



Website Updates:

Recent images
Check past newsletters

Follow-up of Mid Year Meeting:

What photos and media coverage do you have of working with stakeholders?

In what ways have you expanded your collaboration with NRE partners?

Highlights:

Sustainability – 1

Administrators – 1

Partner Activities – 2

Annual Meeting – 3

NRE Partners:

FBCC
NICC
SBC
SGU
OSI
MDSI
SDSU
UNL

Paula's Travel:

September 9 - NICC
September 21 - SGU

USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

Project and Partnership Sustainability

A Letter to NRE Project Participants from Harold Crawford, Co-Director

Soon, at our annual meeting in October, we will be addressing the topic of *project and partnership sustainability*, what it means and what can be done to attain it. In doing so, we will be responding to the first recommendation of the NRE Advisory Committee - "to promote sustainability." Sustainability is more than just something to remember, it is something of value and of worth. Sustainable activities usually result in bringing about a change in the participants and/or the program. In our NRE grant, it is something that will be of lasting value to the both to Tribal Colleges and their communities and the 1862 partners.

If we each do a mind search, what would come up on the screen for the topic of sustainability? For me it is friendships, cultural awareness, differences in approaches and opinions to problems, and the ongoing struggle with funding, staffing, programs, and facilities for gaining academic strength, particularly at the Tribal Colleges. It takes resources and commitment to gain sustainability.

In the NRE grant, we are fortunate to have adequate financial resources, abundant human resources, and time remaining in our 5 year project. Moreover, we have the capability of networking - sharing human resources to accomplish something sustainable such as lasting relationships between Tribal Colleges and the state universities. Our efforts and commitment need to focus on bringing about long-lasting change that enhances opportunities for students and faculty.

What could be more important than building on the trust we have nurtured than to work toward cementing lasting friendships and relationships among personnel and students at the participating institutions? To me, a program that includes networking or sharing of human resources will enable friendships and relationships to endure. My philosophy is "in giving, we receive" - that is why I am involved in the NRE project. We have all given and received much by working together. I urge the Tribal Colleges not to hold the 1862 universities at arm's length but to step forward and partner for some activities that will enhance sustainability over the next few years. At the same time, I urge those of us at the 1862 schools to reach into their faculty and students and provide support for networking and programs.

These three years of working together on the NRE grant serve as a springboard from which to continue partnership arrangements for improving natural resources education.

Come to the annual meeting, October 6-8 at Niobrara State Park, ready to discuss key elements of sustainability, to set priority activities, and to identify resources and strategies to sustain partnerships and programs.

Administrators Meeting to be Rescheduled

The Administrators meeting, planned for September 8 in Pierre, South Dakota has been postponed due to conflicts in scheduling. At a later date, administrators from the 8 partner institutions will have

the opportunity to respond to project and partner sustainability plans during the remaining period of the NRE project and beyond.

Notice:

Washington, DC trip,
September 20-23
for project report to USDA
and to
participate in inauguration
of the new
National Museum of the
American Indian

NRE REPORTING

Year 3, Quarter 3 reports
are past due.
Submit your reports on-
line please.



Send your news for the
next newsletter to Mary
M. de Baca

18 CURTISS, IOWA
STATE UNIVERSTIY
PHONE: 515-294-8574
FAX: 515 294 5334
E-MAIL:
mmmdb@iastate.edu

NRE on the Web
<http://ifafsnrp.ag.iastate.edu/>

Submit project workbook
and photos for the web
to Jason at
Jason_Decker@hotmail.com

Partner Activities

Sinte Gleska University

David Weisser is working to get fresh vegetables from the greenhouse project and bison meat into the university food service program. The greenhouse project is being expanded to include perennials and woody ornamentals being planted around the greenhouse. David's new SGU assignment is to create a new Tribal Health and Wellness certificate program as part of a USDA equity grant. He proposes to integrate diabetes and nutrition courses with mental health courses.



David Weisser, Paula Teig, and Subodh Singh at the SGU Greenhouse in spring.

Fort Berthold Community College

Ruth Short Bull has 10 students in Environmental Science this semester but no students in the Field Research classes offered. Ruth will continue doing tree surveys, coordinating workshops (bison, Juneberries, trees and maybe basketry) and will also focus on capacity building activities including retention activities, recruitment visits to high schools, and activities at the college and in the community.

Nebraska Indian Community College

This fall, Hank Miller will be teaching Introduction to Natural Resources and Wildlife Management at both the Santee and Macy campuses with 5 students in each, plus General Biology with 12 students at Santee. He and his students plan to document the new campus restoration process pertaining to plantings, prepare a piece of land for a popular tree test plot and research production of native plants. Shelly Avery has taken a position teaching science at the local high school for this year.

Sitting Bull College

Linda Hugelen is teaching two classes this semester - Naked Eye Star Knowledge for 1 credit with 5 students and Introduction to Range Management for 3 credits with 3 students. She continues to advise the Ecology Club which periodically picks up trash along the highway. Dr. Lee Manske, rangeland scientist from the USDA Agriculture Research Station, conducted a grazing systems workshop on August 16.

NRE Annual Meeting at Niobrara State Park, October 6-8



Nebraska Indian Community College will host the 2004 NRE annual meeting at Niobrara State Park, near Niobrara, Nebraska. Theme for this years meeting is "Sustainability: Planning for long term outcomes of the NRE Project." Read about the conference site at http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/guides/parksearch/showpark.asp?Area_No=126.

Annual Meeting Objectives:

- To report on status of the NRE Community Projects and Capacity Building initiatives including results realized and actions needed.
- To define key elements of sustainability, prioritize what we want to continue beyond the term of the NRE Grant, and identify resources and strategies to sustain priority activities/partnerships.
- To experience fellowship and appreciation of Native American culture.

Preparations for the Annual Meeting (Homework!)

The annual meeting committee would like your input prior to the meeting in order to have effective discussion sessions on "Sustainability." By September 27, please e-mail the following to Mary de Baca (mmdb@iastate.edu): In consultation with NRE colleagues, academic departments and administrators, 1) What does "sustainability" with regard to the NRE grant mean to you? 2) What does your institution hope to continue after the NRE grant has ended? This implies a level of commitment on the part of your institution.

Four discussion sessions will be held during the annual meeting regarding sustainability of the NRE project.

Also for the annual meeting, please summarize on a 1-2 page handout and be prepared to present a) the status of NRE community projects and capacity building activities; what results you have realized for each and b) partnership and/or program changes (additions, expansions, completions) that you anticipate for the coming year.

Local and cultural experiences planned include a sweat lodge ceremony, storytelling at an earth lodge, traditional meals, and an optional Riverboat Ride. For a complete agenda, check news and updates at <http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/>.

Register by September 24

Please register for the annual meeting no later than Friday, September 24. Registration form is on-line under news and updates on the website <http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/>.

The NRE organizational meeting in 2001 was held at Sinte Gleska University, subsequent annual meetings were hosted in 2002 by Fort Berthold Community College and in 2003 by Sitting Bull College. According to Quarterly Reports submitted during the 3 year period, opportunities to meet in person such as at annual and mid-year meetings has contributed the most to promoting workable partnerships.