

NRE Institution Report
Iowa State University
September 20, 2005

The fourth year of the NRE Project was a fruitful one for Iowa State University and for the Consortia. Annual and mid-year meetings provide the opportunity to acknowledge the many accomplishments as well as the upcoming plans and needs of each of the partner institutions.

A. Provided administrative and management responsibilities for the NRE grant.

- Made administrative visits to Tribal Colleges which provided the opportunity to feedback on NRE capacity building and community outreach programs and the issue of sustainability during the final year and beyond.
- Continued Tribal College Liaison visits to keep updated on program and financial status of the NRE grant.
- Kept up to date on status of expenditures at each partner institution with focus on the end date of the project.
- Requested and were granted a one year no-cost extension of the project.
- Submitted the CRIS annual report to USDA and distributed it to all partner institutions.
- Revised the quarterly report form to be more user friendly and provide opportunity for reporting in narrative form to "tell our story."
- Communicated with all partners, advisory members and collaborators through the monthly newsletter with features of Partner Activities, Where in the World, Graduate Research, and In the Classroom.
- Posted newsletters and quarterly reports on the NRE website along with mid-year reports and photo journals.

B. Focused on sustainability issues with each of the partner institutions.

- The theme of the 2004 Annual Meeting at NICC was "Sustainability: Planning for Long-Term Outcomes of the NRE Project."
- Conducted telephone conference calls on the First Friday of most months, with topics centered on program continuation through community development, shared/distance courses, possibilities for research funding.
- Hosted the 2005 Mid-Year Meeting "Visioning the Future of NR Programs at 1994 Institutions" with planning by committee Laurel Vermillion, John Witkowski, Hank Miller, Mary de Baca, Paula Teig and Jason Decker. Explored both distance education and joint research grants as integral part of future programs.
- Assisted in planning the 2005 annual meeting at SGU with emphasis on "Maximizing Outcomes In Our Final Year. The committee, Lisa Colombe, Leland Bordeaux, Tim Nichols and Mary de Baca, requested draft workplans for program and spend down for the final year to serve as the focus of the meeting.
- Planned a pre-meeting Research Design Workshop at SGU to encourage collaborative research proposals as one approach toward sustainability.
- With SGU as lead institution and SDSU and ISU as partners, submitted a proposal to USDA Tribal College Research Grant program in December; was awarded in April.
- Presented several options for partnering using distance education at the mid-year meeting, resulting in expectation that the ISU meteorology course would be offered at FBCC.

C. Engaged in outreach activities to provide experiential growth and raise project awareness.

- Jenice Jim and Mary de Baca represented NRE at the national AIHEC and MANRRS conferences to raise awareness of the partnership and activities.

- Melissa Nasers interned with NICC to increase communication and promote NRE programs.
- Jason Decker worked with NICC to produce a photo journal for the NRE Website and materials for student recruitment.
- Jenice Jim and Jeanne Ballinger attended the AISES Conference in Alaska.
- Involved Nikoya American Horse and Jordan Shell Track in the George Washington Carver Summer Research Internship for six weeks.
- ISU faculty and graduate students participated in SGU Ranch Field Day.

D. Engaged in natural resources research activities.

- Through the department of horticulture, conducted a preliminary study on propagation of native sage.
- Jeanne Ballinger spent the summer at SGU to collect research data on prairie dogs.
- Conducted a session on proposal development and possible funding sources at the mid-year meeting at ISU.

E. Coordinated program development and video shooting for the upcoming USDA Partners Video Magazine.

- Worked with USDA on the general theme for the video and identified programs at each Tribal College/University.
- Developed the story outline and key points to "tell our story" as partner institutions and a shooting schedule to accommodate the USDA production crew, seasonality of plantings, etc.
- Coordinated video shooting at each site and with partner institutions and follow up with director of the video.

F. Increased cultural sensitivity.

- At the annual meeting sweat ceremony, visiting an earth lodge, changing the perspective of quarterly reports.
- Listened and observed carefully to understand cultural values. -

G. Pursued project evaluation.

- Distributed materials related to conducting evaluation through Talking Circles to the NRE instructors and campus coordinators.
- Conducted Evaluation using Talking Circles at 3 of the 4 TCU partners. Transcriptions will be distributed back to each campus and will also be used as a basis of further interviews and surveys.

This year we especially want to welcome Chris Kirk Zdorovtsov, SDSU graduate student and Stacey Mortenson, NRE Instructor at FBCC to the NRE personnel. We express gratitude to Ruth Short Bull for all that she accomplished at FBCC and wish her well in her new undertakings. We remember Doug Malo's wife who is seriously ill with cancer, Hank Miller who lost his mother, and honor all those who have health and family problems to overcome.

We are grateful for the many accomplishments of the NRE grant at all of the partner institutions, for the friendships that have been forged through our mutual interests, and we look forward to a very active and busy final year of the project.