The students in the Introduction to Psychology Class at the Nebraska Indian Community College were successful in petitioning the authors of their text book for removal of misinformation about American Indian sweats. What the NICC students accomplished by their desire and effort to have that misinformation removed addressed the long and grievous tradition in the social science disciplines of writing about tribal cultural practices without first consulting with that tribe. Nine students and four Native American Studies faculty (Santee and Omaha) also signed the petition. The textbook used for the class is *Psychology: A Journey*, 5th edition by Dennis Coon and John O. Mitterer.

Darla Korol, instructor for the Psychology Class explains, “In reviewing textbooks for the introductory course, I wanted to select a psychology text that included cultural diversity content. When I reviewed the promotional information for ‘Psychology - A Journey’ - the text was noted as being widely used by students across the country for its diversity content. After receiving it, I read a ‘Consciousness and Culture’ box containing misinformation on the Sioux sweat lodge. I immediately apologized to the class. We then decided to petition the textbook authors to remove this misinformation.”

The petition was led by students who crafted the exact wording they wanted on their petition stating the information included in the “Consciousness and Culture” box: 1) “is an inaccurate description of our ceremony,” 2) that “non-tribal students reading this are learning a fictional understanding of the sweat” and 3) “it is disrespectful to our way of life.”

One of the textbook authors, Dr. John Mitterer, from Brock University in St. Catherine’s, Ontario, Canada immediately responded by thanking the students for their letter and accompanying petition. “In cases like this,” he wrote “when we have gotten something wrong, we strive to adjust our textbooks appropriately. I am sure we can do exactly that here was well.”

Dr. Mitterer asked for the opportunity to have continuing dialog to “help find a better way to be more respectful of tribal tradition that may be described in other parts of our books.” NICC Native American Studies faculty for the Omaha Nation, Ms. Wynema Morris will be continuing the dialog with Dr. Mitterer. Instructor Korol believes this is the first time that a student petition from a tribal college has been, positively received by the authors of one of their textbooks resulting in a culturally corrective action for American Indians.

“When you are actually interested in something you look further into it and not just believe the first thing you read about it. I think it was really a good outcome that he (the textbook author) understood why we wanted it taken out – because it wasn’t the truth.”

Mercedes Sandoval, Santee Sioux, Psychology student
Omaha Nation Public School warmed up on January 14 with games and activities. The students traveled around to different stations playing all kinds of games from a team work activity with NICC to a human size Candy Land game. After the game stations closed down the community enjoyed Indian Tacos, and there were drawings for board games and books that were given away to students. Community Night at ONPS is a lot of fun. We encourage our NICC parents to attend with their children to these events. Submitted by Dawne Price, NICC Dean of Students.

New Year’s Eve Sobriety Pow Wow

“Instead of welcoming in the year with alcohol, we want to do it in a much more spiritual way,” explained Jim Hallum, Nebraska Indian Community College extension director.

And so began the first New Year’s Eve Omaka Teca Wacipi Sobriety Pow Wow which was held at the Long Lines Family Recreation Center in Sioux City on December 31. Grand Entry began at 2 pm followed by ceremonial dances, special concerts, entertainment, and dinner. A second Grand Entry began at 7 pm.
My name is Paul Fowler and I am the new Vocational and Career Counselor. I am originally from Cleveland, Ohio. I received my Bachelors of Science in Social Work and an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Manchester University in North Manchester, Indiana. I have worked for the last twenty years in Children Services in Fort Myers, Florida and Cleveland, Ohio. I have held several positions in the agencies from frontline worker, facilitator, ongoing supervisor, adoption supervision and my last position was a supervisor in recruitment for children needing adopted. I look forward to returning to my home state and forming relationships with NICC students, staff, and faculty.

I am Doris Rohrer, AAR – Student Services for the Santee Campus. I was born in Martin, South Dakota and grew up in Rushville, Nebraska. I attended classes at Northeast Community College in Norfolk and received a Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in Social Work from the University of South Dakota. I have also taken Masters level classes on line through the University of Nebraska in Family Consumer Science – Financial Planning. I have participated in on-going training in Behavioral Science, issues in Aging and Disability rights and was an Alzheimer’s Trainer. I have thirty years of experience as a Social Worker in long term care and as a Service Coordinator and Advocate for individuals who experience disabilities. I live with my husband on our family farm near Verdigre, Nebraska. We are the parents of three grown children and have eight grandchildren. I am excited to be a part of life at NICC and am looking forward to the challenge of learning new things and meeting new people.
On February 11, 2015, Howard Valandra spoke on budgeting and financial planning to the students in Paul Fowler’s Success Strategies class at the Santee Campus. He talked about his personal path to financial success and the hurdles he had to overcome. Additionally, he talked about the barriers that people encounter when they have money or get their hands on lump sums of money and how they are not prepared to manage the money they get or have.

Students come away from this experience with a productive vision of their future and a 10-year quantitative and meaningful plan for realizing their goals. It helps provide the intrinsic motivation required to succeed in both post-secondary studies and in the workforce.

So budgeting and financial planning was discussed and how important it is to start planning early in your life. Valandra explained how if you start at a young age to save or invest that it will grow into a large amount of money to use later in life either for retirement or what he calls “play”.

Questions were answered from students and Valandra asked them what their goals were in life immediately and lifelong.

Howard Valandra is a great role model for the Native American community and for young people starting out that you can achieve whatever you put your mind to and have a plan to achieve their goals. Submitted by Paul Fowler, Success Strategies Instructor, NICC
Nebraska Indian Community College held its first High School Math Invitational on February 27, 2015. Students from Bancroft/Rosalie, Macy, Santee, Walthill, and Winnebago attended the event held at the Macy Campus. After the competition awards were presented to the following individuals: 1st - Suzanne Ras, 2nd - Aaron Ras, 3rd - Hannah Flock, 4th - Kylita Gomez, 5th - Cameron Freemont (all from Bancroft-Rosalie), and 6th - Michael Snake, Winnebago.

Team winners were Bancroft-Rosalie in 1st place and Santee in 2nd.

What Clips Together, Says Hello & Keeps 5th/6th graders Engaged!

The answer Robotics from Knox County Extension Office. Doris Rohrer and Ruth Vonderohe planned a day to “play” with the 5th and 6th graders at Santee Community Schools. Six functionary robots were built and programmed to go forward, turn, and even say words. There are a million pieces one 5th grader found out when a tray of parts was accidentally spilt. Every part has a function. Many students built parts of the machines and others recognized the small differences in the parts when they had to take pieces apart and rebuild but in the end they all ran. Doris said that her team proved that girls are just as mechanical as boys! This Extension activity shows students the stages of industry. Many potential careers are opening in industrial arts and IT and our youth need opportunities to show what they can do. Thank you to the Santee teachers and staff that helped NICC and Thurston County Extension have this fun day with the 5th and 6th graders! Submitted by Dawne Price
Learning from Our Past, not just about our past!

Students from the Omaha Tribal History and Oral History classes went on a field trip, Wednesday, April 1st. No, it wasn’t an April fool trick, but a real learning experience in the historical places where the Omaha Tribe underwent some of its most difficult and heartbreaking upheaval events. The students, left both the Macy and South Sioux City Campuses early and arrived at the same time at the gas station off Highway 77, near Homer, Nebraska. The first stop was to visit the grave sites of over 90 graves consisting mostly of children, with some adults. The grave site was where the Omahas buried those who had succumbed to small pox in 1801. While that is one grave site, there are others but they must remain undisturbed. During the period of 1930 – ’39, the University of Nebraska excavated the 90 graves the classes visited April 1st, for “scientific study”. The Omaha Tribe reclaimed the bones and some funerary objects in 1992 and reburied the 90 individuals in a place known only to the Tribe in order to avoid such possible future excavations.

From there, the classes stopped at the Nebraska State Historical plaques located on Highway 77. Here they read the roadside information regarding the Big Village site, which was the village where the Lewis & Clark expedition stopped to meet with the Tribe as they made their way going north on the Missouri River in August of 1804. They had two Omaha/French recruits, Pierre Cruzat and Francois LaBiche, whose fathers were in the fur trade on behalf of France at the time. When Lewis & Clark arrived at the Big Village, they found it completely deserted and reported that “the village was deserted due to being on their summer buffalo hunt.” Lewis & Clark could not have known this information and while no credit is given to either Cruzat or LaBiche, they were the only ones who could have given this information to these two men from the east, in charge of the Expedition. Yet, they are given no credit. The last stop was at a natural spring that was one of the water sources for the Omahas living at the Big Village. It is one of the numerous such natural springs, bringing fresh, pure water that the Tribe relied on daily. The spring is now piped in and still flows pure and fresh. After drinking their fill, students filled their water bottles and other containers of to take home and share with their families.

Thank you, NICC for providing us with such a great day of learning! We learned from our past, rather than learning about our past. We ended our field trip with a great lunch at the Winnebago Casino Star. Thank you, Jackie Hahn, for driving the vehicle and students from Macy Campus and thank you, Troy Munhofen for making sure there was a vehicle for the students from the South Sioux City Campus. Another such field trip is scheduled for Monday, April 13th to certain historical sites on the Omaha Reservation at Macy!! Submitted by Wynema Morris.
NICC Attends the Winter AIHEC Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Nebraska Indian Community College attended the Winter American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) meeting in Washington, DC from February 9-13, 2015. During the Winter Meeting, those representing the tribal colleges met with state senators and representatives to lobby for current legislation that will support Native American education and tribal colleges. Those attending from NICC were Mike Oltrogge, President; Mary Johnson, Director of Development; and four students, Sarah Zavala, Rose Buffalo Chief, Falon Torrez, and Siqoyia Hoving. The NICC group met with staffers from both senators’ offices as well as the three representatives’ offices. Senator Deb Fischer was present for the meeting and the students had the opportunity to meet Sen. Sasse and Rep. Fortenberry after the meetings. They were in hearings and unable to sit in on NICC’s meeting with the staffers. During the meetings, the group lobbied for support for current legislation that will continue to fund tribal colleges and assist other programs for the colleges. The students also had the opportunity to talk about their experiences as tribal college students and the importance of this type of educational opportunity for Native Americans. Also, during the week-meeting, those present were able to attend presentations by representatives from the Department of Education, who spoke on important changes coming that may affect all colleges and universities and had the opportunity to ask questions on how these could impact tribal colleges specifically. Other speakers included those from the Bureau of Indian Education and other AIHEC staff. The AIHEC Student Congress (ASC) also met during the week for their quarterly meeting. NICC has two students who sit on the ASC: Sarah Zavala, Historian; and Falon Torrez, Midwest Representative. Submitted by Mary Johnson, Director of Development, NICC.

Santee High School Chemistry Demonstrations

NICC Chemistry student, David Henry, Lab TA Ashley Corbett, Lab Coordinator Bev DeVore-Wedding, and UNL Chemistry Professor, Dr. Mark Griep, visited Santee High School March 17 to highlight the chemistry course, CHM 201 and CHM 202. The five demonstrations showcased reaction rates, electrical conductivity, and the last one included the high school students’ assistance with an analysis the vitamin C content in popular drinks and juices. This outreach was funded and is a part of the Framing the Chemistry Curriculum NSF Grant. For more information go to http://www.thenicc.edu/index.php/en/nicc-news-updates-2/126-bottom-slider-news/557-chemistry
Wopida Meal

“The Dakota Language is a Beautiful Language that is already in us.” – Dabian Spotted Wood

Taste bud popping smells were coming from the SSC kitchen as Wyatt Thomas’s Dakota Language I Class students prepared a “Wopida Meal” for the campus on May 4th. Lisa Beans, whose office is directly across from the kitchen said: “It just smells so good I CAN’T STAND IT!”

Students, Adrianna Hoffman, Siqoyia Hoving and Dabian Spotted Wood (who were also given cooking assistance by LaDonna Carillo) prepared two soups (homyin beef and chicken noodle), Indian Dogs, wojapi (sprinkled with bananas, whip cream and nuts), fry bread and lemonade.

The meal was offered by the Dakota Language 1 students to give thanks for what they learned in Wyatt’s class. “This class is helping us and we wanted to give back because we received the teachings,” explained Dabian Spotted Wood. “It felt really good to cook the meal and see that everyone in the building was happy. It was good medicine.”

Now that she has completed Dakota Language I, Dabian plans on taking the Dakota Language 2 class. “I did not know that NICC had Dakota Languages classes so when I saw that these classes were held I immediately signed up.” She had also shared her excitement with others about taking the classes at NICC, inspiring them to want to learn the Dakota language also.

“The Dakota language is a beautiful language that is already in us. Wyatt is helping to bring it out because he is a really good teacher. He talks a lot about the culture and shows us what our ancestors went through to keep our language alive and how important it is to still speak it. To know my language truly, I have to know what my ancestors went through. I have come to understand what they went through in Wyatt’s class.”

Wyatt said a prayer over the meal in the Dakota Language and then all who ate it were truly blessed. Darla - who thought the fry bread was to “die for” ate not one, not two, but three pieces. Lisa said: “I ate so much I won’t need to eat until tomorrow. I was grateful for the Wopida meal and proud of our students.” Paul Fowler ate wojapi for the first time and thought the meal was “delicious.” Dean Torgeson reported that he “snuck a piece of fry bread” and Alvin Parker – who has been relentless in winning the weight loss challenge - confessed he had not one, not two, but three servings of the wojapi!

Wopida Wyatt for traveling to SSC every week for the Lakota Language I class and for enabling the students to bless us with a “good medicine” meal!!!!!!
AIHEC 2015

This year NICC sent 11 students to compete and network with other TCU (Tribal Colleges Universities) in Albuquerque New Mexico. The students were supported and coached by NICC staff, Garan Coons, Paul Fowler, Lisa Beans and Wyatt Thomas plus board members. At 5:30 in the morning of March 13th many of the students and coaches loaded a recently purchased 48 passenger tour bus that proudly displayed “Nebraska Indian Community College” on the side accompanied by the NICC logo.

Arriving the next day in Albuquerque the students checked into a nice hotel “Double Tree” and prepared for the opening event at AIHEC 2015, The T-shirt Exchange and Poetry Slam. Sarah Zavala served as coordinator for the opening event as part of her duties as AIHEC National Congress. NICC students, Siqoyia Hoving and Rose Buffalo Chief took the brave plunge and entered the poetry slam. They both did a wonderful job and Rose made it to the 2nd round but didn’t have another poem prepared so had to forfeit. NICC coach Lisa Beans served as a poetry slam judge as well.

Day two started off with a parade of flags of all tribal colleges. It is a site to see with all of the 38 tribal colleges coming into the ballroom area with all of their students, coaches, staff and respected school flags.

All of the NICC coaches and students were present and also brought in the Omaha Tribal flag and Santee Sioux Nation tribal flag.

After the general session the students were off on a sprint to get to their competitions. The volleyball team did extremely well and won their round robin tournament play. Chris Ross, Ashley Coons, Mercedes Sandoval, Adrianna Hoffman, Rose Buffalo Chief, Scotty Clancy, and Falon Torrez worked together to win their matches which put them into the overall tournament play. NICC was seeded 4th and played a 12th seeded team from Oklahoma unfortunately due to scheduling conflicts NICC wasn’t able to pull off the win. The team that won 4th place, NICC beat 4 matches to 1. Overall NICC did a great job representing at the volleyball tournament and the students had a great time. During the volleyball play NICC was scheduled to play in the hand game tournament as well so NICC had to forfeit match 1. Day one was a sure sprint because for hand game match two the volleyball team had to travel 15 miles to get back to the convention center and literally run into the hand game tournament to play. The hand game match started off great with Sarah Zavala as captain, Wyatt Thomas was coach as well as NICC hand game singer. All of the students played but couldn’t guess this one gentleman with a cowboy hat and eventually NICC was beat.

Day three was an action packed day with a pow-wow, speeches, and campaigning for AIHEC national congress. Falon Torrez wanted to try for AIHEC National Congress Vice President and Adrianna Hoffman wanted to run for AIHEC National Congress Mid-west Representative. Ashley Coons competed in the AIHEC film festival and her documentary titled: The Omaha Blue Ribbon, which was about diabetes on the Omaha

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Reservation was receiving rave reviews. The NICC archery team packed into a small sporting goods store with an archery shooting range. Scotty, Siquoyia, Mercedes, Marilyn, Falon, Sarah and Rose all shot 10 times from the 20 yards out. Some of the team had to leave early to get back to another competition but overall NICC did great in the archery. That evening Coach Wyatt Thomas gave a pep talk to NICC and took them out to dinner at the best BBQ joint in the south. It was much needed after all of the events, travel, and competitions.

Day four was more of a networking day as well as elections for AIHEC student congress. In the afternoon all of the candidates had to address the AIHEC conference in a large theater and give their candidate speeches. Adrianna Hoffman spoke to all those in attendances about why she wanted to be the mid-west rep. and told those in the audience that she would be able voice her opinion and that she was taught a lot from her cousin and mentor Danielle John who is a NICC alumni. Falon spoke about how her father gave her inspiration to become a leader and advocate for those that need it. Her father even went to Washington DC to advocate for Native American Rights. She said that she wanted to become AIHEC national congress vice president because she gained experience as last year’s mid-west rep and gained lots of knowledge while on trips to Washington DC and other places. Falon and Adrianna did an excellent job and through their hard work, campaigning, and speeches they were rewarded and elected to the National Student Congress for AIHEC 20.

Later that evening was the awards banquet. NICC students were dressed to impress and supported all of the winners. They took pictures and celebrated with a band from SIPI that played reggae style music. The ride home was pretty quiet as many members thought about the AIHEC conference. Nebraska Indian Community College was a presence at this year’s AIHEC conference and from the feedback from students they are looking forward to 2016. Submitted by Garan Coons, NICC Instructor
My name is Alison Saunsoci. I live in Walthill, NE. I am an enrolled member of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa. I am the Omaha Language Documentation Specialist. My office is located at the Macy site in the Omaha Language Center of Excellence. I am a former student at N.I.C.C. I graduated in 1996 with an Associates of Science Degree in General Science, the Student of the Year and Head Lady Dancer for that year’s Graduation Powwow. I continued on my education at a steady pace with the intention of keeping my Umoⁿhoⁿ heritage alive as well as to spend as much time in college and at the side of my ailing father. I chose to remain as close to home as possible. There is no greater love than that of a child’s love for a parent. I am so happy to tell you that N.I.C.C. is a great starting point. Not only am I alumni but my mother and four other siblings are former graduates as well. So for us it’s a family tradition to be N.I.C.C. student. This college is a good place to take classes and to spend time with friends and making new friends. What you learn here is as valuable as what you can share with anyone else. I went on to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where I earned my B.S. in Education in 2014. Although it took me many years to reach that monument in my life, I can proudly admit that it is worth every hour spent, to show my degree that I earned. In the end my overall GPA was a 2.8 for me that can something to be proud of because with the struggle to get to class, do my homework and pass. I earned that 2.8 that is my GPA and I know how hard I worked for all my grades. There will be fails but that doesn’t mean you can’t keep trying. We all have that one subject that makes one feel frustration. One just can’t give up. Just so you know you do need a class grade to be at least a C+ to transfer. Most colleges will accept a D. I intend to strive for more by earning a master’s degree and a doctorates’ degree. That has been my childhood dream to have those degrees and I already know that these experiences are worth every hour. Always earn what you deserve because no one can take away that triumph when you succeed.
Fry bread dough that is. On the first day of spring (Wetu) Jim Hallum graced the Nebraska Indian Community College South Sioux City campus with a culinary demonstration for students Rose Buffalo Chief and Siqoyia Hoving on how to make FB (fry bread) stuffed with meat and cheese.

Jim’s Stuffed Fry Bread (aguyapi) with Cheese and Meat (tado) Recipe (makes about 6 – depending on size.)

Ingredients: 2 cups self-rising flour, 1 tsp. baking powder, 1 tablespoon salt use less if you prefer, vegetable shortening (preferably lard), meat (tado) and cheese (preferably thick sliced commodity) of your choice.

Mix dry ingredients of flour, baking powder, and salt thoroughly. Add enough warm water until the dough is a little bit sticky and workable. Add small amounts of flour to the outside to make it workable. Knead dough approximately five times or more. Let the dough rise about 20 minutes while preparing meat (tado).

Stuffing: One slice of cheese of your choice. Commodity cheese is the best because of the thickness and slicing ability. Make one meat patty to fit palm of hand (approximately 4 inches, more or less) or size of your choice.

Pull handful of dough and make a ball (about tennis ball size) in palm of hand. Then flatten dough but do not make too flat. Make sure fry bread is larger than the meat patty. Put meat patty on the dough with cheese slice on top. Seal the dough by pulling all four corners over the top of cheese and pat with palm to seal dough.

Place patty cheese side down in bubbly shortening until it becomes golden brown., Then turn to meat side and fry until olden brown.

Remove and drain on paper towels.

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For the past 40 years, the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) has been and remains dedicated to planting the seeds of knowledge through unique and cultural relevant educational experiences. Our aim is to provide you with a quality learning experience and to equip you with the skills and knowledge that you will need in the profession of your choice. These experiences are geared toward all Umonhon (Omaha), Isanti (Santee Dakota), and other learners attending classes at one of our three campuses. NICC is open to all who are willing to enhance and improve their lives.

NICC is accredited by the Higher Learning commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
Travel started early Friday morning for me. Mr. Garan Coons picked me up at my home at 6:00 am. We then traveled to the South Sioux City campus. When we arrived I was surprised to see a charter bus with the NICC logo on it. My excitement for the trip instantly grew. We did get off to a late start, but I was proud to travel “in style”. We traveled to Liberal, KS, where we spent the night. We had a little bad luck while there. The locking mechanism on the bus broke and we had to call a locksmith. It did get fixed and we had a great dinner together. We stayed in a Rodeway hotel. Glad it was only for the night, cause my room was a little dirty and the sink didn’t work. The next morning, we left early for Albuquerque. It was a nice ride with nice scenery, once we made it to New Mexico. We arrived around 1-1:30 pm. We were able to check-in and then we were off to lunch. After lunch, I chose to rest for the evening activities.

The first night of AIHEC kicked off with a T-shirt exchange, Pueblo throw, Apache dancers, and a Poetry Jam. The T-shirt exchange was a great way to introduce ourselves to the other college students. The Pueblo throw was their way of a giveaway. The Sipi students stood on the stage and literally threw gifts down to the other students. The gifts included mostly snack foods, but they threw the baskets as well. The Apache dancers did an exhibition. It was the first time I had seen Apache dancers, the same could be said for the Poetry Jam. It was good to see students from different schools share their poetry with us. NICC had two students enter the Poetry Jam, Rose and Siqoyia. Rose made it to the second round. The first night was a great introduction to AIHEC.

Sunday morning kicked off with the Parade of Flags. I was proud to represent my tribe and carry our Omaha Tribal Flag. This was followed by the Opening Ceremonies, where there were many speakers. Next we were off to our events. I was in the volleyball competition, which was about 10 miles away at Sipi college, with Scotty, Rose, Falon, Mercedes, Adrianna, and Ashley. We won our first two games in pool play. I had to get back to the conference, so I could attend the AICF Student of the Year and Coca-Cola Scholarship Banquet. I was honored to receive the Coca-Cola Scholarship and be recognized at the banquet. The scheduling could have been better. I was unable to play in the next volleyball game, because it was scheduled during the banquet, also after the banquet I had to go the hand games right after I changed. The rest of the volleyball team arrived just in time, so we did not have to forfeit the hand game. I was signed up for the Science Bowl too, but they only took the first 18 teams to sign up and we were 19th. The hand games are different from home. The energy is like nothing I’ve experienced and I played high school sports (football and basketball).

Continued on next page
The second day, I was happy to support the archery team. I was surprised to see the girls be so interested in archery. The first day was individual and the second day the girls won their first match. They were competitive but lost their second match to the eventual champions. Sarah also made it to the finals in Speech. I did my best to support the other students in their competitions, but the schedule made it difficult at times. Due to the scheduling, we forfeited at Knowledge Bowl and hand game. This was the largest group NICC has sent to AIHEC and we still needed more students to prevent these forfeits. We were competitive, but did not place in any events. I feel more students would help NICC be even more competitive at AIHEC.

On the third and last day, I was done competing and enjoyed the day. We went to Old Town for lunch and souvenir shopping. We then went back to change for the Awards Banquet. The Awards Banquet was nice. We were able to sit together. We did not place in any events, but NICC was still represented at the Awards Banquet. Falon, and Adrianna were recognized for being voted into AIHEC Student Congress. Sarah was also recognized for being on last year's ASC. It was great to hear our college be called upon in front of all the other schools. The banquet was a great way to end AIHEC. The next morning we left Albuquerque at 6 am to return home. The trip home was good.

Every morning there were General Sessions. There were great keynote speakers at the sessions. They shared their experiences and gave us advice on how to succeed in our own lives. I've been in awe of the speakers and the students from all the different colleges speak in their native languages. Makes me disappointed that I am not fluent in my languages (Omaha and Lakota). I now look at it as a new challenge to learn more about my culture and language.

It was a great experience and I am thankful for the opportunity to represent the Omaha Tribe and NICC. I am also thankful for the new friendships with my fellow NICC students. It is definitely different meeting them in person versus seeing them on the VTC. I graduate in May with Associates in General Liberal Arts and Business Administration. While here, I learned that NICC will be one of the host colleges for next year's conference in Minnesota. I had such a good experience that I am thinking about doing one more year at NICC, so that I can represent our college/tribe again. Some of the younger students have called me a mentor, that makes me feel good to be recognized by the other students in that way. I am thankful for the support of my tribe and the NICC.

Submitted by Christopher Ross, NICC Student
Awarded Food Sovereignty Grant

Nebraska Indian Community College was awarded the Food Sovereignty grant from AIHEC this year to do a project involving students staying active this summer by learning about solar pales for the South Sioux City campus’s greenhouse and engaging in a project of canning to encourage everyone to stay fit all year around even after the summer season has ended.

First, the solar pale project is to update South Sioux City’s greenhouse so that people can use the greenhouse this summer. The greenhouse is located far in back of South Sioux City campus parking lot where it was put up last summer by volunteers. The greenhouse is located too far for a cable to power it. Therefore, solar power will be used which is similar to how photosynthesis works in a plant cell. Students will learn how solar power works.

Second, the canning project will teach and embrace anyone who chooses to stay active this summer by doing a canning workshop along with lessons about saving seeds for next year’s garden. The students will learn how to can vegetables they grow at home or in the garden. Canning will help preserve vegetables so people can be proud of the hard work they put into a garden and reap the benefits all year around.

The two projects will provide new knowledge about gardening, preserving food, staying active throughout the summer, and making healthier eating decisions.

The project is looking for volunteers and helpers along the way until October.

Further information on these two project this summer contact Rose Buffalo Chief.

Submitted by Rose Buffalo Chief, NICC student.

NICC had a table set up at the Job Fair held by WPS on April 9th. All the current positions open at NICC including the tutor positions had flyers to be handed out to local community members. The April "snow" kept the numbers attending low. But NICC had Paul Fowler and Cecilei Pappan on hand to answer questions and help the community navigate the items available at the NICC table.
On Friday April, 17 some NICC members of this year’s NASA Fellowship Program traveled to Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln to present their research project on Climate Change and Historical Weather Data Comparisons to the Nebraska Academy of Science. Though not all of the members could make it, Rose Buffalo Chief, Sarah Zavala from our South Sioux campus, and Christina Coffman from our Santee campus represented not only the fellowship members’ well, but also all of NICC! (Breanna Bicklerstaff and Adrianna Hoffman were unable to attend). We presented at 9:00 am in the morning and sat in on several other science presentations. We then had dinner with the other colleges that are involved with the NASA, Nebraska Space Grant consortium.

In the afternoon, after a long day, starting at 3am for some of us, the group went to Morrill Hall where we saw several amazing exhibits ranging from anthropology to zoology. There was even a First Peoples of the Plains exhibit with both Santee and Omaha tribal flags on display. All members of this year’s NASA Fellowship would like to thank everyone who helped make this year’s program and research a success!

Submitted by Christina Coffman, NICC Student