



Website Updates:

Check the new design. Post quarterly reports. Submit a project workbook.

Follow-up of Annual Meeting:

What partnerships have you initiated?

How have you measured progress?

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NRE Partners:

FBCC
NICC
SBC
SGU
ISU
NDSU
SDSU
UNL

Paula's Travel:

April 7 - NICC at Santee
April 30 - SGU

USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

Mid-Year Meeting at South Dakota State

The theme for the upcoming Mid-Year meeting at South Dakota State University on April 15 and 16 is "The Second Half." The annual meeting and the project report "Halfway There" sets the stage for the discussion and decisions of the mid-year meeting. Where is "there" - or, what do we want to have accomplished and what impacts do we want to have made by the end of the project? And, how do we use the remaining time and other resources - plus the likely one year extension - to achieve those ends?

The objectives of the meeting are to

- 1) Provide an update from each institution,
- 2) Assess changes made in response to the 2003 annual meeting,
- 3) Explore opportunities to strengthen, enhance, and/or accelerate activities, and
- 4) To identify means for 1862 partner involvement.

Please come prepared with a short

presentation and a one page handout for your institution to answer: What is working? What is new? What are our needs, challenges, and possibilities? Bring along your wish list for how to strengthen your capacity building plans, enhance your NRE Community Projects, and to build in sustainability of programs.

Make your hotel reservations (reserved under SDSU NRE project) at Brookings Inn 605-692-9471. The meeting will begin at 3:00 pm on Thursday at the University Student Union and end on Friday at 3:00 pm. Check for directions at

<http://www3.sdstate.eduClassLibrary/Page/SDSU/CampusMap/PrintMap.cfm>

Register simply by e-mailing [Tim Nichols](mailto:Tim.Nichols@sdstate.edu) or [Mary de Baca](mailto:Mary.deBaca@sdstate.edu).

National Museum of the American Indian Opens in September

Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2004 in Washington, DC.

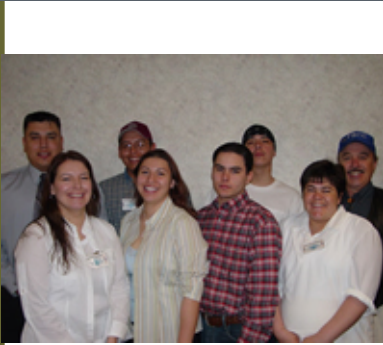
The Museum, located near the U.S. Capitol building on the National Mall, symbolizes a deeper understanding and reconciliation between America's first citizens and those who have come to make these shores their home.

Native communities and non-Native supporters will participate in the Western Hemisphere Procession on the National mall, starting near the Washington Monument in the morning and ending at noon at the new Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Thousands are expected to join the procession, many in native dress.

The Grand Opening Ceremony will feature a number of dignitaries, including Smithsonian Secretary

Lawrence M. Small, National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Director W. Richard West, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Senator Daniel K. Inouye. After a presentation representative of the Four Directions and a blessing, elders and children will walk into the new building together to signify our heritage and our future. The Honor Wall, which contains names of people and institutions supportive of the Museum and of Native Americans, is located on the inside walls of the balconies that overlook the heart of the museum.

From September 21 through September 26, a festival will pay tribute to prominent Native American storytellers, musicians and dancers, artists representing communities in North, Central and South America. For more information check <http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu>.



Notice:

Quarterly Reports for January, February, March are due May 1.

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



Partner Activities

Fort Berthold Community College

FBCC participants in the annual AIHEC (American Indian Higher Education Consotria) conference in Billings were involved in a variety of competitions. Pictured in front row from the left and their contests are Marie Baker, poster presentation on Genetically Modified Foods; Adele American Horse, poster presentation on Current Diabetes Research and Latest Findings; Jesse Baker, poster on Bison and Selenium and Science Bowl Competition; Tanya Driver, poster presentation. In the back row: Chris McLaughlin, oral presentation on Community Tree Surveys of Fort Berthold, poster presentation on Re-establishing Juneberries, and Science Bowl Competition; Delvin Driver, Jr., poster presentation, Sheyenne Baker, poster presentation on agriculture, and Kerry Hartman, science instructor and acting president at FBCC.

Sitting Bull College

The Sitting Bull College SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Development and Sustainability) Student Ecology Chapter applied for and was recently awarded two grants from the Ecological Society of America. One grant provides \$5,000 to assist with seeding native grass seed in the new campus housing area. The second grant provides \$1,000 to establish wildlife habitat on the new campus. Linda Hugelen, NRE Coordinator at Sitting Bull College, is the Chapter Advisor.

Sinte Gleska University

SGU has been developing a greenhouse project for community service and financial self sustainability. They are growing 7000 packs of bedding vegetables, herbs, and flowers, half for distribution to a community garden project and half for local sale. They will also grow fresh produce in the greenhouse for community and SGU events and for Student Center lunches. In addition, tobacco for ceremonial uses and herbs for commercial production will be produced in field crop tests under the leadership of Dr. Subodh Singh, NRE instructor.

Nebraska Indian Community College

Shelly Avery and Hank Miller report that NICC has ordered software for GIS activities, continuing to work with Jeff Arnold, UNL. On the River Front project, the trails are being developed and benches installed along the trails. At Santee, NICC will be doing landscaping on a new subdivision.

Introducing Dr. James Pease

Dr. Jim Pease (left) has been invited to serve as Fish and Wildlife Panel Chair for the NRE project, the position vacated by Dr. Bruce Menzel. Jim plans to attend the mid-year meeting at SDSU to meet project personnel and to learn more about what each Tribal College is doing or may wish to do in the area of Wildlife. Dr. Pease's research interests are in the areas of the human dimensions of wildlife management. Dr. Pease also has international experience - he has conducted a study tour to Costa Rica the past several years. You can read about his research interests at http://www.nrem.iastate.edu/fac_staff/pease.htm

AIHEC

Jenice Jim and Mary de Baca staffed the NRE exhibit at AIHEC and had several questions about the partnership project. Jenice indicated several were "glad to hear that large universities were taking interest in Tribal Colleges." Jenice informed several students and faculty about the summer internship programs. She and Mary attended workshop sessions and made contacts with various Tribal College personnel and students.

MANRRS

Iowa State University, along with Pioneer Hi-Bred, International, John Deere, and Cargill hosted the 2004 Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences national conference March 25-27. Jeannie Ballinger (left), Paula Teig, Jenice Jim, and Harold Crawford staffed the ISU booth which featured the NRE project and Tribal College opportunities for internships and graduate assistantships. Students and instructors from Fort Berthold Community College, Sinte Gleska University, and Sitting Bull College have attended past MANRRS Conferences in Iowa, Virginia, and Kentucky.