



Website Updates:

Coming in Soon: New website design will be unveiled with image gallery and directory search engine.

Posted Submitted Quarterly Reports

Follow-up of Annual Meeting:

Have you sought or offered assistance to work with partner institutions?

What ideas do you have for Tim and the mid-year meeting committee?

How have you served stakeholders in your community?

Highlights:

NICC Builds - 1

NRE Changes -1

Partner Activities - 2

NRE Partners:

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

USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

NEW CONSTRUCTION AT NICC



Hank Miller shows Harold Crawford new NICC building site at Macy

The new building for the Macy campus of Nebraska Indian Community College is taking shape, despite the snow and cold weather. And the shape of the building is that of an eagle. The flying eagle faces east; the main body will contain Central NICC Administration, the library, and the

Culture Center. The eagle wing on the north will house natural resources and health departments and classrooms. The south wing will house sciences and humanities. The eagle tail on the west will house a day care center on the lower floor and lecture hall on the upper floor.

The campus at Macy will house a Natural Resources Program in addition to the natural resources center at the Santee campus. The new Macy campus is located on 40 acres of land on the east side of Highway 75 northeast of Macy. The building is scheduled to be in use for fall semester, 2004 - in which case we may all see this new facility at the time of the NRE annual meeting in October.

NICC conducts classes in Nebraska at Macy, Santee, Omaha, and in Sioux City, Iowa.

Recent Audit Ushers in Changes

The recent internal audit at ISU of the NRE project was similar to audits likely to be conducted at any institution with federal grants. Internal audits examine compliance and business practices and recommend actions as needed. The NRE project was audited at ISU in part because of its complexity - with 8 partners over 4 years and involving nearly \$4 million of USDA funds. In addition to a few accountability issues, two items were raised which impact partner institutions. One finding of the auditors was that several quarterly reports had not been submitted. As quarterly reports are the ongoing means of identifying achievements, a change which will be implemented, starting with the February 1 report, is that reimbursement of expenditures will be tied to having submitted quarterly reports. The other recommendation is that programs be stepped up considerably so that resources

available can be applied in a timelier manner. In summary: 1) submit your quarterly reports in order to be reimbursed and 2) increase program activities to put your funding to use.

Issues pertaining to partners (subcontracts) will be discussed at the mid-year meeting April 15 and 16 at SDSU.

Submit Quarterly Reports

Quarterly reports for October, November, and December activities were due February 1. The ISU auditors identified quarterly reports critical to ascertain project progress. Please complete past due quarterly reports if possible.

[Submit Here](#)

Notice:

Stop by the NRE Project booth at AIHEC in Billings, MT on March 21-23

**Coming in March**

Agenda for the April 15-16 mid-year meeting at SDSU

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

18 CURTISS, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
PHONE:
515-294-8574

FAX:
515-294-5334

E-MAIL:
mmdb@iastate.edu

NRE on the Web

<http://ifafsnrp.ag.iastate.edu/>

Submit project workbook and photos for the web to <[Jason_decker@](mailto:Jason_decker@hotmail.com)

[hotmail.com](mailto:Jason_decker@hotmail.com)>

Partner Activities

Fort Berthold Community College

Congratulations to the NRE faculty and staff at Fort Berthold Community College for receiving approval for their capacity building plan. The FBCC plan follows the umbrella approach developed by Sitting Bull College. Within the FBCC plan there are a number of initiatives that primarily focus on the community, student development, curriculum, outreach, and recruitment and retention. As a result of the holistic approach, Ruth has been able to develop programs which compliment and integrate each area as well as enhance their natural resource education work.

Water Quality Community Project at SBC

Sitting Bull College's NRE Water Quality project combines the efforts of several groups to reach the eight Standing Rock communities. The Standing Rock Water/Environmental Quality Working Group has been conducting a series of "Water Quality Awareness" workshops in the tribal communities within Standing Rock Indian Reservation. The group consists of employees from Tribal EPA, Water Resources, Land Management, GIS, Game and Fish, and Sitting Bull College whose job involves responsibility in the water or environmental quality area. Workshops will be held one day each month in each of the eight communities during February, March and April. Water quality testing is conducted and educational materials are distributed. When the surface water is not frozen, the group will spend time in the field testing surface water quality.

Sinte Gleska University

Lisa Colombe has been hosting school groups at the SGU Ranch, including Headstart students from 13 centers and on another occasion, 23 students and 2 teachers from Todd County Middle School. Lisa also took horses for students at St. Francis Indian Elementary School to ride and to learn about horse care and safety, Lakota culture, language, and respect for the land.



SGU helps St. Francis Indian School students enjoy riding and caring for horses.

Nebraska Indian Community College

Jeff Arnold, UNL, did an assessment in early February of needs to incorporate GIS training at NICC. In addition to assessing equipment, resources, and potential training, NICC is now in the process of obtaining materials and software. They expect to continue in their collaboration through CALMIT at UNL.

Paula's Travel Schedule

March 8 and 9 - to meet with Hank, NICC, and Linda, SBC, in Brookings while they are participating in week long class associated with the Prairie PhD program at SDSU.