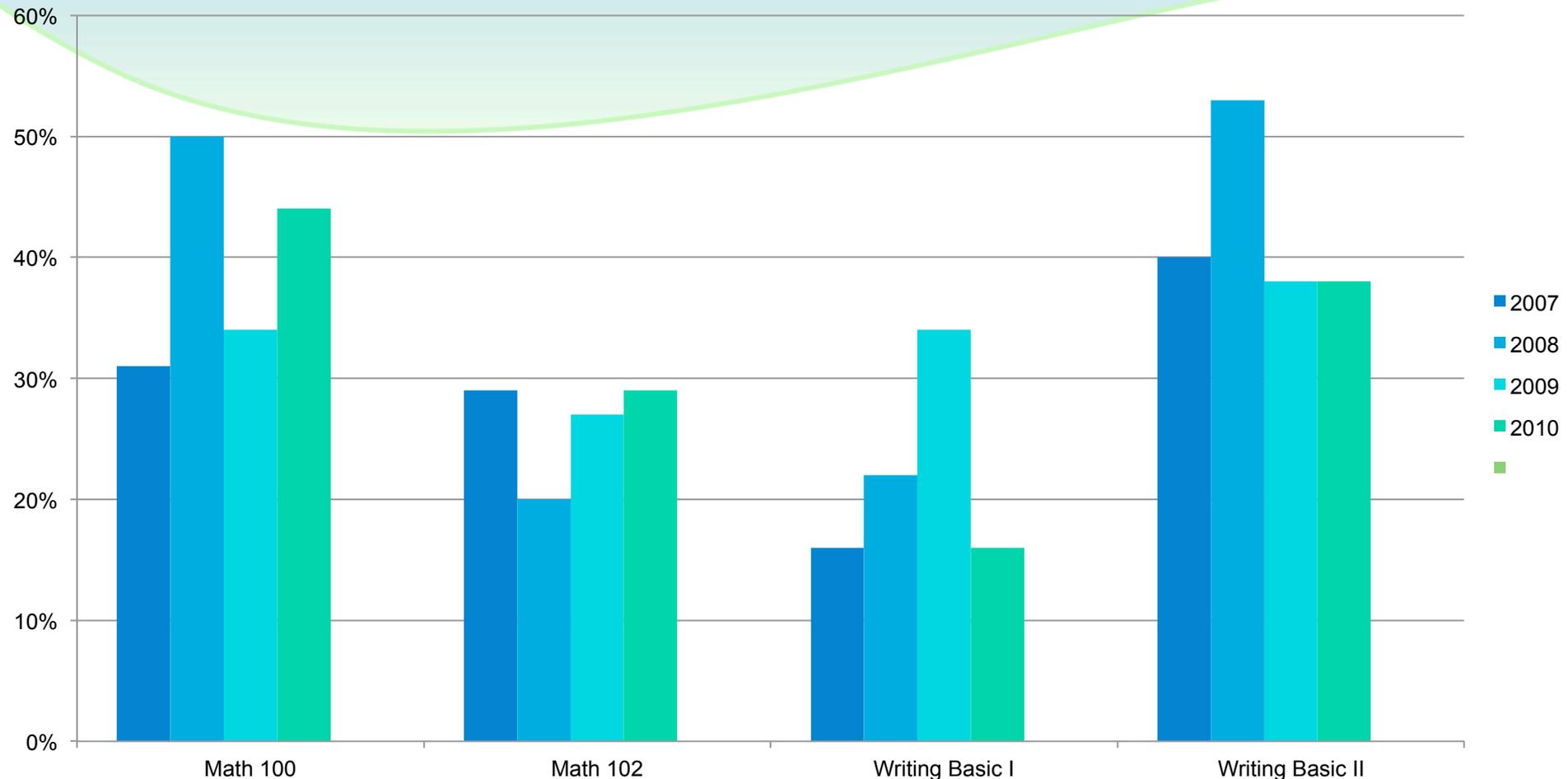


# LEP Performance Chart



Performance of LEP students across core academic subjects lags behind non-LEP students as illustrated by the percent of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students performing below proficiency on State-Wide Assessment tests at the largest school system – Turtle Mountain Community Schools (K-12 enrollment of 1642 students)

# What does the lack of English language competency mean for college study?



Students will likely need remedial assistance and this assistance may be needed in all three core academic subjects (English, math, science). At TMCC, all incoming students take subject specific placement tests to determine readiness for college.

# Zhaabwii Learning Center

A student must have 12 credits to attain full-time student status. If a student needs math and English remedial coursework, he/she will also have to enroll in two other courses to be full-time. This means the student may actually be taking two courses he/she does not have the English language skills to master. Likely as a result, he/she will have a lower GPA the first one or two semesters which could create barriers in getting scholarships.



# ZHAABWII LEARNING CENTER

Year one – the “Implementation Stage”

1



Selection of Staff/  
Faculty

2



Outreach and  
recruitment activities

3



Current Student Stats

4



Learning Center  
Service Delivery

5



Summer Bridge Program



# Zhaabwii Learning Center

## Staff/Faculty

The Zhaabwii Learning center has a total of six employees. Which include the Director, tracking specialist, two instructors, and two tutors.

Director  
Cathie Gladue: MA in Ed. Administration

Tracking Specialist  
Doris Greenwood: AAS in info. Tech. and Bus. Mgmt..

Instructor  
Jason Davis: BS in Secondary Science.

Instructor  
Dan Henry: BS in Secondary Science

Tutors  
Jessica M Poitra, Cassandra Martin

Click boxes for full Bio.



# Zhaabwii Learning Center

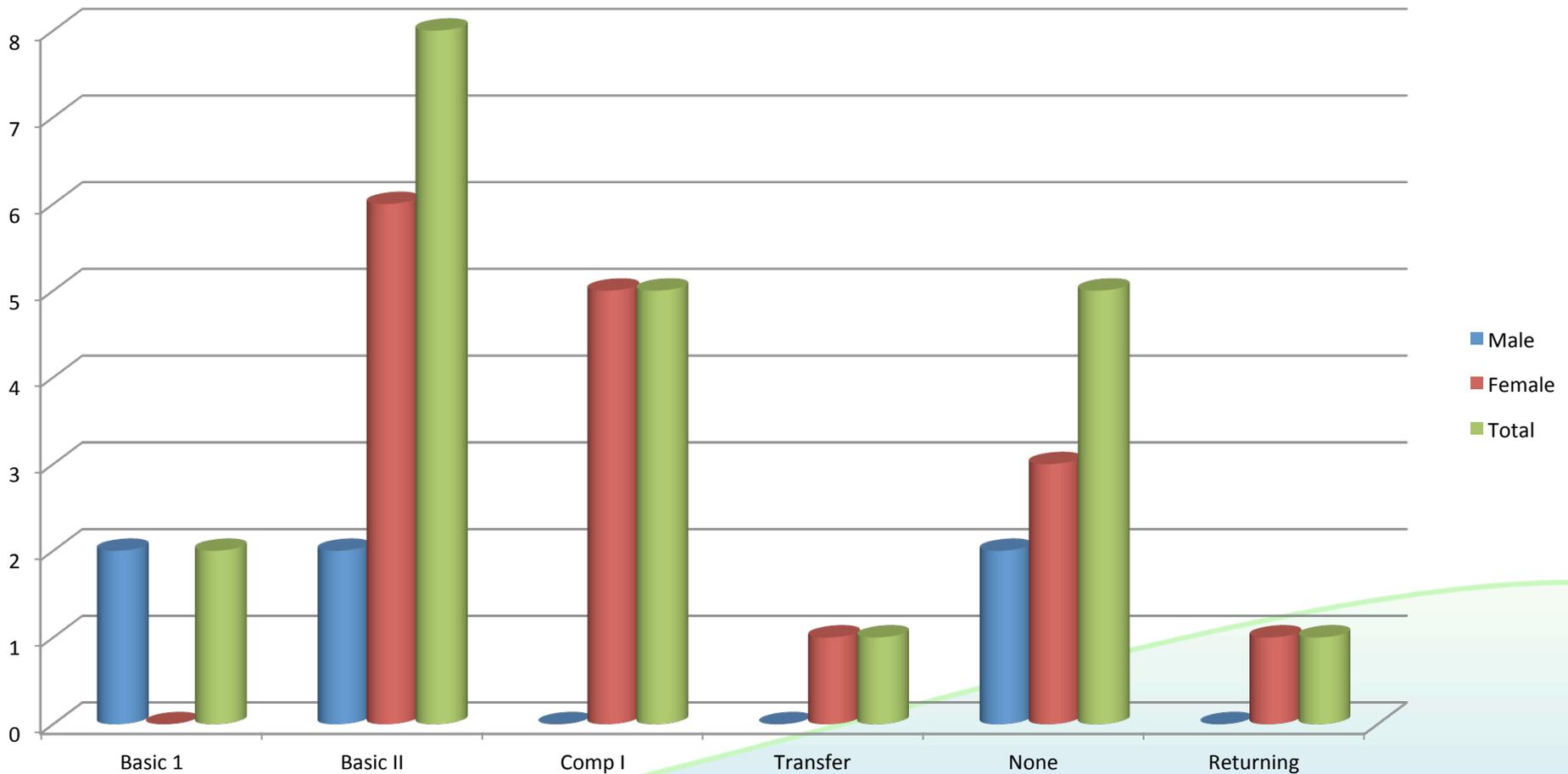
## Outreach and Enrichment Activities

- Brochures
  - [Summer Bridge](#)
  - [Learning Center](#)
- Flyers (Rolette County)
  - [Bridge Program](#)
  - [Learning Center](#)
- Media Advertisement
- HS Recruitment Nights
- Emails
- Classroom Visits
- Phone Calls
- Staff/Faculty Assistance



# Zhaabwii Learning Center

## Student Stats – English Placement

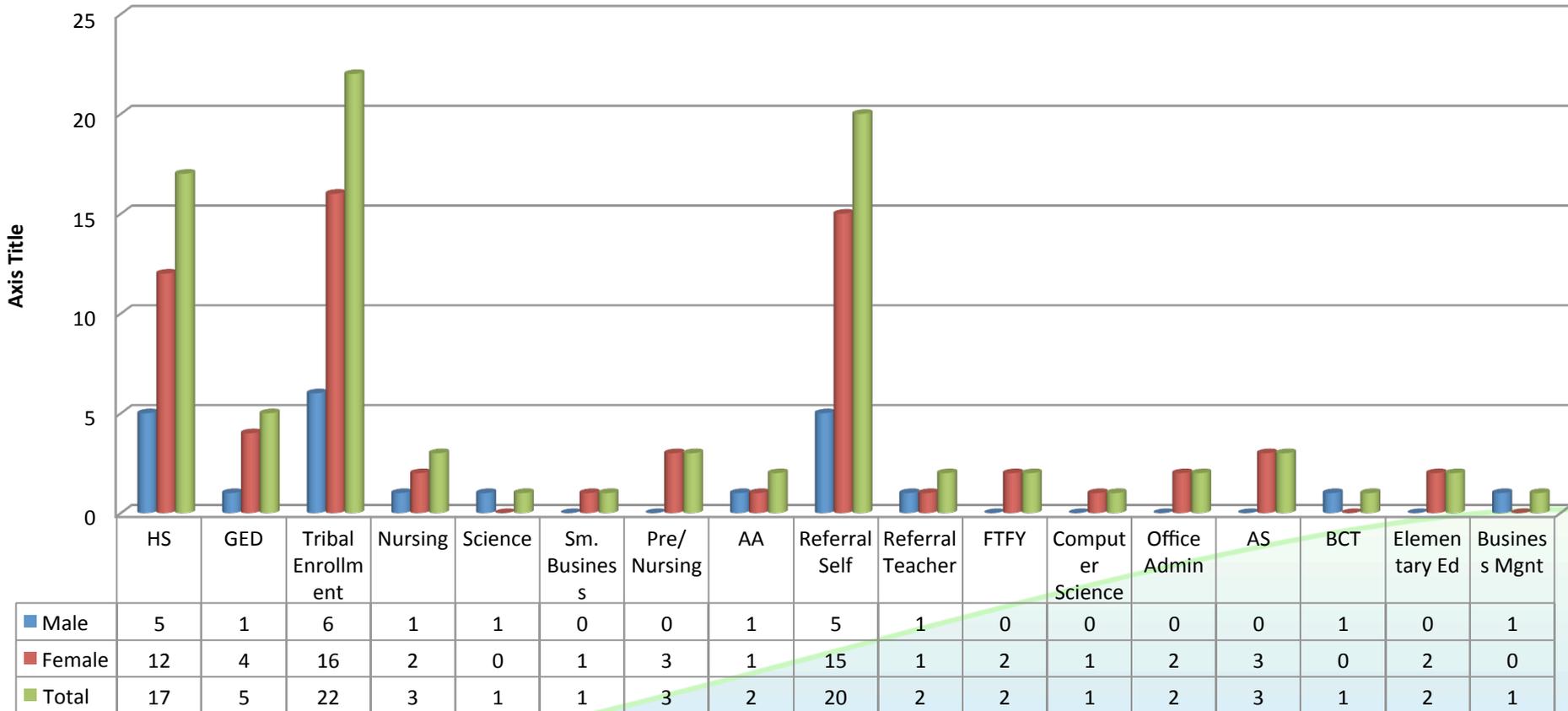


# Zhaabwii Learning Center

## Student Stats



### Zhaabwii Learning Project



# Zhaabwii Learning Center

## Guided Study and Tutoring

We offer help in these areas:

- Homework
- Assignments
- Study skills
- Public Speaking
- Computer Skills



[Click Picture for more Info.](#)



# SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM



Click Picture for more info.

A six week program for 15 graduating high school seniors that require academic support and/or tutoring services in Language Acquisition. The students must be enrolled in TMCC for the upcoming semester and be members or descendants of a federally recognized tribe.

These students will be provided an intense language acquisition curriculum focusing on the Seven Teachings of Anishinabe (Original People). Parents are welcome to attend any activity. At the end of the summer session students will present a power point and play to the community.



# Zhaabwii Learning Center

THE WORD IS OUT

## AS ONE OF OUR STUDENTS STATED:

“I am so happy that this Center is here. I didn’t think I would be able to complete my program without extra help and now that I know I can come to the Center I feel like I will”.





## Zhaabwii Learning Center

Turtle Mountain Community College  
P.O. Box 340  
Belcourt, ND 58316

