

NRE Institution Report
Iowa State University
October 5, 2004

During the third year of the NRE Project, Iowa State University has been involved in several activities and actions to carry out the administrative and management responsibilities of the project. Some activities were reported at the mid-year meeting at SDSU; this report chronicles activities from October, 2003 through September, 2004.

- A. Conducted on-going and new administrative and management responsibilities
- Stepped up efforts at partner institutions which results in all partners being in compliance with the project.
 - Communicated NRE progress through reporting – Half Way There, CRIS which raised awareness within partner institutions and their communities and at USDA.
 - Represented NRE project at AIHEC and MANRRS Conferences that raised awareness of our partnership project.
 - Shortened format for supplemental proposed workplans which do not have to be approved by the steering committee and are “user friendly.”
 - Sought and received applications for internship program, which resulted in Jamie Harlan participating in the George Washington Carver Internship program at ISU for 8 weeks, conducting research with a mentor. Jenice Jim assisted with recruitment and with the summer program; Dustin Thunder Hawk (SBC alum) was one of the resident advisors.
 - Provided an internship program to an ISU student who worked with Fort Berthold Community College during the summer on NRE related activities.
 - Appointed Jim Pease to serve as wildlife panel chair, with Jim attending the mid-year meeting, being on-board to collaborate in partnership activities, and serving as graduate advisor for Jeanne Ballanger.
 - Redesigned website to increase appeal and ease in navigating, submitting reports and posting monthly newsletters.
 - Initiated department and student experience programs (Horticulture and Ag Education and Studies) with SBC, NICC which holds promise for future connections.
 - Analyzed quarterly reports and began planning for end-of project evaluation.
- B. Analyzed findings from the decision making exercise at the 2003 annual meeting at SBC
- Named Paula Teig to full time on the project as Tribal College Liaison and to continue her responsibilities in accounting and reimbursements which has resulted in several campus visits to each Tribal College and continual communication regarding their progress toward project goals.
 - Conducted telephone conference with post-conference committee to greater engagement of 1862s with TCUs. The results may be reported by the 1862s and 1994s in their own annual reports. With regard to meeting program requirements to stakeholders, it was felt that farmers and ranchers are being reached as a part of Tribal College communities and that greater attention needs to be paid to identifying stakeholders in the quarterly reports.
 - Enhanced regular communication by redesigning the monthly newsletter and by increasing the circulation to include not only the NRE personnel but also institution administrators, advisory committee, and USDA program leaders.

C. Prepared for and responded to an internal audit at ISU of the NRE grant – regarding both program and funding, which resulted in greater visibility of the NRE project on the ISU campus and smoother operations of the project:

- Increased awareness and interest with the Dean of the College of Agriculture.
- Included the chair of Ag Education and Studies on the ISU NRE team.
- Invited additional members to serve on the evaluation advisory committee.
- Reviewed allowable and unallowable use of funds by ISU and subcontracts.
- Centralized documentation of project expenditures.
- Tied reimbursement of subcontracts to quarterly report submissions.
- Explored options for accelerating program and using financial resources to match with term of project to discuss at mid-year meeting.

D. Convened the Advisory Committee in June. In reviewing the NRE project, committee members (president Joe McDonald, Salish Kootanai College, Carty Monette, Turtle Mountain, associate dean Jim Venette, NDSU, and Al Young, visiting professor at Oklahoma University) commented on the equities within the partnership, comprehensive project management, and accomplishments supporting project objectives to date. Their recommendations included:

- To promote sustainability
- “Tell the story” of the NRE grant
- Recognize outstanding programs
- Ensure NRE projects support the mission of TCUs (and vice versa)
- Develop collaborative research programs with 1994 and 1862 partners

F. Orchestrated a reporting and discovery session with USDA/CSREES/NR in Washington, DC which benefited the 9 NRE participants by learning more about CSREES and other agencies regarding program issues and opportunities and raised awareness among CSREES program leaders of the NRE project. Time will tell if partners harness opportunities that lead to sustainable programs. Within days of the visit, inquiries came from USDA personnel regarding the possibility of a video “documentary” of the NRE project and NRE partner reporting to FAEIS – the Food and Agriculture Education Information System.

G. Increased cultural sensitivity. Throughout the year an effort has been made to increase awareness of American Indian culture and customs pertaining to the 4 Tribal College partners.

- Annual meeting sweat ceremony, storytelling, native foods, and ongoing understanding of the cultural mission of the Tribal Colleges.
- Participation in the inauguration of the National Museum of the American Indian and the First Americans Festival in Washington, DC.

H. Focused on Sustainability. In anticipation of year 4 and a no-cost extension to year 5, attention has been given to how to extend the value of the project even beyond the funding period. Funding status and projections indicate the need to step up year 4 and 5 activities while building the basis for ongoing program or partnership activities beyond the term of the project.

- Institution Opportunity Grants were introduced at the mid-year meeting in April, encouraging partners to expand on existing or initiate new activities leading to sustainability.
- Planned for the 2004 Annual Meeting with the theme “Sustainability: Planning for Long-Term Outcomes of the NRE Project.”

I. Were grateful each and every day for the opportunity to work together with these partners on this grant to bring about changes in natural resources education.