



Website Updates:

See new photos and updates on the project website

Follow-up of Mid Year Meeting:

How have you been identifying and reporting the various stakeholders you have served?

In what ways have you benefited from collaborating with partner institutions?

Highlights:

- Recommendations – 1
- Administrators – 1
- Partner News – 2
- Washington, Dc - 2

NRE Partners:

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

Paula's Travel:

No Travel Plans in August

USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005



Alvin Young



Joe McDonald



Carty Monette



Jim Venette

Recommendations of NRE Advisory Committee

The NRE Advisory Committee submitted their report in July following a June meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota. The NRE advisory committee reviewed the NRE program and project progress and made recommendations for project sustainability.

The Advisory Committee made several observations of project progress.

1. Iowa State University has developed a comprehensive process for dispersing, tracking, and auditing financial resources provided through the USDA grant.
2. The project provides for an equity balance between all 8 participating institutions through the steering committee, panel chairs, campus coordinators, and NRE instructors.
3. The NRE community projects, selected to incorporate one or more of the natural resources areas (fish and wildlife, forest and woodlands, crops and rangelands, and water and soils), and partner among institutions ensures that knowledge and experience with students and faculty are shared in both directions.
4. As for capacity building, supporting a new NRE instructor is the most visible activity while the greatest need is for more Native American students and academic programs that will lead students to be future leaders in their educational institutions and tribes.

The Advisory Committee made recommendations for the project.

1. Promote sustainability. Meet with key administrators from all eight participating institutions to collect and assess ideas on how to

promote sustainability of concepts, projects, cultural exchanges, educational initiatives, and community activities that characterize the current NRE program.

2. "Tell the story" of the NRE grant to agencies with funding for training and institutional support for the purpose of retaining natural resources instructors and of continuing natural resource curricula.
3. Recognize partner institutions that have implemented outstanding management and accountability practices.
4. Ensure that the NRE project is supportive of the stated mission of each of the Tribal Colleges in working within the tribal college communities.
5. Develop research programs at the Tribal Colleges by collaborating with the 1862 partners such as through joint investigators on research grants, jointly sponsored summer research programs for students and faculty, and 1862 institutions filling research assistantships with eligible American Indian students.

Each of the recommendations will be a point of discussion at the October 6 - 8 NRE annual meeting. The NRE Advisory Committee members attending the June meeting were Drs. Alvin Young, visiting professor at University of Oklahoma, Joe McDonald, president of Salish Kootenai College, Carty Monette, president of Turtle Mountain Community College and Jim Venette, Associate Dean at North Dakota State University.

Administrators to Plan for Project Sustainability

Administrators from all 8 partner institutions will meet on September 8 in Pierre, South Dakota to share ideas and discuss priorities for project sustainability. Presidents, vice presidents, and/or academic deans are being invited from Tribal Colleges and steering committee members from

the 1862 schools. Input is important from all partners project. Prior to this event, NRE instructors, panel chairs, and others will have the opportunity to suggest possible options that could continue well beyond the end date of the project in 2006.

Notice:

NRE Annual Meeting
October 6-8, 2004
Niobrara State Park
Hosts: NICC

NRE REPORTING

Quarterly Reports are due August 1 for April, May, and June, 2004. Reports should show continuity of objectives and activities.

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

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

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



Students working in the community garden at SGU

Partner Activities



ISU intern, FBCC and New Town students, along with Ruth Short Bull tour a bison and elk pasture at Figure Four Ranch.

Fort Berthold Community College

Adam Kronback, Animal Science undergraduate at Iowa State University, has worked on NRE juneberry and tree planting projects as a part of his summer internship at FBCC. Tawny Sitting Bear and Tamara Halvorson, high school students from New Town, worked on the juneberry project during the summer. Chris McLaughlin has worked on the juneberry project as well as the bison, tree project, and cultural center development projects. Students had the opportunity to visit with Walter Deville (far right in photo) who is one of the tribe's bison caretakers.

Sitting Bull College



SBC Student Ecology Club members visited NDSU and Itasca State Park this spring. In May members signed up to "Adopt-A-Highway" near the new SBC campus. Linda Hugelen is the club's advisor. Heirloom Hubbard squash seeds with instructions for planting, care, and harvest were distributed to the lower elementary grade school students throughout the reservation as part of the SBC Squash Growing

Project. A harvest festival or Local District Fair is being planned in each local tribal district so students who raised squash can show them and receive an award for their efforts. Methods of cooking and drying squash will be demonstrated at the events. Carol Brownotter recently received first place for a business plan she wrote after completing SBC's Agribusiness class taught by Linda Hugelen. Brownotter presented her plan at the United Sioux Tribes of SD Development Corporation's "Native American Partnership Council," held at Prairie Knights Casino.

Iowa State University

Jeanne Ballanger, member of ISU NRE project team, recently attended the 13th Annual Protecting Mother Earth Conference held near Rapid City, SD, in July 2004. The conference, hosted by Concerned Citizens of the Rosebud, was put on by the Indigenous Environmental Network. While there, Ballanger learned about the negative impacts brought about by the development and use of hydropower, fossil fuel and nuclear energy. Not only does the harvest and consumption of these energy forms devastate the land and its plants, animals, water and air, but the mental, spiritual, and physical health and culture of Native peoples suffer as well. In contrast, wind power offers an environmentally friendly source of energy that also can provide a source of income to reservations. The Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota is currently working on the development of such a wind energy facility.

NRE Visit to Washington, DC

Those who plan to participate in the September 20-23 trip to Washington, DC to meet with USDA officials and attend the inauguration of the Museum of the American Indian are: Harold Crawford, ISU, Ruth Short Bull, FBCC, Laurel Vermillion, SBC, Linda Hugelen, SBC, Tim Nichols, SDSU, John Witkowski, UNL, Hank Miller, NICC, and Mary de Baca, ISU. If others are still interested in going, check right away with Mary to determine if hotel space is available.