



USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

**Website Updates:**

*Year 5 Calendar*

**Follow-Up of Mid Year Meeting:**

*Goal: Do a press release for early 2006*

**Highlights:**

*Advisory – 1*

*National Museum - 1*

*Partner News – 2*

*Grant Proposals – 2*

*First Friday Call- 2*

**NRE Partners:**

- FBCC
- ISU
- NICC
- NDSU
- SBC
- SGU
- SDSU
- UNL

**Paula's Travel:**

*None Planned*

**Advisory Committee Pleased with NRE Progress**

Amid an ice storm and blizzard in the upper plains, which prevented Advisory Committee member Jim Venette, NDSU, from attending, the other members were updated on NRE activities, made several observations, and planned a written report and recommendations to submit within a few weeks.

Harold Crawford provided an overview of the NRE project similar to his presentation given at the USDA project directors meeting in early November. Paula Teig reported on the DVD "notebooks" being developed to document activities at each of the Tribal Colleges, financial status, and financial procedures for closing the NRE project. Mary de Baca shared information and slides of the CSREES Partners Video Magazine, evaluation by Talking Circles, and the year 5 calendar of activities (new at <http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/>).

Kerry Hartman, by conference call, highlighted the benefits of the NRE project to Fort Berthold Community College. FBCC 1) added one member to the faculty through NRE (Ruth Short Bull and presently Stacey Mortensen) which allowed FBCC to offer more science courses and do community outreach, 2) implemented community projects that involved young people and elders, such as the traditional gardens, tree survey, reestablishing Juneberries, and the prairie dog study, 3) networked with individuals at the partner institutions, both the 1994 and 1862 schools such as working with NDSU on the bison and Juneberry projects, ISU on aquaculture, UNL with trees and nature trails, and SDSU on the



*Advisory Committee members, from left, Dr. Joe McDonald, Dr. Alvin Young, and De. Carty Monette, met in late November in Minneapolis to review NRE progress.*

Sunday Academy and Prairie PhD program and, 4) increased visibility and involvement of FBCC with the community, beginning with the connections made with the needs assessment Talking Circles as the first activity of the NRE project.

The Advisory Committee endorsed the idea of having a closing ceremony or event, pulling everyone together to celebrate the project and to look to future collaborations.

The committee complemented the efforts to keep visual and written materials to a very professional standard. The committee made many inquiries and suggestions regarding potential funding sources for future collaborative work and were supportive of NRE partners submitting Tribal College Research and other grants for funding to continue the benefits of collaborative work.

**National Museum of the American Indian**

The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian December e-newsletter features the story of the Flute and Feather that Went to Space, the First American Art Exhibition, and a calendar of free public programs which you can view [here](#). You can even visit the NMAI on line to do some last minute Christmas shopping at [here](#).

## NRE REPORTING

Year 4, Quarter 4 Reports are on-line. Please submit past due reports. Next quarter reports due February 1.

## Holiday Greetings to All



LISTEN IN HOPE for the silence of peace in the winter  
LISTEN IN WONDER to the harmony of nature  
LISTEN IN JOY to the message of Christmas.



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

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[mmmdb@iastate.edu](mailto: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](mailto:Jason_Decker@hotmail.com)

## Partner Activities

### Sitting Bull College

December 8 and 9 were activity filled days at SBC! The science department instructors met with their Advisory Board and reported on classes and community programs. Several science, nursing, and other instructors moved to the new campus to an all new facility with spacious laboratories, well appointed offices, computer centers, and a circular welcoming area. Linda Hugelen conducted two evaluation Talking Circles for the NRE project. And, Harold Crawford had the opportunity to visit with acting president Laurel Vermillion regarding closing and other activities for the NRE project.



*Linda Hugelen, NRE instructor (above), and other science instructors gave annual reports to their SBC Advisory Board on December 9.*

### Iowa State University

Collaborative efforts are evident in the "Workbooks" being produced for each of the Tribal Colleges to document their activities. As an outgrowth of her internship at NICC, Melissa Nasers worked with Hank Miller to summarize NICC's NRE activities as a part of her Science With Practice course fall semester. Jason Decker transformed the narrative to web text, added photos from Hank and others and fitted them into major Natural Resources categories of fish and wildlife, soil and water, forest and woodlands, rangeland and crops. An interactive DVD will be made from this work, which will illustrate the variety of activities Hank Miller, Quintin Saunsoci, Jim Hallum, Dave Stamp, Shelly Avery and others have conducted through the NRE project. Paula Teig is overseeing this project that will be implemented for each of the other Tribal College partners. The "boxed set" of DVDs will be made available to all partners at the end of the project.

## USDA Integrated Water Quality Proposal Development

Harold Crawford is coordinating efforts to develop and submit a proposal to USDA for the Integrated Water Resource Program. It appears that all the Tribal College partners are interested in participating and have named one person to be responsible for preparing the proposal.

The premise for this proposal will be that 1) reservations are prime areas for the water resource project, 2) we can build upon the record and expertise of the NRE project, 3) each Tribal College will be responsible for a section of the proposal for the integrated teaching, research, and extension plan for conducting one of the primary topics to fit the RFA when announced, and 4) we will continue to build and promote partnerships among the Tribal Colleges and 1862 universities.

Teleconferences, visitation, and proposal meetings will be conducted soon after the RFA is announced – expected in January – in order to provide representation, ideas and concepts for the proposal.

## First Friday Monthly Conference Call

January 13 from 1:30 to 2:30 will be the conference call – the 2<sup>nd</sup> instead of the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday! The discussion will focus on tree planting ceremonies at each of the 8 campuses. Let Mary [mmmdb@iastate.edu](mailto:mmmdb@iastate.edu) know if you will be on the conference call; she will send call-in instructions.

December 2 First Friday Fone Call focused on Tribal College Research Grants and the Integrated Water Resources grant and summary of the advisory committee meeting. Present were Dave Weisser, Kerry Hartman, Tim Nichols, Hank Miller, Stacy Mortensen, Harold Crawford, and Mary de Baca.