

**NRE Project Report**  
South Dakota State  
University 2004-2005

**Prairie PhD**

This tribal graduate cohort program continues to move forward and, while not funded directly through NRE, is a major thrust of our capacity building efforts. Three NRE staff (Linda at SBC, Hank at NICC, and Kerry at FBCC) are enrolled and are on part-time assistantships in the program. As of this writing, we are nearly complete with the offering of coursework. In the past year, offerings have included: Seminar in Biological Sciences, Bioethics, Qualitative Research Methods, Disturbance Ecology, Rural Real Estate Appraisal, Socio-cultural Aspects of Nutrition, and Establishing Lakota Sovereignty On partnership with Oglala Lakota College). In addition, this summer Hank was among the student group who traveled on an international indigenous experience with Unidad Academica Campesina—a university serving tribal communities in rural Bolivia. The group facilitated cross-cultural seminars on food systems, culture, education, and the environment, traveled to industry and government centers, participated in indigenous festivals, and even hosted a Lakota-style give away. The exchange: rich; the impact: profound. Exciting international collaborative possibilities are beginning to emerge.

**Sage Project/Organic Herb and Vegetable Production**

SDSU is a partner with the SGU/ISU sage project. Graduate student Chris Kirk has worked with Dr.'s Singh (SGU) and Gladdon (ISU) to plan and implement to the project. This has included gathering and propagating plants and preparing field sites for planting. Chris is also working with SGU and SDSU faculty to explore alternatives to the current approach to sage research, including strengthening the native stand and seed propagation. In addition, Chris has gathered information for Sinte Gleska University on organic herb and vegetable production and marketing. Chris and Dr. Singh also attended the "Everything's Organic" conference in Chicago in May.

**Faculty Exchange**

SDSU plans to support two faculty on exchange with NRE project partner institutions in the year ahead. Preliminary discussions have taken place with SDSU faculty and NICC with an emphasis on experimental design, origins of crops, plant breeding, Native American corn, prairie restoration, and applied statistics.

**Hands-on Natural Resources Education**

SDSU's Extension Indian Reservation Program houses an educator at Sinte Gleska University. This individual, Wendy Hayes, works closely with Lisa Colombe at SGU on numerous educational and outreach efforts. We are in the process of purchasing supplies that will greatly enhance the capability of Lisa and Wendy to do natural resources education programming for youth on the Rosebud reservation, and with schools associated with our other project partners. The extensive materials list for this effort include a portable planetarium (complete with Lakota Star Knowledge information), and "trunks" to supplement classroom learning in areas such as wildlife, range science, soils, and aquatic biology.

**Ongoing activities**

SDSU has continued to participate in ongoing project-level activities such as the mid-year meeting at Iowa State, video production at SGU, and as partners in several research, education, and capacity building projects at FBCC, NICC, SBC and SGU. We intend to continue our involvement with these collaborative projects and remain flexible in the project's final year in order to respond to other opportunities as they arise.