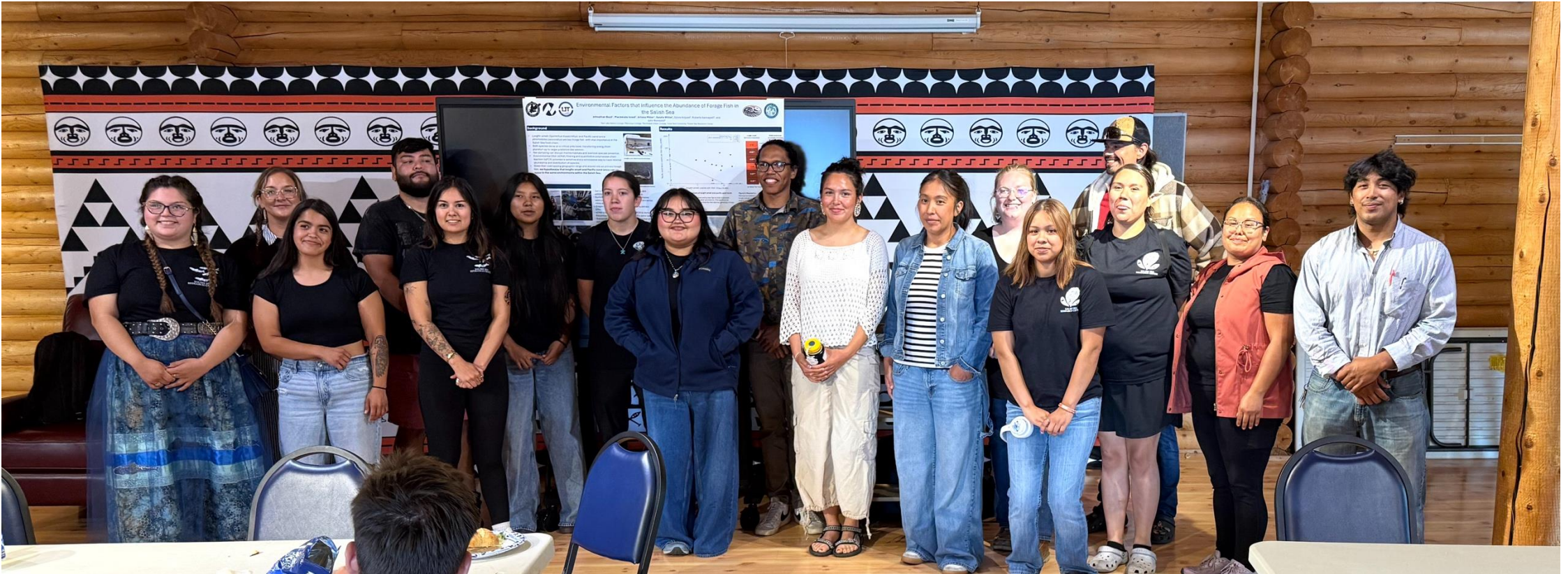


Building Science Partnerships Among Tribal Colleges



Misty Peacock, Salish Sea Research Center, Northwest Indian College

Tribal Colleges and University Program Leaders' Forum

Washington D.C., October 8 – 10, 2026



TEA Center for Community Marine Research

Award #1840199

Award #2332837



Identify	community research projects
Support	tribal nations in food and data sovereignty
Engage	in community knowledge exchanges

Conversation to Collaboration

How do you move from:

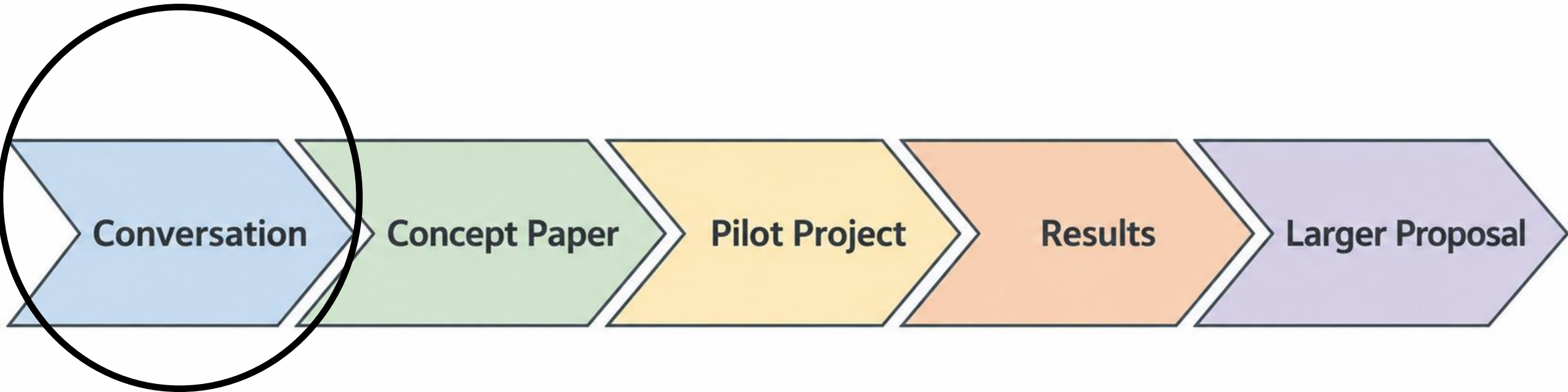
“We should work together” to

“Here is something we can actually do together” ?



A collaboration does not have to begin with a \$1 M proposal

From Conversation to the Proposal

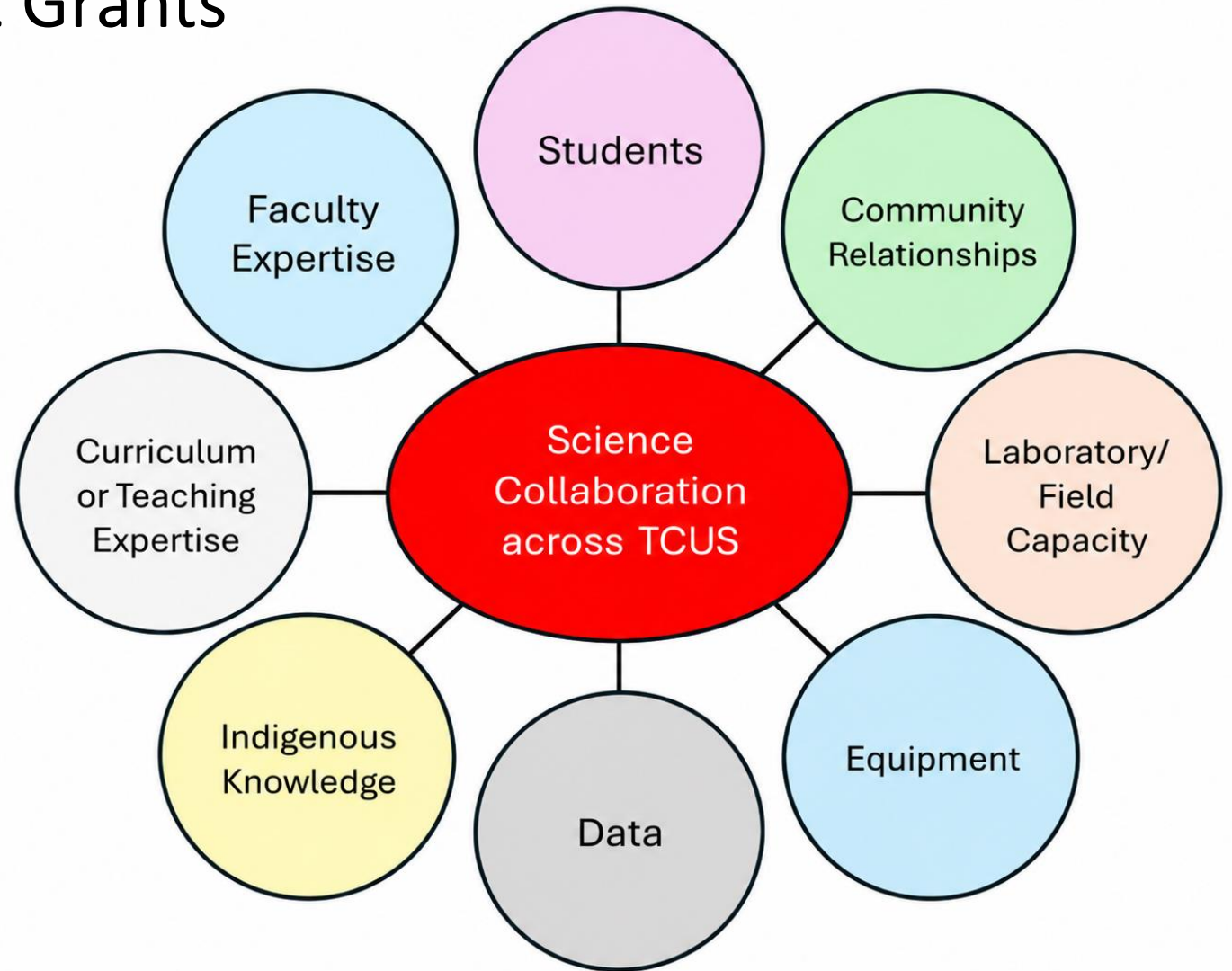


Start With Relationships, Not Grants

Ask: What does your institution or community need?

Ask: What are you already trying to accomplish?

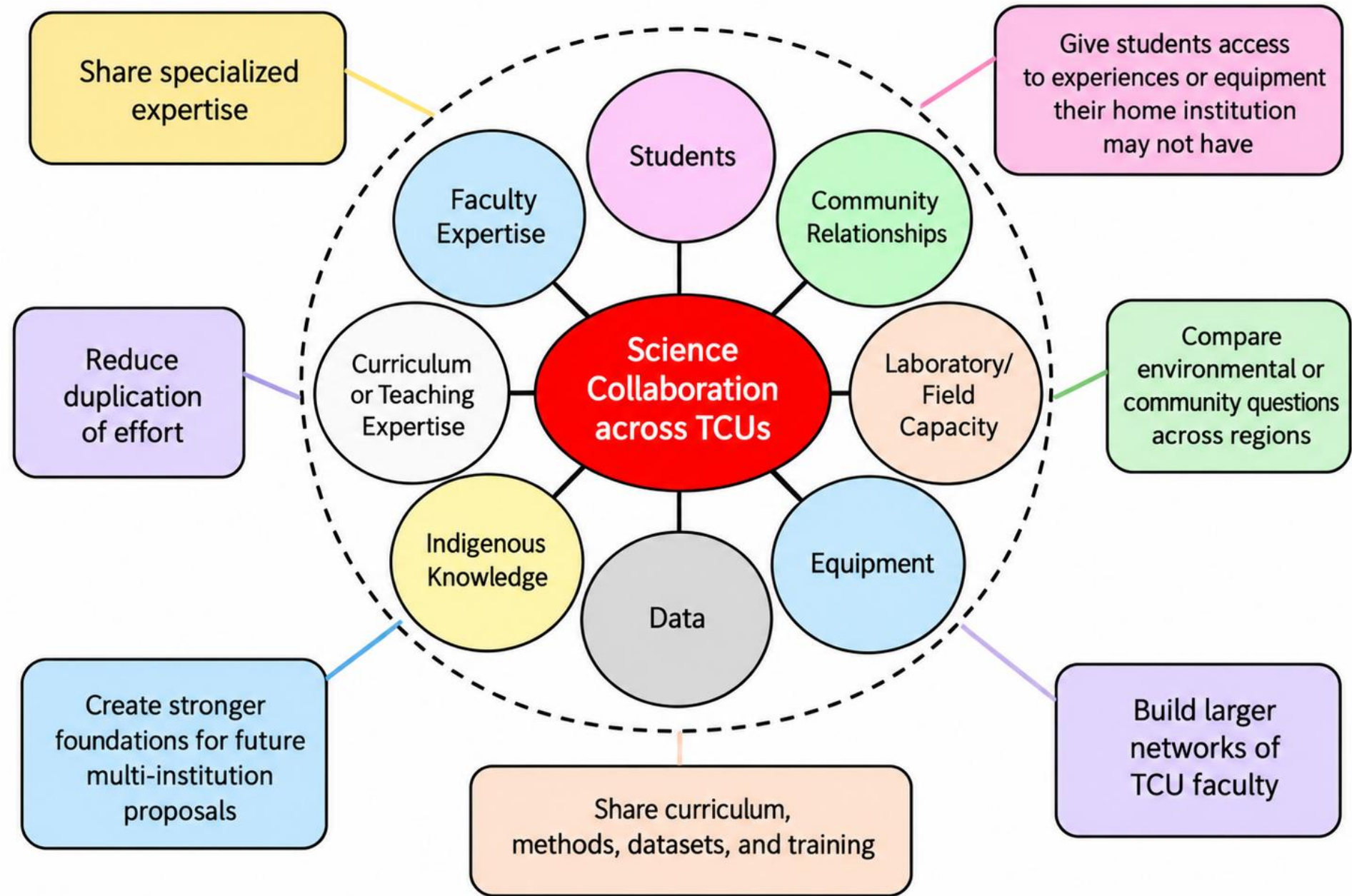
Ask: Why partner across TCUs?



A collaboration needs to provide value to both institutions

Tribal Colleges and Universities

What
collaboration
makes possible



Five Questions Before You Collaborate

What problem or opportunity do we share?

Who benefits if we solve it?

What can each partner contribute?

What could we accomplish in the next 3–12 months?

What would make us want to work together again?

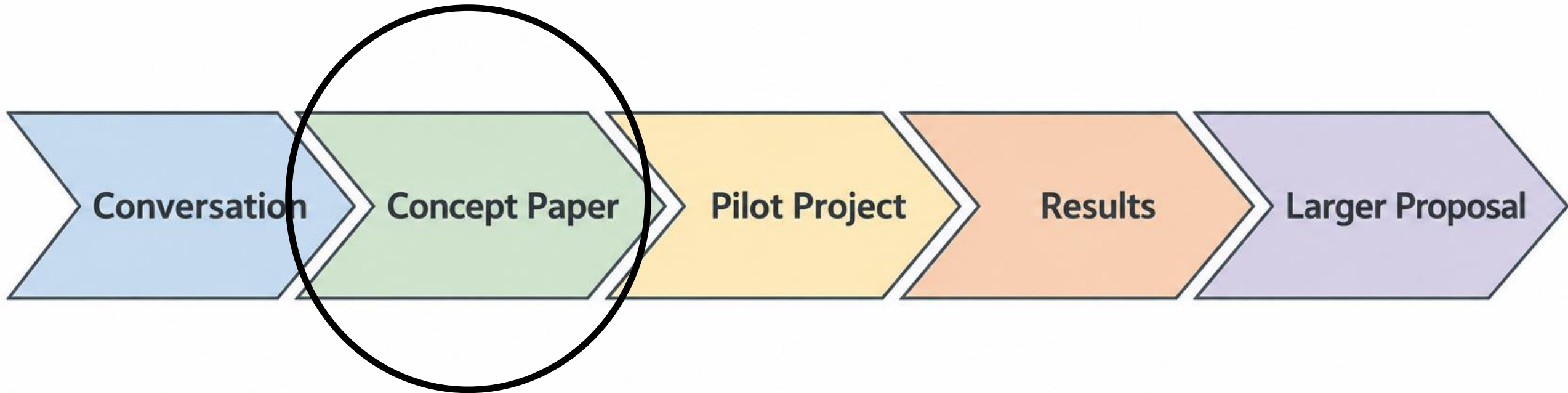
Think Small Before Thinking Big

Create Evidence the partnership works!

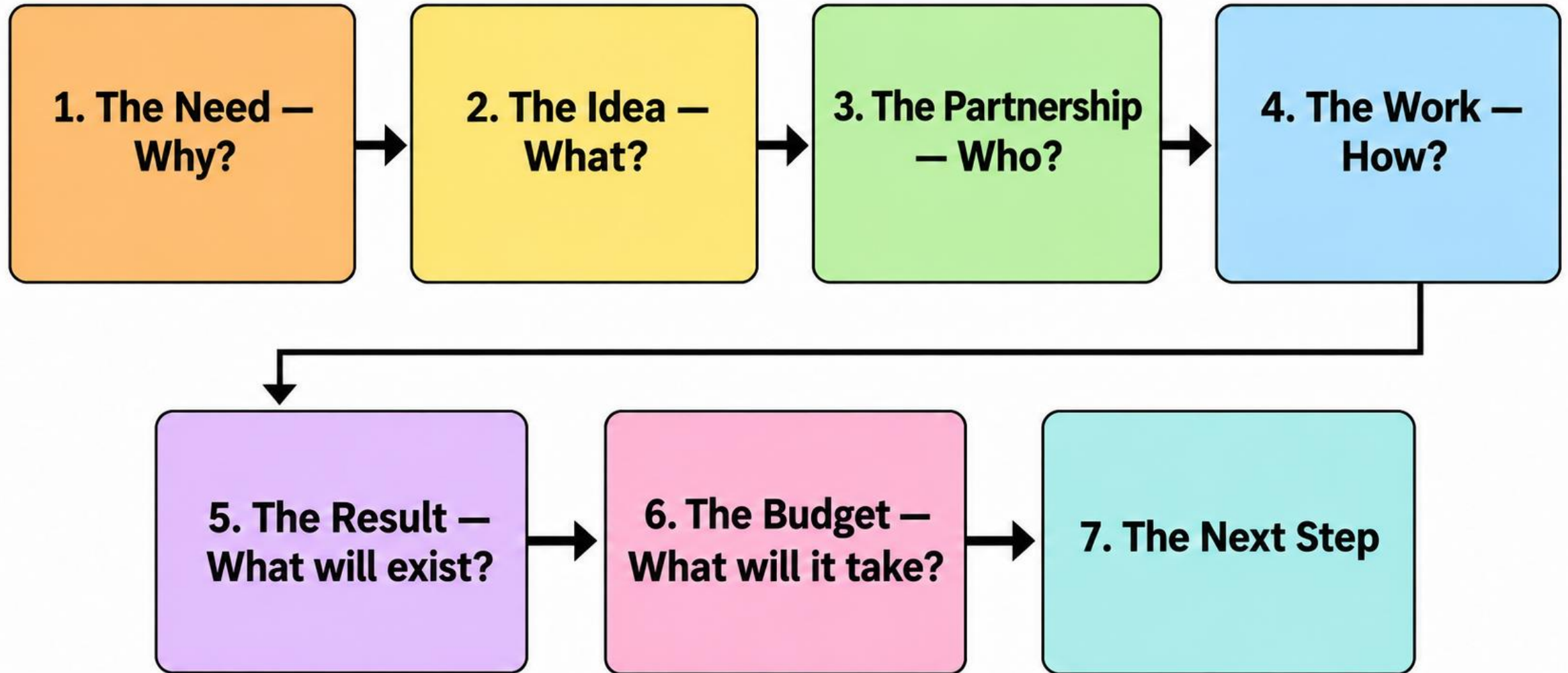


- Faculty travel between institutions
- A two-day planning meeting
- Student research stipends
- Sampling or field work
- A small pilot experiment
- Curriculum development
- A workshop
- Community listening sessions
- Data analysis
- A feasibility study
- Supplies or small equipment
- Developing a larger proposal together

From Talking to Action



The One Page Concept Paper



Make The Work Concrete



Don't Say

Make The Work Concrete

Say
Instead



Build Your Budget

What can \$10,000 do?

Activity	Approximate Cost
Student Stipends	\$2000
Faculty Summer	\$2000
Travel	\$4000
Supplies	\$1000
Community Meeting	\$1000
Total	\$10000

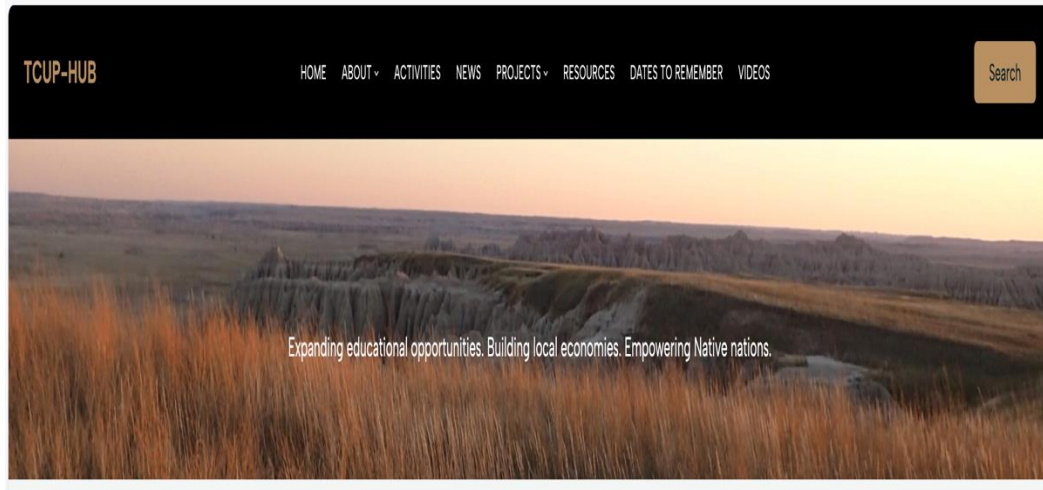


Your Budget is Your Workplan

Budget → Activities → Outcomes

Activity	Approx. Cost	Concept Paper
Student Stipends	\$2000	What are the students doing?
Faculty Summer	\$2000	Who is supported?
Travel	\$4000	Why are we travelling?
Supplies	\$1000	What are they for?
Community Meeting	\$1000	Who is participating?
Total	\$10000	Make every dollar work

TCUP-HUB Requests



Special Interest Groups

The TCUP Hub is now inviting the formation of TCU-led Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Funding is available to instructors affiliated with TCUP eligible institutions who wish to work with peers on specific topics or research projects (for instance, DNA sequencing or creating a cybersecurity course). This funding can be used for meetings, professional growth, planning, or acquiring other necessary resources.

Please contact Hub Director [Scott Morgan](#) if you are interested in developing a Special Interest Group or participating in an established group. The Hub will help publicize proposed groups, and a list of active SIGs will be posted here as they are established.



Need	Shared between institutions
Strength	What the partnership brings
Now	The starter project
Future	How does it grow



Hy'shqe (Thank You)



Questions?



**NORTHWEST
INDIAN COLLEGE**
Xwlemi Elh > Tal > Nexw Squl

Find Your Collaborator

Goal: Meet someone from another Tribal College and identify one small project you might realistically pursue together.

- **1. Make your airplane (1/2 the room)**

- Write your name + Tribal College
- Write one thing you can bring to a collaboration
expertise, equipment, field site, data, curriculum, community relationship, etc.
- Write one thing you are looking for
expertise, access, collaborator, method, student opportunity, shared question, etc.



- **2. Launch & be found by your collaborator**

- Throw your airplane.
- Collaborators pick up someone else's airplane.
- Find the person whose airplane you have.

- **3. Learn about each other**

- What work are you doing now?
- What interests your students or community?
- What could your college contribute?
- What would be easier or more interesting if another TCU joined you?

- **4. Find one possible shared project**

Together, identify:

- The Need — Why?
- The Idea — What?
- The Partnership — Who brings what?
- The Work — What could you actually do?
- The Result — What would exist at the end?
- The Budget — Could the first step be done for <\$10K?
- The Next Step — What happens if it works?

- **5. Pair-to-pair exchange**

- Join one other pair for 4 minutes.
- Pair A gives a 60-second pitch; Pair B gives one question + one suggestion.
- Switch.
- Return to your original partner and revise your idea.

- **6. Leave with one next action**

Before you separate, decide:

- Who will follow up?
- What will they send?
- When will you talk again?