Inside this issue:

Student Senate 1
Campus Halloween 2
25th Annual Red Road 2
New NICC Employees 3
Thank you Veterans 3
History Connection 4
NICC 35th Anniversary 5

Nebraska College Application Week and Research in Indian Country 6
Visiting Haskell Indian Nations University 7
Employee Update 8
Viewing documentary Alumna Update
Santa Visit 10

Congratulations

Rose Buffalo Chief – SSC
Christina Coffman – Santee
Will Simmons – Macy
Shyvonne Tyndall – Macy
Bianca White – Santee
Sarah Zavala – SSC

Alternates are:
Adrianna Hoffman – SSC
Crystal Ross – Macy
ENGAGING IN HALLOWEEN SPIRIT AT NICC

EEEK! SCARY! SPOOKY! Students and faculty at all three NICC campuses, South Sioux, Macy, and Santee, celebrated Halloween by decorating doors and dressing in costumes. South Sioux City Campus door winners were: Adriana Buffalo Chief, Sarah Zavala, and Miwa son. Crystal Ross, Shyvonne Tyndall, and Will Simmons were door winners at Macy. Decorating door winners at Santee Campus were: Mari James, Bianca White, and Miranda Sheridan. Macy Campus costume winners were Don Torgerson, LaDonna Carillo, Marilyn, Shelly Bausch, and Justin Kocian. Chrystal Coffman was the costume winner in Santee.

Attending 25th Annual Red Road Gathering

On September 18th and 19th NICC students, staff and faculty attended the free 25th Annual Red Road Gathering titled: “Calling Your Spirit Back and Releasing from Your Center” hosted by the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Attending this year’s conference were students: Marilyn Blackhawk (SSC); Ariana Johnson (SSC); Christina Parker (Macy) and Crystal Ross (Macy). Staff and faculty attendees were Vanessa Hamilton, Lisa Beans and Darla Korol. Taking youth from the Sacred Child Program in Macy student Christina Parker stated that for the young men who attended with her, “the conference presenters provided healthy role modeling and hope.” New GLA faculty member, Lisa Beans, found attending this conference was an opportunity to learn about cultural approaches to overcoming historical grief and trauma. Student Marilyn Blackhawk who had made the request for this year’s student participation at the conference, attended both days and was present during the Red Road Approach Teaching by co-creator Rick Thomas. Mr. Gene Thin Elk co-creator of the Red Road Gathering was happy to take a picture for NICC as long as he could wear his hat! For Darla Korol, personally meeting Mr. Gene Thin Elk was an honor as she had incorporated his teaching materials in courses at other TCU’s. Submitted by Darla Karol
My name is Lisa Beans and I am the new General Liberal Arts Faculty member. I am originally from Arnold, Nebraska. I received my Bachelors of Art from Nebraska Wesleyan University and my Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from West Virginia University. While on a Fulbright Scholarship, I taught literature and creative writing to university students in Krakow, Poland. Before teaching at NICC, I taught at Louisiana State University. My specialties are creative writing and I regularly publish poems, as well as special interests in teaching composition and literature. I look forward to returning to my home state and forming relationships with NICC students, staff, and faculty.

My Name is Darla Karol. I am the new Human Services Faculty member. In the Ukrainian language, my last name “Korol” means “king.” My father’s father came from the Valley of the Wolf in the Carpathian Mountain region of Europe. The Ukrainians were an oppressed people and I was taught to respect all peoples who experience oppression. I was taken to visit my first Indian Reservation when I was a child by my father.

As the first in my family to college, I earned a bachelor degree in Sociology (Slippery Rock University) and then master degree in Social Work (University of Pittsburgh.) I have taught human services to tribal students from the Seneca Nation of Indians, and at two tribal colleges - Oglala Lakota College (OLC) and at the College of Menominee Nation (CMN).

I love to travel and since my first childhood visit with my father, I have visited over hundred American Indian Reservations, Colonies or Jurisdictions. I am grateful for being given this opportunity to serve the students at The Nebraska Indian Community College.

Wíbthaho ! Pidamaya ye !

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Announcing new NICC employees

Meet the Instructors

Veterans Day

Thanks to the NICC employees and students who have served in the military!

Jim Hallum        Wyatt Thomas
Clement Mackey      Hank Miller
Leland Henke        Jennifer Ramirez
Carlos Venable-Ridley
When Human Services NICC student Ariana Johnson and I began our journey together in the Developmental Psychology class, neither of us imagined Ariana’s historical connection to the Lost Bird of Wounded Knee.

When Dr. Charles Eastman (Santee) went on horseback to see if there were any survivors from the Wounded Knee massacre and brutal blizzard that immediately followed, he heard the faint cry of an infant. One of four infants to survive had lain beneath her mother’s dead body for almost four days.

This infant was subsequently taken under false pretenses by Brig. Gen Leonard W. Colby as a “war trophy.” She was raised away from her Lakota culture by his suffragist wife, Clara, in Nebraska and then in Washington, D.C. When she was taken, she was given the Lakota name - Zintka Nuni - the “Lost Bird” by an elder Lakota woman. Lost Birds are still known as the American Indian children who have been removed and taken from their cultures prior to the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act. Zintka died at age 29 on Valentine’s Day in 1920 and was buried in California. Her story was discovered by a South Dakota caseworker, Renee Sansom Flood, who researched Lost Bird’s life for five years. In 1995, the book: “Lost Bird of Wounded Knee: Spirit of the Lakota” was published and is credited for advancing the movement of returning current Lost Birds home to their tribes. While the book was being written, the Wounded Knee Survivor’s Association repatriated Zintka’s body from California to the cemetery at Wounded Knee.

Since the publication of that book, I have used it as a text while teaching tribal and non tribal students about Lost Birds and the federal policy of removing Indian children from their cultures through the Indian Adoption Projects. I was excited to bring this assignment to NICC’s Developmental Psychology Course and so very pleased that Ariana was eager to engage in the assignment.

In previous classes, I organized a field trip to the Wounded Knee Massacre site to visit to Lost Bird’s grave. I am not sure if that can happen this semester but the discovery of Ariana’s historical connection to Zintka - brings me closer to Zintka.

The stories of the numerous historical figures who visited Zintka in Washington D.C. are well documented in Samson’s book and shortly after mid-term Ariana was reading Chapter 7. This chapter is titled: “Kicking Bear’s Prayer” and while reading it, Ariana learned that a Lakota delegation had gone to Washington D.C. and then attended a reception in the Colby home. (Kicking Bird prayed over Zintka during this visit.) With that delegation was Santee Dakota interpreter Reverend James W. Garvie. He saw Zintka and later told his family that when he first saw her “she threw herself into his arms.”

“I read his name and I thought – I know him” Ariana said. She checked her family genealogy where she located that Reverend Garvie was her great, great, grandfather. Ariana then shared this amazing historical connection with me. It is the first time that I have a student engaged in a Lost Bird assignment whose ancestor had actually held Zintka in their arms.

I am in awe of this historical connection and it has made the Lost Bird assignment much more meaningful for Ariana. Submitted by Darla Korol.

Nebraska Indian Community College celebrated their 35th Anniversary with dinner and Pow-wow on Saturday, November 22, at the Mini Dome in South Sioux City, Nebraska. The place was alive with dancers, singers, drums, food, and spectators. Garan Coons emceed the event with William St. Cyr, Arena Director, Casey Saul, Head Man Dancer, and Vanessa Hamilton, Head Lady Dancer. Singers were Whitetail Boyz, Maza Kute, Making New Tracks, South Elite, Big Thunder, and Native Tunes. The Whistle Man was Waylon LaPlante. Speakers included Roger Trudell, Michael Oltrogge, and Margrette Cortez. First Roger Trudell, Santee Sioux Nation Chairman, spoke about the importance of supporting Nebraska Indian Community College and our children getting an education. Then President Micheal Oltrogge talked about how special it is to have this anniversary of 35 years and the college is still going strong. He also said NICC is looking forward to working with others. Lastly Marguerite Cortez, Alumnus, talked about the trials and tribulations of going to school but encouraged current students and potential students to enroll. Education is important. Dinner was served. Grand Entry for the Pow-Wow started at 7 pm. The eagle staff carriers were Perry Little and Chief Black Spotted Horse, Shelby Webster, Veteran, carried the American Flag. Dancing continued the rest of the evening along with good conversations with old and new acquaintances.
EducationQuest Foundation is the state lead for the American Council on Education’s American College Application Campaign was November 17-21. Six high schools were recruited to pilot the program this year:

- Bryan High School, Omaha
- Chadron High School
- Lexington High School
- North Star High School, Lincoln
- Santee Community School
- Southern High School, Wymore

Nebraska Indian Community College assisted the Santee Community School seniors in applying to at least one college on November 18. The campaign goal is to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students who pursue a college degree.

NicC will be joining with 23 other Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU’s) by inviting its student body to participate in the first comprehensive alcohol/drug assessment research survey being conducted by the University of Washington: Alcohol, Drug & Mental health Epidemiology Study (ADMHES).

The current research data on college student alcohol/drug and mental health problems is not specific to American Indians/Alaska Natives. This research project is a first step towards developing culturally appropriate and sustainable interventions for students and community struggling with drugs and alcohol. The project began in March of 2013 and will end in February of 2016.

On October 23, 2014, Dawne Price and assessment coordinator Shelly Bausch, participated in the instructional webinar provided by the University of Washington. An opt out form was sent to all NICC students on October 14, 2014 with deadline for response by October 24, 2014.

All students will receive the survey and NICC wants to encourage all students to take time to complete the form. There will be online resources for help or you can ask an advisor if you have a question about the language. Know that University of Washington is going to great lengths to keep your answers COMPLETELY anonymous so please answer the survey honestly. This honest collection of data will help gather the most accurate information and will result in the best ways to serve Indian Country.

Completing the survey will make you eligible for a $40 gift card to Walmart. This is a great resource for you the student and a chance to make history.

Many thanks to President Oltrogge supporting research that is truly influenced by NICC students! Submitted by Darla Korol, Instructor
On November 5, sixteen students and two instructors (Garan Coons and myself, Shelly Bausch) traveled to Lawrence, KS to do a campus visit and tour at Haskell Indian Nations University. Students met at the South Sioux City campus Wednesday morning and left as a group of students from three different campuses, some who had never met each other. We traveled in three different vehicles and all had 6 hours of travel time to tell stories and get acquainted with those in our vehicles. There were deep conversations about spirituality, science, past personal experiences, current undertakings at NICC, future plans and visions, and many, many more topics.

We arrived at Haskell around 3:30 pm and began the tour. Haskell is a fairly large campus and many of us were taken back by how beautiful and inviting it was. The fall colors and vibrancy may have added to the atmosphere, creating symbolism and connection to the nature of change in seasons, as well as the potential changes in the lives of some students who may choose to attend Haskell in the future to work toward various degrees. The Haskell tour guides were very helpful and insightful in taking us around campus and showcasing some of their educational buildings and resources. We also got to see some of the different living arrangements and dormitory housing available. Some of NICC Student Senate members were able to sit in on a Haskell Student Senate meeting about AIHEC, which is something NICC students have shown integrity and passion about in past years. As a group we had the opportunity to get to listen to personal experiences of current Haskell students from various parts of the United States including: Oregon, Alaska, New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma. These Haskell students discussed reasons why they chose to attend Haskell. The common theme seemed to be exposure to other Native Cultures, which helped them make stronger connections and feel a deeper pride toward their own cultures and communities. Haskell students also talked about taking classes at Haskell that you probably wouldn’t be able to experience anywhere else. Some examples were culturally specific courses and courses specialized toward reservation businesses, such as Casinos and Gaming and Casino Hotel Hospitality. Submitted by Shelly Bausch, NICC Instructor
One of our NICC family, Troy Munhofen (Ihankthunwan Dakota), was featured in the Fall 2014 Tribal College Journal of American Indian Higher Education. “After many years working as a waiter, bartender, and clerk, Troy enrolled at Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) and earned two associate’s degrees, Associate of Arts in Natural Resources and in Business Administration in 2010. A top student there, he was selected to receive a NASA Space Grant and a Coca-Cola First General Scholarship. He then went on to earn his bachelor’s degree while also working full time at NICC as a student services advisor. He is now working on his master’s degree from the University of South Dakota.” Troy has currently taken the position of Registrar at NICC.

Several Students from all three NICC campuses, South Sioux City, Macy, and Santee, attended a reception at the Ho-Chunk Centre Atrium and then viewed the documentary Sober Indian Dangerous Indian at the Orpheum Theater in Sioux City on Tuesday, November 25th. The documentary is a story of empowerment through sobriety. It tells the story of four Ogalala-Lakota men on the Pine Ridge Reservation who are struggling to keep their sobriety during the vote to repeal the ban on alcohol in August 2013. The film explores the harmful effects of alcohol abuse on tribal reservations including high rates of fetal alcohol syndrome, cirrhosis, teen suicide, and high-risk behavior.

My name is Gwen Vargas Porter. I am a member of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. I am the oldest of 9 children; and mother/parent of 9 children. Born, raised and continue to reside on the Omaha Indian Reservation. I obtained my GED in 1999. I graduated from NICC in 2003 with an AA in Integrated Office Technologies. I graduated from Bellevue University in 2005 with a BS in Health and Human Services Administration. I applied and was accepted in to the Briar Cliff University Social Work Program-Siouxland Indian Child Welfare Traineeship Program in 2009; graduated in 2011 with Bachelor's in Social Work. Immediately following my graduation from Briar Cliff, I applied for Graduate School at the University of Iowa and was accepted. Soon following that I was also accepted...
During my senior internship I learned that only two Native American families had completed the requirements for becoming foster parents in the Sioux City area. Recognizing that Native children are disproportionately represented in foster care I was concerned about the possible lack of resources for these children. I mobilized other concerned Native and non-Native child welfare advocates and established the Native American Foster Home Initiative (NAFHI). I continue these efforts today and contributed to Siouxland’s successful application for the 2013 Diligent Recruitment grants, awarded to only seven programs in the United States. Due to early and ongoing efforts, Siouxland was in the position to apply for and receive the two million dollar award, which is funding the Native Families for Native Children Project for the next five years.

I will be starting Graduate school classes January 2015 part time with the University of Iowa for the Masters of Social Work. My focus is in Community Organization with the emphasis of Child Welfare and Substance Abuse. NICC supported and empowered me to take the next steps of professional development by applying, participating and completing Higher Education. They helped me grow personally and professionally. With the support of NICC they gave me the confidence to become my dreams……TO GROW, MAKE CHOICES, TAKE CHANCES!

My hope for others is to look at NICC as an opportunity at your front door. Self-discipline, goal setting and consistency are the keys to your success. If you are willing and able to follow your dreams.......DO IT!

Awi’tha’wagithe
Visiting Santa Claus at NICC
Keeping Warm During the Winter Months

NICC Hoodies, T-shirts, stocking caps, and coats would make a great gift for keeping someone you love nice and warm during the winter months.

Hooded Sweatshirts $19 each
Full Zip Sweatshirts $23 each
(design on back)
Add $3.00 for 2X-5X

T-Shirts SM-XL $10
T-Shirts 3X-5X $12

Stocking Caps $8

Coats $62, XXL $65, 3XL $66
4x for $67.

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.