Blue caps and gowns, smiling graduates’ faces, and inspirational speeches materialized during the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) graduation on Saturday, May 16, 2015, at the Irving School in Sioux City, NE. While Rock Bottom drum group sang, traditional dancers Clarissa LaPlante, Casey Saul, Kyleigh Merrick, and Henry Lovejoy, Jr. led in the procession of graduates. The ceremony began with an invocation by Roger Trudell, Santee Sioux Nation Tribal Chairman. After a welcome given by President Micheal Oltrogge, the Academic Dean presented an award to John Singer. He was recognized as the Faculty of the Year, an award that is voted on by the NICC student body, and he shared a speech on the meaning of NICC, no excuses, individualism, community, and culture. The keynote speaker, Will Meier from Native Youth Standing Strong, stated how one’s life can change with education. Lastly, valedictorian, Christopher Ross (Macy Campus), informed the audience of how he started classes at NICC and expressed his gratitude to the college, his family, and fellow students during his speech.

At the end of the ceremony, fifteen students (listed below) graduated in the fields of Business Administration, General Liberal Arts, Early Childhood Education, and Native American Studies. After the ceremony, NICC held a luncheon in honor of the graduates and to celebrate with family and friends. NICC is proud of its graduates and the hard work they have put in to achieve their goals!

Graduates in the class of 2015 from the Macy Campus: Samantha Goodbird, Lonnie Grant, Christopher Ross, Lisa Drum, Ashley Coons, and Vanessa Hamilton. From the Santee Campus: Jessica Pike, Tracy Sheridan, Chris Swalley, Terri Grant, and Harper Saul. From the South Sioux City Campus: Marilyn Blackhawk, Evan White, Jackie Hahn, and Sarah Zavala.

Graduates in the class of 2015 from the Macy Campus: Samantha Goodbird, Lonnie Grant, Christopher Ross, Lisa Drum, Ashley Coons, and Vanessa Hamilton. From the Santee Campus: Jessica Pike, Tracy Sheridan, Chris Swalley, Terri Grant, and Harper Saul. From the South Sioux City Campus: Marilyn Blackhawk, Evan White, Jackie Hahn, and Sarah Zavala.
“...It features an enriched living and learning environment...”

Institutional programs value and cultivate the creative and productive talents of learners, faculty, and staff, and seek ways to contribute to the self-sufficiency of the Nations served, the well-being of our communities, and the quality of life and development of its learners, faculty and service areas.”

Excerpts:

NICC’s Vision Statement

Inspiration and Mission Statement:

It all started with a conversation I overheard between Alvin Parker and Troy Munhofen regarding the placement of the Buffalo Harvest poster—after the October 2014 gathering. As they were trying to decide whether or not to keep the poster up after the activity, Alvin commented to Troy: “The students need to see that we do these cultural activities here.”

Alvin’s comment was my inspiration to contribute to the vision statement of NICC by creating an enriched living and learning environment...” through cultural knowledge boards/posters. With two relatively new building sites at Santee and Macy and renovations at the SSC campus, it was an opportune time to support NICC’s vision statement—and as David Frazier put it “look at all of these walls as canvases.”

Purposes of Knowledge Boards:

Reinforcing information in education, inspiring creativity and promoting curiosity/critical inquiry through the use of knowledge boards has been foundational in all institutional levels of learning. Poster board presentations by postsecondary undergraduate/graduate level students at conferences and trainings are highly competitive worldwide. AIHEC conferences have often included knowledge board/poster presentations in their competitions.

As an undergraduate student, I clearly remember seeing the first knowledge bulletin board that made an impact on my life. It had been created by the sociology department faculty outside of our classroom. It was of the Jewish Holocaust. The pictures and quotes were visual reminders of man’s inhumanity to man and taught us of past historical events that impact the human condition.

Knowledge boards can show us the art and creativity of peoples around the globe as they invite us to increase our understanding and challenge our worldview. They take us into the past, they make us think about the here and now and they encourage us to imagine the future.

NAS Faculty:

Committed to NICC’s core value of cultural preservation, I met with the NAS faculty asking for their ideas and mentorship. Wyatt Thomas requested that the languages taught at NICC be included on the boards.
The first completed board was to acknowledge Jim Hallum’s Bison Projects (that Bison Harvest poster found a compatible home next to it.) Jim requested that the article from the TCJ be included and also a picture of Alice Saunso-ci. Mounted on the board is a small piece of bison hide to touch – something that cannot be done on the computer/laptop screen.

Campus Sites and Students:
There are cultural boards (such as the Advocacy Art - Honor the Treaties) where duplicates will be placed at all three campuses. There are other boards that are specific for the reservation campus sites (such as Remember the Dakota 38 + 2 for the Santee Campus.)

Students have also provided inspiration and support for several of the boards. When alumni Junior Mack-Lovejoy visited the SSC computer lab, he took his picture in front of the Sober Indian/Dangerous Indian board and received over 96 “likes” when he posted it on Facebook.

Board Development Phases:
Achieving the goal of “invite the student to visit the board” often requires arranging and re-arranging the board contents to be eye- tempting. A completed project board can take over 30 hours of time from creation to completion depending upon its complexity (such as Decolonize Your Mind.).

In keeping true to the swift mobility of the traditional plains cultures, mostly all of the NICC boards are lightweight, and attached to the walls with removable Velcro strips so that they can easily and quickly be transported to other campus sites.

President’s Request:
In January, when President Oltrogge sent an e-mail asking for volunteers to help make “Macy look very nice” for the upcoming AICF visit – the focus for Omaha specific cultural boards intensified. With Wynema Morris’s oversight, I was honored to complete (within three months) 10 cultural boards for the Macy campus. Continued on page 4.
Continued from page 3

Garan Coons kindly shared with me a picture of one of AICF visitors reading the Masks for the Horse People board which has a memorial section for Shelly Bausch.

I placed two small regalia mirrors by Shelly’s picture so that no matter where the board is hung, she will always attract light.

**Catch the Spirit of NICC’s Vision Statement:**

Thank you – “wopida” – “wibthaho” - to the NAS faculty for being patient with me in my juggling teaching courses with completing these boards.

I encourage all employees to” catch the spirit” of NICC’s vision statement and make their ideas visible to enrich our students. I know that among us are artistic and creative individuals whose talents far exceed my efforts. I offer any assistance to all in the creation of future NICC knowledge boards.

Again, many thanks to Alvin Parker for his advocacy that our students see the cultural activities that take place at NICC! Submitted by Darla Korol, NICC Human Services Instructor

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NICC Student Receives Film Award

This past March Ashley Coons, NICC student, attended the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and submitted her film, The Umonhon Blue Ribbon, in the AIHEC film competition. Dr. Brad Shreve, the managing editor of the Tribal College Journal, personally contacted Ashley letting her know her film was selected as an honorable mention in the annual film contest and will be featured on the Tribal College Journal website in August.

If you would like to view Ashley’s film, The Umonhon Blue Ribbon, the link is [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0koQ0urX2x4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0koQ0urX2x4)

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Gaining knowledge, is the first step to wisdom.

sharing it, is the first step to humanity.”

-Unknown
Standing Bear and the Trials Ahead Symposium

On Thursday May 14 NICC students Crystal Ross of Macy campus, Mercedes Sandovol of South Sioux City, and Christina Coffman of Santee headed to Lincoln with Lisa Beans for the Standing Bear and the Trials Ahead Symposium. The Nebraska Commission of Indian Affairs teamed up with The Center for Great Plains Studies to put on this amazing event filled with motivational speakers from several different reservations across the country. Some memorable moments for the girls were seeing Winona Laduke speak and meeting her the next day during the Standing Bear breakfast, also listening to the heart wrenching story of Hattie Kauffman, an Emmy winning news correspondent, and how she rose from the ashes into a successful Native American woman. NICC was unknowingly recognized at the breakfast along with several other Native American schools in attendance. Overall, it was a great experience for the girls and we hope NICC will get more opportunities to send our students to events like the Standing Bear and the Trials Ahead Symposium. Submitted by Christina Coffman

Buffalo Mascot Naming Contest

Nebraska Indian Community College purchased a buffalo costume to represent our school as a mascot. We will be having a contest this Fall semester to name him/her. Students are encouraged to participate. The winner will have the honor of naming the mascot as well as a prize. More details will be provided as the contest gets underway. Direct all questions to the NICC Student Senate.
The first Faculty Workshop about the Framing the Chemistry Curriculum grant took place on May 18 and 19, 2015. Twelve people from five institutions were present to learn about this National Science Foundation-funded project (see photo). This project is the first collaboration between LPTC and NICC in many years but it could very well lead to stronger ties between these institutions in the future. The meeting began with Mark Griep who provided an overview of the program's goals and its Sharing Cycle of Science Learning. The first part of the cycle is when the LPTC/NICC Joint Advisory Board created a list of community topics. The second part of the cycle was when the faculty and students of LPTC and NICC identified ways to connect the community topics to the chemistry laboratory experiences. The third part of the cycle was the two-semester chemistry course that was jointly offered at LPTC and NICC. The final part of the cycle is the annual Faculty Workshop at which all aspects of the cycle are discussed. The cycle repeats every year. Since this is the second year of a five year grant, there will be three more cycles. After Elisabeth Roberts summarized her evaluation of each part of last year's cycle, the participants discussed what worked well and what needed more work. The discussion also generated even deeper connections between the community topics and certain chemistry laboratory experiences. Bev DeVore-Wedding then led the participants through a process of improving the full list of chemistry laboratory experiences. Along the way, the group discussed a variety of ways to increase the interactions between math and sciences at the colleges, with the community, and with the schools. The meeting ended with a clear vision of what needed to be accomplished in Summer 2015 so that a more fully realized version of the chemistry course can be offered in the 2015-2016 academic year. Several participants stated how empowering the meeting had been. Submitted by Mark Griep, Associate of Professor, UNL
Nebraska Indian Community College Offers GED Testing

Nebraska Indian Community College has recently signed an agreement with Pearson VUE, a computer-based testing business of Pearson, to test GED candidates. NICC is very excited about this new opportunity and the ability to offer testing to area residents, not only in Santee, but the surrounding area. The nearest testing site is located in Norfolk, NE which is roughly 85 miles from Santee. Having a testing site at NICC will allow more individuals access to testing.

Wanda Henke, Library Director for NICC, has been working for many months to get NICC established as an official testing site. Ms. Henke has also gone through the process of becoming a Certified Test Administrator with Pearson VUE. She states, “We’re very excited about our new partnership with Pearson VUE. We’re pleased to partner with a company whose industry status, technology and passion for excellence will allow us to provide even greater service.”

Ray Murray, Vice President - Business Development, Pearson VUE said: “We are proud to welcome Nebraska Indian Community College to the rapidly growing global network of Pearson VUE Authorised Test Centres. Together, we are providing even more candidates with the opportunity to obtain meaningful certifications and advance their careers.”

NICC offers structured GED tutoring classes Wednesdays. This is a great step for NICC to work with the community and continue to fulfill its mission of providing quality learning experiences for everyone. These experiences are geared toward all Umonhon (Omaha), Isanti (Santee Dakota), and other learners attending classes at one of our three Nebraska campuses: Macy, South Sioux City, and Santee. NICC also hopes to offer transportation to the Santee Campus from the other two campuses so that testing is available to a broader geographic area.

Pearson VUE believes testing and certification is at the heart of the learning experience, and Nebraska Indian Community College will play its part by offering accessible and secure testing to candidates. Pearson VUE’s advanced system administers exams on behalf of hundreds of businesses, boards and organizations around the globe through the world's largest most secure test centre network. The system enables candidates to register and reschedule their tests online at ged.com or through a Pearson VUE call Centre like Nebraska Indian Community College. The list of certification tests available from test sponsors through the Pearson VUE system is continually growing. Test results are quickly transmitted back, ensuring the candidate’s certification status is promptly updated. Pearson VUE delivery of exams has continued to increase rapidly in recent years, with the company delivering 10 million exams in 2011.

For more information about the GED Testing at NICC contact Wanda Henke at 402-241-5897 or whenke@thenicc.edu.

About Pearson VUE
Pearson VUE Authorized Test Centres are privately owned, third-party testing facilities which provide on-site, on-demand testing for certification and professional licensure exams. Pearson VUE (www.pearsonvue.com) is the global leader in computer-based testing for information technology, academic, government and professional testing programs around the world. Pearson VUE provides a full suite of services from test development to data management, and delivers exams through the world's most comprehensive and secure network of test centres in more than 175 countries. Pearson VUE is a business of Pearson (NYSE: PSO; LSE: PSON), the world's leading learning company.
My name is Kodi Urquidi. I am the new carpentry instructor here at NICC. I was born in Sioux City, Iowa. I attended high school at West High. After high school I furthered my education at Western Iowa Tech Community College where I obtained my associated degree in carpentry. I have been avidly working in the construction field for the past five years in a variety of different fields. I am very excited to become a part of the NICC community. My goal here at NICC is to help students achieve their goals, and construct a program that will help students gain the proper knowledge to become a successful carpenter.

My name is Carla Shreve and I am the new Accounts Payable. I was born in Ponca City, OK. I have extensive experience in office operations while working at Briar Cliff. I was instrumental in assisting Briar Cliff’s financial department in transitioning to a new financial application. I bring 6 years of financial management and leadership. I have 5 children and 1 grand baby. I like to go camping in our camper in Colorado. I look forward to meeting new people and playing a part in the giving of education to our students here at NICC.

My name is Nicole Parker. I am the Recruitment & Retention Specialist. I am a member of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa. I currently live in Wayne, NE with my two daughters, Brooklynn and Ashlynn. I am originally from Macy, NE and an Alumni of Walthill Public School class of 2002. I received my Associate of Arts degree from Northeast Community College in 2005. I then transferred to Wayne State College and received my Bachelors of Science in Physical Education K-12 with a Coaching endorsement in December 2010 and also earned my Masters of Science in Education in Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education in December 2014. Prior to graduating from Wayne State College I completed my Graduate Assistantship with the Office of Multicultural Affairs. I was able to work with and assist student organizations, faculty and staff to provide cultural programs to the students of Wayne State College and the Wayne Community. I have previously worked at Northeast Community College with the Bridge to Success Program. This program allowed me to work with High School Seniors from two alternative education schools, to provide them with college related information to help transition them into the college setting. I look forward to meeting and getting to know the students on all three campuses, and also reconnecting with family, friends and the communities.
Laughter could be heard from the Science Room at Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) when Harper Saul, NICC graduate, walked into the science room to view the message “it’s raining cats and dogs” on the new weather station. A few minutes earlier someone else had stated that and here the phrase was on the monitor!

According to Hank Miller, Nebraska Indian Community College’s Science and Math Division Head, the final of three NICC weather stations was installed at the Santee Campus on May 26, 2015.

The weather stations are part of a partnership between NICC Science and Math Department, NASA’s Nebraska Space Grant, and NOAA’s High Plains Climate Center. The purpose of the three weather stations is to provide weather and environmental monitor temperature, precipitation, barometric pressure, heat and cold indexes, soil moisture, soil temperature and eventually solar radiation and UV rays. The solar sensors are scheduled to be added in the next few months.

We will also eventually provide a link on our NICC website to allow everyone access to the weather information. NICC science students will record all data for comparative studies between campuses and historical climate data. Through statistical analysis, students will answer questions about climate trends that can help our communities make decisions on adaptation to climate change.

The stations were purchased through NASA Mini-Research grants provided by the Nebraska Space Grant and EPSCoR. Nebraska Space Grant’s Melissa Wragge has been instrumental in providing us with guidance and support with this project. She has also helped NICC students acquire NASA fellowships, which provide research experience and financial support for their education at NICC.

Director Martha Shulski and Systems Manager Stone Cooper from NOAA’s Nebraska High Plains Climate Center have been great help in the installation and operations of the weather stations. The center also provides all the historical weather data that we use for comparative data studies.

NICC is very excited to have these people and their respective organizations helping us develop the capacity that allows our students to do scientific research. For more information contact Hank Miller, Science/Math Division Head at Nebraska Indian Community College, 402-494-2311 extension 121.
Tribal Nations Map at South Sioux City Campus

During the spring semester, then NICC student (now an alumna), Sarah Zavala suggested that the SSC campus have a student “tribal nations” sign-in area. She had seen this at another tribal college and thought it would help NICC’s urban campus to identify and support the tribal diversity among its student body.

At the end of the spring semester the first poster/map documenting pre-contact (1491) tribal nations and their original lands in their languages, was hung in the SSC lobby (by Alvin Parker) for the summer session students.

The Tribal Nations Map was created by Aaron Carapella (Cherokee) in consultation with tribal elders, educators, linguists and preservationists. It was a 14-year effort and was promoted by the American Indian College Fund website.

Omo'ho'o Studies Professor Wymena Morris has plans to explore creating a map tracking the migration of the Omo'ho'o Nation to its present site. (Mr. Carapella accepts “special orders” for maps.) If this is successful, a specialized map could also be developed for the Isanti Nation. For more information on the maps please visit: www.tribalnationsmaps.com

During the summer session the following tribal nations were represented by the students “signing in” their tribes:

HoChunk, Ihanktowan, Isanti, Omo"ho", Ponca and Turtle Mt. Chippewa.

It is anticipated that in the fall semester, the tribal nations “sign-ins” will increase.

If you are visiting the SSC campus, please visit the sign-in poster to see the rich tribal diversity at NICC! Thank you Sarah for this cultural appreciation suggestion for NICC students.
Greetings

The college’s 2015-2016 is just around the corner! The summer months can bring with it rejuvenation and an excitement about the upcoming year.

Upon reflection, the college has been able to add some wonderful things over the past year. The college has been successful at becoming a GED testing center in Santee. The college has a fully operational Vocational Education Building in Santee. We have been able to bring back the carpentry program and continue the Entrepreneurship program. Further, the college anticipates on being able to work within the President’s free community college initiative to be able to offer the first two years of course work at no charge to dedicated learners. This is an exciting time for the college and all of higher education.

The college faculty and staff are always willing to help with any issue that may arise. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the faculty or staff to answer any questions that you may have. I also want to take a brief moment to thank all of the students, alumni, faculty, staff, board members, the Omaha and the Santee Nations, and all of the college’s other supporters for everything that you have done to make NICC successful. Without all of you the college could not succeed.

I hope that you are enjoying the summer and plan to enroll at the college in the fall. I look forward to seeing all of you in my travels across our service region and beyond. Thank you for your time.

Micheal Oltrogge, President
Nebraska Indian Community College

Macy Campus

Santee Campus

South Sioux City Campus
On June 5th, 2015 approximately 40 General Assistance participants from Santee Sioux Nation Tribe arrived at 9:00 a.m. at the Santee Campus. The participants played a game of 2 truths and 1 lie in a get to “know me” game where the college staff and 5 brave volunteers shared personal information. There were many laughs. The group divided methodically into 3 groups and did a round robin of information sessions.

Cecilei Pappan, Director of Financial Aid hosted training on how to apply for financial aid, Doris Rohrer, Student Support Services at Santee Campus presented information on NICC Degrees and options for training to improve hiring skills, Nicole Parker, Recruiter, and Paul Fowler, Vocational Counselor did a presentation on resume writing and choosing a career path. GA Participants that had not complete there GED also received some specific information from Wanda Henke, they received their e, Director of Libraries. At the end the best part happened checks!

Doris presenting the degree programs to GA participants

GA Participants researching careers with Nicole and Paul.
Thanks to the great planning of David Frazier and Alvin Parker, SSC campus students can now purchase NICC t-shirts and hoodies in the requested red color.

Student “model” Mykal Grant selected one of the new red T-shirts, and it perfectly coordinated with his shorts, shoes and hat! Way to go Mykal and thanks for encouraging all to wear their NICC pride!!!
Nebraska Indian Community College was one of the sponsors for the Ultimate Warriorz Winners during the 2015 Santee Sioux Nation Pow Wow. Nine two-person teams completed in the contest. The obstacle course included riding a horse bareback, hitting a target with only three arrows, putting up a tepee, singing a song, and carrying 75 pounds.

First Place ($750 and star quilt) — Team Savages-Louis Swiftbird from Spirit Lake and Pearl Mousseau from Pine Ridge.

Second Place ($550) — Team Native Pride-Fred Ducheneau and Joylin Philbrick from Sisseton.

Third Place ($350) — Team Cante’ Skuya-Bill Wells and Tina Gonzales from Ft. Thompson.

Fourth Place (250) — Team Fast Arrow-Linda Rae Starlin and Milton Denney from Santee.

Fifth Place ($100) — Team John-Cecil Hoffman and Daniel John from Sioux City.
No fry bread! No soda! No junk food!
Alvin Parker wins NICC’s weight loss/wellness challenge!

“It had crossed my mind that I should start cutting down on my eating and then exercise. It was always just a thought and I never did anything. I never had a real motivation or reason until Wyatt’s challenge and the TV came along,” explained SSC’s AAR – Alvin Parker.

“I thought – that would look nice in my front room. I did not want the TV to make me do it – but the TV caught my eye and it became my motivation. I wanted this one!”

Regretting he did not take a “before picture” of his starting weight in February of 273 lbs., his “after picture” shows a 42-pound lighter father of five. “My wife thought it would be nice to have a before and after picture, but I only have the after. (Professor Woody has calculated that Alvin has lost a 15.4% of his original weight.)

What did Alvin do to win the challenge? “I cut out soda and drank strictly water. I cut down my portion sizes and my junk food became very limited. It was so hard daily and then when my children wanted drive-through Dairy Queen, French fries or chicken nuggets or pizza - just the smells were so hard to overcome. I would tell myself – if you eat it – you will be sorry.”

Adding to these temptations were numerous family dinners with soup and fry bread, Indian burgers and tacos. “I had to pass those up because I wanted to stick to my goal. Every time I thought about eating, I would picture the TV. It was so hard to do. Previous to the TV challenge, I would have eaten, but I knew I wanted the TV and I managed to pass all those foods by.”

When wellness challenge coordinator John Singer asked Alvin if he “had a new TV stand for a new TV” – Alvin wasn’t sure if it was the official notification that he had won the challenge. “I was so excited, I was just so excited. Really? I won? Thank you!” (And then Lisa Beans noted that shortly thereafter, Alvin was observed eating three pieces of wojapi from Wyatt’s Dakota Language Class Wopida Meal! (he)

While his children were at school, Alvin set up the 55 inch SMART TV in the front room. When they came home, they went right to it. “You guys weren’t very much help,” Alvin told them, “but this is why I lost weight. In life you are always coming across things that you want. If you want something bad enough, you will put the effort to get it. I always tell you to go to school, get good grades and BEHAVE!”

Alvin said: “I am always thankful that I am not a diabetic and have good health. I also what to thank President Oltrogge, Wyatt and John for presenting this challenge to me. I was rewarded with a nice TV at the end, but in the end, it gave me a better overall healthy life style. I have more energy now and I am not so tired. I have a better outlook on life. I feel a lot better. Thank you all!”

Submitted by Darla Karol.
Clip art in public domain.
NICC Represented at Area Parades

It was a busy week! Nebraska Indian Community College participated in four parades in six days. We loved it and it was FUN!

Saturday, July 11, we introduced our NICC mascot, the Buffalo, to the crowd at the Wayne Chicken Show Parade. He was a big hit, high-fiving the judges and running all over. Little kids loved him! Sunday, July 12, we attended the Walthill Rodeo Parade. As you can see, our mascot was loved.

We had students Mykai Grant and Marilyn Blackhawk help us out as well as Vanessa Hamilton’s husband, John Simmons. We took a break on Monday and Tuesday. Then on Wednesday, July 15, we participated in the River-Cade Parade along with the Omaha Tribe. Thursday, July 16, we walked along Dakota Avenue in the Dakota-Thurston County Fair Parade.

Our NICC parade crew were Paul Fowler (driver), Troy Munhofen (mascot) and his daughter Alexa, Nicole Parker and her daughters Brooklyn and Ashlynn, Vanessa Hamilton and her husband, John Simmons, Crystal Ross and her children Cassie, Adrian, and Jasper. Students who participated in the Dakota-Thurston County Parade were Sarah Zavala, Rose Buffalo Chief, and staff member Mike Berger.

NICC was also represented by our Powwow Princess Kyleigh Merrick at the River-Cade Parade as well as Omaha Tribe participants Holly Primeaux, Laura and Ted McCauley, Dustin Lovejoy, Varian Morris, Todd Stabler, Mitchell Sheridan, Fred White Bear, and Jackie Miller.

Our parades and powwows tour continues in August! Come join us!

Submitted by Vanessa Hamilton
Human Services Student Completes Internship

Marilyn Blackhawk at Sacred Child Program

When the American Indian College Fund (AICF) contacted Sarah Zavala during the spring semester, their request was for information to acknowledge NICC’s “mother-daughter duo” for an upcoming publication. Sara Zavala (daughter) was graduating from NICC in May, and Marilyn Blackhawk (mother) had several courses to complete during the summer session to officially complete her Associate in Human Services Degree. One of those courses was the Human Services Internship.

As Marilyn was busy exploring internship options for the summer session, the mother-daughter duo “did the walk” at NICC’s graduation - acknowledging their shared academic achievements.

Marilyn was then graciously accepted for internship at the transitioning and re-established Sacred Child Program on the Omaha Reservation.

Focusing on the indigenous approach that “everything is related” Marilyn’s learning plan was grounded in systems theory and included the following: learning the connectedness of federal grant funding processes specific to an agency’s existence; the interface of the agency within in the tribal community and other service systems (such as the tribal courts); and culturally specific practices offered to the youth through various programs.

Marilyn’s Supervisor at the Sacred Child Program, Dr. Mark Daniels, wrote: “Marilyn was a pleasure to have with us at the Sacred Child Program.”

Congratulations Marilyn! Many thanks to all the staff at the Sacred Child Program for providing this internship experience during their program’s transition.

To read the AICF article on the NICC mother-daughter duo visit: [http://www.collegefund.org/success_stories/detail/80/20](http://www.collegefund.org/success_stories/detail/80/20).

Submitted by Darla Korol

“One learns from books and example only that certain things can be done. Actual learning requires that you do those things.”
— Frank Herbert, Children of Dune
I couldn’t help but eavesdrop because I couldn’t believe what I was hearing in the hallway. Mike Berger was listening to an elder who had visited the SSC campus and was sharing how he had gone to Washington, D.C to perform with the Omaha Hethuska Society for the Library of Congress. I then recognized the elder from a photograph that I had placed on the cultural knowledge board at the Macy campus.

I politely interrupted and explained that I had taken his picture from the Library of Congress archives and had placed it on the “Our Music Returns” culture board at the Macy campus site. I then asked if he would approve the culture board.

As a Navy Veteran and elected Secretary of the Hethuska Society, Charles Lonewolf was one of the Omaha warriors who performed at the Library of Congress in 1985. Photographs and interviews of the event had been placed in the library’s national archives as it was the Society’s desire that future generations would have accessibility to their determined cultural preservation efforts.

The performance at the Neptune Plaza commemorated the return of the Omaha music that had been recorded on wax cylinders in the 1800’s then re-recorded and given to the Omaha Nation in 1983.

Mr. Charles Lonewolf approved of his picture on the culture board, “Our Songs Return” at NICC’s Macy Campus. This visit was just two months shy of his performance as Hethuska Society member 30 years ago at the Library of Congress on August 22, 1985. Submitted by Darla Korol

My name is Ranae John and I am a proud member of the Isanti Dakota Nation in Santee, Nebraska. I currently reside in Vermillion, SD. I graduated from Nebraska Indian Community College in May of 2012 with my Associates in General Liberal Arts.

After I graduated from NICC, I then enrolled at Wayne State College in August of 2012. With the development of the new College Center located in South Sioux City, NE, I was able to attend classes and work part time throughout my college experience. I graduated with my Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Psychology.

At this time I have made a major change in my life and decided to pursue my Masters Degree. I applied at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD and I moved there not knowing if I would be accepted yet, in hope I would be. A few weeks ago I was informed that I was granted Entry into the Graduate Program for Interdisciplinary Studies, a Master of Arts Degree and Concentration in Criminal Justice, Native American Studies, and Juvenile Delinquency.

My life has been a constant strive for success, reaching goals, and fulfilling my boys’ lives with education, love and hard work. It wasn’t easy getting to this point; I had many struggles and still do, but I know that everything I do, I do for them and for that it keeps me going. As parents we only want our children to be happy. I attended college for them, as my parents did for my siblings and I; they worked very hard for our family. Growing up watching them do that help pave the way for me to enhance their dreams of success and continue into my children’s lives.

I recently received an internship at the Santee Tribal Courts, located on the Santee Sioux Reservation. It will be my first time working with juveniles as a job, but I am hoping to help create a Juvenile Alternative Teen Court that can help deter juveniles from entering a more severe court system. The alternative court is an opportunity to engage in the court room setting and participate as actual court room representations for their fellow teens. My ultimate goal for the teens is to raise awareness of adjudication proceedings, laws, and punishable knowledge.

Everything that I am doing began with one goal, which was to make it to class everyday no matter if I had homework done or not I went. I then realized if I’m in class everyday there is no way I can fall behind. On top of that I loved my homework; it was interesting to me. That’s how I knew that I made the right choice! I was blessed with awesome employers who worked with my school schedule and amazing relatives as babysitters. I built a good support system by being the best person I could be. Be good to others and others will be good to you because everyone needs help, and I am thankful for it all.

During my time at NICC, I had the opportunity to meet a lot of great people that are no longer here today—Mrs. Maass. Her teachings are forever with me; she taught me the value of my mind and heart. The staff and faculty treated me with kindness and were always there to help me and encourage me that I can go further. NICC helped me began my dreams into education; I want to help make a difference in the indigenous impact and inspire someone, anyone, that if I can do it, you can do it as well! We all have a purpose in life, we all matter, and every single one of us can make a difference!