

January 2004  
Volume 3  
Number 3

# Natural Resources Education

## **Follow-up of Annual Meeting:**

*Have you made plans to attend the April 15-16 meeting, at SDSU?*

*Have you started implementing your Capacity Building Plan?*

*Have you measured progress for your NRE Community Project?*

## **Highlights:**

### **Conferences 1**

### **NRE Audit 1**

### **Reports Due 1**

### **Partner News**

NICC President 2

Activities 2

April 15, SDSU 2

Internships 2

Menzel –USDA 2

## **NRE Partners:**

*FBCC*

*NICC*

*SBC*

*SGU*

*ISU*

*NDSU*

*SDSU*

*UNL*

*USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005*

## **CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NRE PARTNERS**

Iowa State University (ISU) will co-host the 2004 Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) national conference in Des Moines, Iowa March 25-27. From 800-900 students and professionals are expected to participate in contests, workshops and career fair at this 19<sup>th</sup> annual event. The NRE project will be featured as one of the exhibits at the career fair, highlighting activities of the 8 partners in the USDA grant. Your students and faculty are invited to attend. Preregistration is available at [www.manrrs.org](http://www.manrrs.org). Sign up for the March 25 tour to ISU.

## **ISU INTERNAL AUDIT OF NRE PROJECT**

Harold Crawford and the ISU NRE team are drawing up a plan of action in response to a recent internal audit of the NRE grant. The Office of Internal Audit performed the audit to examine compliance and business practices. The NRE grant is among various funded projects being audited in an effort to mitigate various types of risks to the university.

Auditors interviewed NRE personnel, examined procedures and documents used by the project, and prepared a list of observations. While some observations require action on the part of the NRE staff, others are ISU institutional issues.

NRE grant issues include: 1) Review allowable and remove unallowable charges, 2) Centralize documentation for project expenditures, 3) Identify expenditures (ISU and subcontracts) with who, what, when, and why, 4)

The American Indian Higher Education Consortia (AIHEC) conference is scheduled for March 20-25 in Billings, Montana, hosted by the Tribal Colleges in Montana.

Student contests begin on Sunday, March 21 and run through Tuesday, concurrent with the exhibits and displays. Plans are to register for a NRE project display and apply to present a NRE project seminar. Holiday Inn Grand is the conference hotel in Billings. Information can be obtained from Dana Grant at Salish Kootenai College, [dana\\_grant@skc.edu](mailto:dana_grant@skc.edu).

Obtain quarterly reports from all partners to identify project progress, 5) Bring all partner institutions into compliance, and 6) Convene the advisory board as proposed.

Recommendations made to other ISU units involved subcontract recipients' indirect rates, animal care approvals, Office of Management and Budget audits of subcontracts, and percent of effort reports.

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 are due February 1. The ISU auditors identified quarterly reports critical to ascertain project progress. Please complete past due quarterly reports if possible.

**Notice:**

“Halfway There” mid-project reports were recently mailed or delivered in bulk to each partner school for distribution to NRE personnel. Use additional copies at your discretion. The report was also sent to USDA.

**Coming in February**

Capacity Building Plans in Progress

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:  
[mmdb@iastate.edu](mailto:mmdb@iastate.edu)

NRE on the Web

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

Submit project workbook and photos for the web to <Jason\_decker@hotmail.com>

**Partner News**

**NICC Welcomes New President**

Denine Morris (right) has been named the new president of Nebraska Indian Community College. President Morris has been involved in Indian Education since 1992, working with both Tribal and Federal Education programs as Education Commissioner for the Omaha Nation and in the Omaha Nation public schools. She is a candidate for Masters in Education Administration at the University of Oklahoma.



**Partner Activities**

**SBC** - Linda Hugelen (formerly Sharff) invited ISU community planners Tom Borich and Lynn Paxton to a discussion meeting with Natural Resource professionals and Tribal Council members on developing land use plans on January 9.

**SGU** - Harold Crawford and Paula Teig met with Lisa Colombe and Dave Weisser at SGU on January 23 to discuss Capacity Building Plans and use of the SGU ranch for NRE Community Projects and with Leland Bordeaux and Georgia Hackett regarding the subcontract.

**NICC** – Hank Miller and Shelly Avery participated in the Rural Advantage workshop on sustainable and alternative agriculture, the National Park Service meeting on invasive plant species, and harvest of woody florals – all meetings in Nebraska. NICC Natural Resources enrollment is up from 2 to 6 students. NICC will host a GIS workshop with UNL on February 9.

**FBCC**- made improvements to spring registration and welcomed 40 students to the new Energy Technology Program. Ruth Short Bull and Chris McLaughlin spoke with Mandaree senior class about college plans.



**Mid-Year Meeting at SDSU**

Tim Nichols has reserved 20 rooms for April 15 at the Brookings Inn for the NRE Mid-Year Meeting. Call 605-692-9471 to make your reservations. Tim Nichols, Lisa Columbe, Shelly Avery and Mary de Baca have been asked to be on the planning committee.

**Menzel New Project Leader**

Bruce Menzel, former Fish and Wild Life NRE panel chair and professor at ISU, has been named the Natural Resources and Environment project leader at the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) at USDA. He replaces Larry Abiles as the IFAFS project leader for our Natural Resources Education grant.

**Internship Opportunities**

Jenice Jim, (photo below left), visited students at Sitting Bull College and Fort Berthold Community College regarding the summer research internship at Iowa State University. Jenice, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was a summer intern in 2002 at ISU. After graduating from New Mexico State University, she was accepted into the graduate program in Animal Science at Iowa State. Applications, due February 15, are at <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/>. The program runs from June 10 to July 31. Contact Mary de Baca, [mmdb@iastate.edu](mailto:mmdb@iastate.edu).

North Dakota State University also offers a summer internship program from 6 to 12 weeks in the area of natural resource management or biological science. Students must submit a resume, letter indicating their research interests, letter of support and college transcript by February 20. Contact Dave Lambert for information at [David.Lambert@ndsu.nodak.edu](mailto:David.Lambert@ndsu.nodak.edu)