



Nebraska Indian Community College
Natural Resources
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NRE Mid-Year Report
NICC,
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The Natural Resource program at NICC has been busy planning for spring. We are currently teaching two Natural Resource classes this semester. They are Soil and Water Resource Management and Landscape Geology. Classes are going well and student involvement is active. Dr. Dave Stamp has been a great asset to the program and is involved in all facets.

Most of our efforts since our yearly meeting in Santee have been directed towards our spring planting projects, but, we are anxious to see what plans to grow from last years plantings: riparian buffers using woody florals, prairie restoration (native grasses and wildflowers), orchards (edible landscapes), wild rice, hazel nut trees and ginseng. We plan to plant more of the same and begin our community gardens, farmers markets, and grazing and haying rotations of existing prairies.

We are also involved in community projects as well. We plan to put benches and interpretive signs up on our river front park project in Santee. We are also involved with the city of Macy and their drainage problems in the community. The Natural Resource program is going to install buffers to slow water drainage flow and limit erosion. Along with other construction, we are hoping to control our drainage problems in Macy. Jim and I were volunteered to judge the Native Nations Science Fair at Santee high School. Shelly Avery hosted this event and we were very happy to participate. Shelly has been such a great advocate for NICC and the Natural Resource Program at the high school. Long-term networks do work.

The Natural Resource Program is also involved in research. Through the Prairie Ph program at SDSU, I have directed my graduate research towards prairie restoration, with a focus on the growth stages of two different wildflowers and how different management techniques influence the success of these native plants. Quintin and other students have been a great help with this research. We are also hoping to be included in an organic farming study that UNL at Haskell Research labs are trying to get underway. Our Natural Resource program would be responsible for monitoring ecological affects of the organic farming test plots.

Within our program, we have focused on four concepts: cultural inclusion, environmental improvement, economical feasibility, and long-term sustainability. With these concepts in mind, we have been able to help our communities in many different ways. Another way we can help our communities is by trying to continue what this grant has started and be around long after the grant runs out. We plan to do this by being active in the soft money chase and write good applicable grants that fit us at NICC. We are also becoming actively involved in renting land for prairie restoration that will be