



**Website Updates:**

Images from annual meeting  
Partner annual reports

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

What action steps have you taken toward sustainability?

**Highlights:**

- Focus on Future- 1
- Annual Reports – 2, 3
- Monthly Calls – 3
- Annual Meeting - 3

**NRE Partners:**

- FBCC
- NICC
- SBC
- SGU
- OSI
- MDSI
- SDSU
- UNL

**Paula's Travel:**

No travel in November

*USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005*

**Focusing on the Future**



*NRE Annual Meeting participants at Niobrara State Park in Nebraska*

Four areas of focus for the last two years of the NRE grant were identified by those attending the 2004 NRE annual meeting at Niobrara State Park earlier this month. Those areas were: supporting outreach to Tribal College communities; strengthening networks, communication and relationships; assuring continuation of the NRE instructor positions; and enhancing natural resources academic programs. New and ongoing activities at both the 1994 and 1862 partner institutions in these four areas will increase the likelihood for partnerships and natural resources education to continue beyond the life of the grant.

*Outreach to communities* is central to the mission of Tribal Colleges. Natural resources education provides service to the community, raises awareness of the college's role in the community, and builds interest among potential students and their families. Outreach strategies include creating cycles of community engagement, such as with community gardens; blending programs with entrepreneurial activities such as farmers markets; collaborating with 1862 specialists, Tribal Extension agents, or others with expertise; and considering models such as the farmer to farmer extension agents and/or Master Gardener programs. Generating income from entrepreneurial efforts combined with funding from grants will likely provide resources for future outreach activities in natural resources.

*Networking, communication, and relationships* were cited among the greatest benefits during the first 3 years of the project. Strengthening this area will

create greater potential to continue partnerships and programs beyond the grant. During project years 4 and 5, we will increase travel exchanges with site visits to 1862s and 1994s, establish a monthly telephone conference call based on projects and new ideas, promote more student involvement at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and "tell our story" through participation at professional meetings, AIHEC, and with USDA.

*NRE instructors* are the strength of the project. In order to continue with partnership efforts and offer natural resources academic and outreach programs, a position needs to be assured at the Tribal Colleges. Major considerations are: External grants and contracts are necessary sources for salary and benefits for this position after the project ends; some grants are earmarked to provide classroom equipment; present NRE funds can be used to acquire help in writing proposals and for personnel to enlarge instructors' efforts; and, 1862 partners are resources to enlarge effectiveness of instructors. Returns from entrepreneurial programs may also be a source of funding for instructor positions.

*Enhancing natural resources academic programs* has been and will continue to be central to the objectives of the NRE grant. It was acknowledged that the most sustainable aspect of the project would be incorporation of/or expanding the natural resources program offering, however, that kind of decision is made by the colleges, not by NRE instructors. To enhance the probability, instructors and partners can work together for instructor subject matter development, to expand on student experience and internship programs, to provide leadership development for youth, and to initiate a professor exchange.

## What is sustainability?



"From the Native American point of view," Ruth Short Bull said, "sustainability has to do with legacy. We look back 7 generations to know who we are; we look forward 7 generations to see that what we do affects those to come."

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### NRE REPORTING

Year 3, Quarter 4 reports are due November 1. Submit your reports on-line please.

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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](mailto:Jason_Decker@hotmail.com)

## Partner Annual Reports

### Fort Berthold Community College

Year 3 activities included planting 1000 trees the New Town and Mandaree communities and the FBCC Land Lab, offered Juneberry workshops, and maintained the plantings. Tree workshops, outreach, and education will lead to planting Honor the Elder trees this coming spring. The prairie dog population study was completed from which educational materials will be developed. Collaboration with NDSU continues on the bison selenium project. The "road show" display was used at several events and students recruited for the Sunday Academy. FBCC intends to continue partnering with SBC, NDSU, UNL, and SGU and increase partner activities with ISU and SDSU.

### North Dakota State University

In the range and cropland area, findings from the selenium studies of the bison project with FBCC, SBC, and SGU will be reported at the Grand Forks Selenium Symposium in November. The marketing aspects of selenium-enhanced meat products will be studied to facilitate sale of high-selenium products. Dr. Hatterman-Valenti made presentations on juneberries at FBCC. In the forest and woodlands area, Joe Zeleznik worked with Ruth Short Bull in presenting tree care workshops, urban-tree inventory in FB communities, and Earth Day outreach to grade schools. NDSU will partially sponsor the December Academy offering in water resources at FBCC. NDSU sees potential for increased interaction with Tribal Colleges because of their growing Natural Resource Management degree program.

### Sitting Bull College

Strides made on the water quality community project are evidenced by the Standing Rock Water Quality Work Group monthly meetings, test kits making sampling possible, ongoing water quality analysis training, dissemination of water quality findings in the 8 communities, and Tribal EPA collaboration on surface water testing and watershed inventories. In addition, Linda Hugelen teaches Range Management, Agribusiness and Star Knowledge, promotes gardening projects and recycling, advises the Ecology Club, meets with the Vocational-Technical Advisory Committee, works on expanding the Prairie Knights Interpretive Trail, grew native herbs on campus, includes elders as speakers for classes, and promotes natural resources education on the tribal radio "Smoke Signals" program.

### Sinte Gleska University

SGU has been energized with hiring the Dr. Subodh Singh and involving both Lisa Colombe and David Weisser. The School of Tribal Lands Management and Environmental Science integrates several programs, including some funded through NRE. Subodh has embarked on herb, bare root tree and tobacco production trials. The Environmental Science program under David's leadership has a GIS computer lab and a greenhouse project that is flourishing. The SGU Ranch, through Lisa's leadership is connecting with K-12 children with nature and tribal customs as well as involving SGU students in the efforts.

### South Dakota State University

SDSU serves as resource/partners with SBC on water quality, SGU on GOIX/GPS at SGU and, with several faculty, made campus visits to NICC's Macy and Santee campuses to explore collaboration. The Prairie PhD program is providing professional development in natural resources to NRE personnel and others as well as involving a broad range of SDSU faculty. By hosting the NRE mid-year meeting, more faculty became aware of opportunities for partner activities. Resource people from landscape architecture and turfgrass management will be engaged with new SBC campus plantings. The Washington, DC trip was powerful and affirming, moved the project toward sustainability, and strengthened relationships among attending partners.

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## Partner Annual Reports cont.

### University of Nebraska Lincoln

Hazelnut and specialty forest product research at UNL fits well into the tribal colleges' priorities for commercialization and development of native foods. Thru research, Beth Hammond and Scott Josiah have identified high yield hazelnuts and have distributed seed from superior plants to each Tribal College. Scott worked with Ruth to conducted seminars on trees and forests to 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes on the FB Reservation. Scott is prepared to promote community tree planting in New Town as Dutch Elm disease will likely diminish urban tree stands. Scott worked with Lisa at SGU to machine plant windbreaks, and involved Bill Zanner in NICC's interest in wild rice production.

\*Annual Reports for NICC and ISU will be in the November Newsletter

### Monthly Calls

Conference calls are scheduled for the first Friday of November and December from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. In order to arrange for the appropriate number of lines, please let Mary ([mmdb@iastate.edu](mailto:mmdb@iastate.edu)) know if you will be on the call on November 5 and December 3. Agenda for the November call includes deciding on topics for January, February, and March! Mary will send call-in directions prior to the scheduled day.

### Thanks to NICC Hosts, Annual Meeting Committee

We appreciate Hank Miller's arrangements for meeting space, food, lodging, and cultural activities at the NRE annual meeting at Niobrara State Park, October 6-8. Thank you to Mike Oltrogge, Interim President at NICC and Roger Trudell, Chairmen of the Santee Sioux Nation for their welcoming words. We appreciate Jim Hallum's arrangements for the sweat ceremony and the evening at the Ponca earth lodge. Thanks also to Quintin Saunsoci and it was great to see Shelly Avery. Participants shared the status of NRE Community Projects and Capacity Building initiatives, including student internship experiences. Everyone worked together to identify areas of concentration to sustain priorities in the next 2 years and beyond. We experienced fellowship and appreciation for Native American culture at the sweat ceremony, visit to the Ponca earth lodge, medicine pouch gift (supply!), the fry bread, the beauty of the setting, and the respectful gathering. [Annual meeting evaluation will be at http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/](http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/).

