



Students looking into Nebraska Indian Community College collaboration.

Nebraska Indian Community College career day for the students at Niobrara

Nebraska Community Indian College (NICC) with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension, hosted a Connect the Dots Career Exploration Day at the Oyate Oyanke Community Center at Santee on March 26. In attendance were 35 freshmen and sophomore students from both Santee and Niobrara high schools.

The interactive career exploration simulation was designed to help ninth and tenth grade students learn more about careers of interest and how to

“connect the dots” from high school to post secondary education through the workplace.

Each student came to the event with a specified career field and they essentially played a career game. They received instructions to go to the career tables and pick up a sheet that had a specified career and the educational requirements of the career. Chance cards were also given to the students, which, in some cases, forced them to make alternate plans in their

educations. These cards included “dropped out of high school,” or “high paying job,” or “economic crash-lost job-find another one.”

The students also talked to area professionals from Santee and Niobrara and surrounding communities. Career professionals were from varied areas or employment such as teachers and counselors, social service workers, diesel mechanics and economic development professionals.

After hearing from area profes-

sionals on their own personal educations and career journeys, the students then completed a self-assessment and then discussed skills connected to personality traits and career options.

Overall the day was a success. The students seemed to enjoy the game speakers and energetic engagement from UNL extension staff. NICC and UNL are hoping to hold the program in the area every other year.