



December 2016

6

**Jim Hallum** 

# Nebraska Indian Community College Newsletter

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# Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> Woman Trying to Preserve Language

ACCREDITED HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION Verify Status Here 19 OCT 2016



Glenda Slater, member of the Omaha Tribe, was featured in the September/October 2016 Best of Omaha Magazine.

According to the article, Glenda's goal is to keep the Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> language alive and well. There are not many fluent speakers left that can teach the language.

Currently Glenda teaches the language at the University of Nebraska at the Omaha Community Engagement Center. In the Omaha Magazine article Glenda tells her students "to keep their handouts and everything they acquire, for they may be called upon in the future to pass on the language."

Glenda also helped with Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> language instruction at the Nebraska Indian Community College and at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha.

To read more about Glenda visit:

http://omahamagazine.com/201 6/08/glenna-slater/



The Nebraska Indian Community College provides higher education and lifelong educational opportunities for the Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup>, (Omaha), Isanti (Santee Dakota) and other learners.

# **Archery Finals**



Quality not quantity. That is the theme for the archery classes this semester. We recently completed a

class on the Santee campus. We are starting another class for the Macy and South Sioux Campuses on Oct 21st. While in the class you will be taught the techniques used by USA Archery guidelines and learn safety in using the Bows and Arrows. We will do a lot of shooting to improve the skills needed to shooting a bow. We also will make a trip to Yankton Archery Complex which is the largest complex in the United States; they have hosted world class competi-

tions. At the complex there are several types of styles of archery for the indoor range depending on what is going on at the complex. There are five different courses in the outside ranges: 3D animal platforms, roving course with 3D animals and targets along with the field targets. So sign up for the spring semester archery class and have fun learning about archery.



NICC Newsletter

# **NICC NASA Fellowship Students**

NICC's NASA Research Fellowship students, sponsored by the Nebraska Space Grant, are busy researching how soil ph is affected by changing weather. Students are gathering weekly soil sample from plots around their respective communities measuring soil temperature and ph. Samples are brought to NICC science labs, soil is dried, and ph readings are taken. Once more data is collected. Students will do statistical analysis correlating weather temperature and precipitation with soil ph. This research

has the potential to influence how we prepare soils for gardening, as well as, strategies to ensure water quality.

Students are halfway through their research cycle and will present their findings at the Nebraska Academy of Science in Lincoln this spring.











Volume 2 Issue 2

# Spotlight on

# Pre-Chemistry Class 098



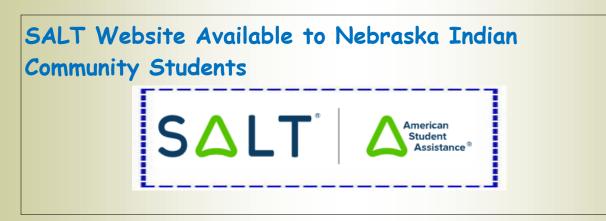




Under the direction of **Bev Devorre Wedding** (Pre-chemistry Instructor), and with the help of Teaching Assistants Qudsia Hussaini, Lavonne Snake and Alexis Redowl, students have been busy learning about chemistry and how it relates to their local communities. The purpose of this class is to prepare NICC students for the CHM 110/111 class this spring.

Through the semester students have been working on chemistry education and a variety of chemistry projects. One of the projects was to create posters about a specific element. Chemistry students Cornelia Widow, Jodi Ferguson, Shelly Kosola, and Lilia Torrez presented their posters to the class explaining what their element was, where it can be found, and how the element is used. They are currently working on their final chemical reaction project where

each student will demonstrate a specific reaction and explain it. Everyone is welcome to attend. The chemical reactions the students chose should prove to be exciting.



# What is SALT?

SALT is a free educational program that helps every student who wants a college degree to get it in a financially responsible way.

SALT features articles, videos, and lessons on topics like internships, incomes, careers, employment, taxes, identify theft, budgeting, saving, finding scholarships, retiring, and making smart decisions about student loans.

Another feature is the SALT Loan Tools which allows tracking your borrowing over time. How do your student loans, car payments, and credit cards impact your finances? You can also learn how to reduce or eliminate your debt.

Other tools available encompass repayment navigator, savings calculator, salary estimator, car loan calculator, and net worth calculator.

Finally, if you have questions about loans or repayment options you can live chat with SALT's student loan experts or use the just ask SALT feature.

**79%** of users say Salt made them more confident in their ability to gain money knowledge.

Salt is brought to you by American Student Assistance®

# HECK THIS OUT!

# www.saltmoney.org/thenicc

(Ctrl/Left Click on Mouse)

#### Page 6

# Colleges, Colleges, Colleges



Colleges, colleges, colleges. There has been a steady stream of colleges on campuses this semester. They are here to expose the students, staff and community people on campus to four year colleges that are around. They are also here to recruit students to their colleges after they are finished with NICC.

Here is the list of colleges that have come to campuses or plan to come: Mount Marty College, University of South Dakota, Morningside College, Briar Cliff University, Midland University, Northwestern College, Dordt College, Wayne State College, Dakota Wesleyan University and University of Nebraska Lincoln.

The notification are posted on campuses as what days the colleges will be on campus. You can also see them on the events calendar in your outlook calendar. They will be posted on social media too.

We are planning on having a college fair in the spring sometime in April with the colleges listed and others that want to attend. We will open the college fair to the surrounding high schools so students can come to see what each college has to offer.

# If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail.

-Benjamin Franklin

# What's your next step after community college?



# Pumpkin Give Away

**Pumpkin Patch** 

Shapely to coarse green stem, sitting alone; wanting to grin. Patiently waiting for the take, wanting Halloween to begin.

A few more weeks left to grow inviting; nestled in straw. Children soon make their choice, with little eyes in awe.

Fields abundant in orange hue, serenading a season of rest. Large or small or fat or thin, any grab with be the best. Cold winds blow just enough to take its nipping bite. Scarves and hoods snuggly warm, fending autumn with wraps pulled tight.

Little arms try to carry the most perfect pumpkin around. The patch now shrinks very thin remnants of a once lush ground. EMERGENCY EXIT

START

# Pumpkin Give Away Continued

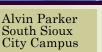
Pumpkins

Pumpkins, pumpkins in a patch As far as I can see Pumpkins, pumpkins in a patch Look, that one's bigger than me!

I need a pumpkin nice and round So I can carve a face And when I've found the perfect one I'll bring it back to my place I'll make a nice big pumpkin smile That'll light the night with cheer My small little pumpkin from the patch This colorful time of year

Author: Sharon Froese





R







Marcia Robertson Macy Campus



Terri Grant Santee Campus



# Where Do I Begin?

A good place to start your NICC college career is visiting with Student Services. Each Student Services staff person will assist you with the following:

- Admission applica-٠ tion
- Declaration of major ٠
- Accuplacer assess-٠ ment
- FAFSA
- Full Circle Scholarship
- **TCU** Scholarship ٠
- **Higher Education** ٠ Scholarship
- **Advisor Referral** ٠
- **Registration for clas-**٠ ses
- Class withdrawal ٠
- Class schedule ٠ change
- Academic appeals ٠
- NICC Email address ٠

# NICC Employee Update



Hello, my name is Terri Grant. I am the daughter of Brenda Wabasha and Rick Grant Sr. I am Santee Sioux and Omaha and an enrolled member of Santee Sioux Nation. I'm a mother of eight and a happy grandma of four and one on the way.

I am the new Student Support Service worker for the Santee Campus.

I graduated from NICC with an AA in Human Services. While working on my AA degree, we as a family experienced many difficulties, but I managed to hold on two jobs, school, my kids and began to raise my grandkids. It was quite a challenge! I love to encourage others to keep pushing. Nothing is impossible! My name is Carlton LeCount and I am the Financial Aid Administrator at the Nebraska Indian Community College.

I graduated with my Master of Arts Degree in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona in Tucson in May of 2009.

Since then I have worked in the Omaha Tribal community in various capacities.

I am an Omaha Tribal member and belong to the Thatada Turtle Clan.

I spent my formative years in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Greetings NICC family, my name is Crystal Ross. I am a member of the Omaha Tribe and NICC Alumni. I have earned two Associate Degrees from NICC, in 2003-Early Childhood Education and in 2016-Human Services.

I am the mother of three children. My oldest child, Kassie, joined the ranks of Blujay Alumni. She graduated from Walthill Public School in May 2016. She is currently a student at the University of South Dakota. My boys, Adrian and Jasper, attend school at Walthill as well.

I am currently on staff working part-time Student Services worker. I enjoy working and continuing to be a part of NICC.

I also work part-time at

#### Volume 2 Issue 2

# **NICC Employee Update Continued**

the Boys and Girls Home and Family Services Inc. in Sioux City. I have been employed there for 3 years.

I plan on attending Wayne State College to complete my Bachelor's Degree. The pursuit of education and helping others are lessons I continue to strive for and value. I am currently on the Omaha Tribe Head Start Parent Policy Council as a Community Representative. I have experience as a Head Start teacher, working with adolescents and teenagers in a behavioral treatment setting and now assisting college students. I feel blessed and look forward to working with NICC students and staff.

# MATC Training Mid-American Transportation Center Scholars Program



October 26-28<sup>th</sup>, Adam Kemp and I attended 2016 Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) Scholars Program at UNL.

The program allowed us to hear from Native American scholars about their educational journey to achieve their doctorates and gave us the opportunity to network with other students starting graduate programs.

Continued on page 15



#### Volume 2 Issue 2

# Halloween Door Winners



Jody Ferguson, Shelley Kosola, and Cornelia Widow Santee Campus First Place



Christine Bickerstaff Santee Campus Second Place



Raylene Rave Santee Campus Third Place

M



Suzi French Macy Campus First Place

M



Adam Kemp Macy Campus Third Place





Clark Dale Jr. and his wife Chanelle Saunsoci, Tyrus and Mia Macy Campus Second Place



Marikza Hahn South Sioux Campus First Place



Shirlena Saul South Sioux Campus First Place

#### Nebraska Indian Community College

mains 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.

For the past 40 years, the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) has been and re-

Macy (S.Campus) Santee (W.Campus) 1111 Hwy 75 415 North River Rd.

 Macy, NE 68039
 Niobrara, NE 68760

 402-494-2311
 402-494-2311

So.Sioux City (N.Campus) 2605 1/2 Dakota Ave. So.Sioux City, NE 68776 402-494-2311

The Right Direction



We're on the web! www.thenicc.edu

### **Programs Offered**

Associate of Arts-Business Administration or Business Administration with Entrepreneurship

*focus* Designed for students who plan to continue their studies in a business oriented area such as administration, marketing, accounting, management, finance. Students select from one of two tracks, either Business Administration or Entrepreneurship Concentrations. This program offers a variety

**Childhood Education** Designed to provide students with knowledge of pre-school children. Courses leading to this emphasis is designed to prepare the students for work in childcare and various governmental agencies. This program is also designed to provide sufficient general education courses to promote transfer into a four-year degree programs for education.

Associate of Arts-Early



of business courses that permit students to select a business major at a fouryear-college of their choice or to learn skills that will allow them to establish their own business.

#### Associate of Arts-Human Services

Designed to provide students with knowledge and applications of the human services field. With a focus on applications in Native communities, this program prepares the students for work in

Associate of Arts-

General Liberal Arts

Designed to provide

students with a learning

oral communications,

sciences, and the

humanities. While

the A.A. degree in

General Liberal Arts

personal growth and

offers opportunities for

career advancement, it

is primarily designed to

their qualifying credit

hours to a four-year

allow students to transfer

college. The A.A. degree

in General Liberal Arts is

for students interested in

such as literature, history,

social sciences including

fields in the humanities

art, music and in the

foundation in written and

the social and behavioral

various human services and counseling careers or further study toward a four-year degree.

#### Associate of Arts-

Native American Studies Designed to provide students with a foundation in Native American issues and concerns with a special emphasis on Isanti (Dakota) and Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> (Omaha) cultures, as well as increasing knowledge base about the reservations and tribal governance. NAS majors select from one of two

political science, sociology, education and legal studies.

#### Associate of Applied

Science - Carpentry Designed to provide students with knowledge and skills needed for employment as a carpenter. Students will study residential and commercial construction. All phases will be explored and applied on a job site or in the lab. Related coursework includes blueprint reading, math, construction costs, cost and material, and small business operations. Graduates of the carpentry program may be employed in general carpentry work, commercial carpentry

areas of concentration: History and Traditional Culture or Contemporary Tribal Leadership.

#### Associate of Science-

General Science Studies Designed to provide students with foundational knowledge of science with an emphasis in Natural Resources/Environmental Studies, Plant Science, Human Health Science, Math, Chemistry, or Physics. This will allow students to transfer their work to a four-year college.

fields, or specialize in one particular area such as a

#### NURSE AIDE

finish carpenter.

Designed to provide students with a stateapproved certification that meets the Nebraska Health and Human Services System requirements for nurse aid certification and employment in long-term care facilities. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the state written and practical skills exam.

Nebraska Indian Community College

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# **MATC Training Continued from page 11**

We learned steps to follow when transferring colleges, scholarship opportunities, internships, and strategies to achieve in school.

We also took a tour of the UNL engineering college facilities, as well as Memorial Stadium/ Husker Heritage. This was very motivation and inspiring. Submitted by Crystal Ross





### **Visit Campus Libraries**



# What will I find when I visit NICC Campus Libraries?

- ⇒ You will find a friendly librarian who will assist your quest for information.
- ⇒ You will find a spot to spend a quiet afternoon reading newspapers or magazines.

- $\Rightarrow \text{ You will find computers to} \\ \text{use to keep in touch with} \\ \text{relatives on Face Book.}$
- ⇒ You will find books on every imaginable topic for children, teenagers, and adults. You can check out books for free.
- $\Rightarrow$  You will find genealogy resources.
- $\Rightarrow$  You will find free Wi-Fi.
- ⇒ You will find children playing games, reading, coloring, or other activities
- $\Rightarrow$  You will find a place to do your homework.

- ⇒ You will find someone to exchange information, news, or ideas.
- $\Rightarrow$  You will find a safe space.



**Current NICC Student** 

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# North American Indian Communities Rising Forevermore



Hello everyone, thank you for taking the time to read along. My name is Adam Kemp. As a proud member of the **Omaha** Tribe of Nebraska, I grew up on the Northern part of our reservation. I completed my elementary and high school education at Walthill Public School in Walthill, NE. Throughout my senior year I had little to no knowledge about what college to attend after high school. As I was in the process of researching various colleges, an idea came to mind.

I decided to visit several

colleges in hopes of gaining a better feel on which to attend, as well as finding the right field to major in. This opportunity didn't arrive till after I had received my high school diploma. I had a personal tour of the I.A.I.A. of Santa Fe NM, and Coconino Community College of Flagstaff AZ.

As I tried to establish myself I decided it would be of my best interest to come back to Nebraska to follow my mother's footsteps on completing an associates degree here at Nebraska Indian Community College. Then move towards the next requirements for my academic major. As of January19, I have been a proud student of Nebraska Indian Community College.

I am currently majoring in Liberal Arts. The classes I am attending this semester are college algebra, health education and wellness, English composition, along with anthropology. I plan on using these Liberal Arts courses towards improving the North American Indian Communities with high unemployment rates. I plan to attain the knowledge and education to advise community members on poverty, environmental pollutants and unemployment on reservations. In conclusion. I would be honored in helping better the American Indian communities of North America in any positive way.

Once more, I thank you for taking the time to read what I plan to achieve.

and teaches Umonhon

afternoon.

language to the college

students at NICC in the

# NICC New Employee

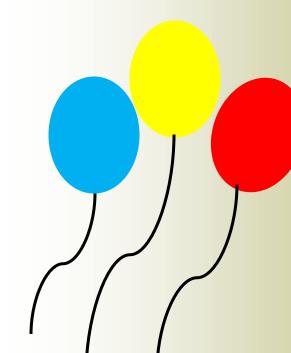
Grandma Winona Caramony is the Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> language instructor. She herself is a graduate of NICC and was also an employee of NICC at the old Macy Campus location up the hill before rejoining the college again this fall. with her husband who was in the military before coming back to the reservation after he retired. She has five children and a lot of grandchildren and great grandchildren but doesn't know how many.

She spent twenty-two years moving around She presently works with the HeadStart program in the mornings

HARPY BIRTHDAY HA-WA-TAY

HAPPY \*

Winona (Hawatay) Caramony 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday September 16, 2016



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# NICC Students Visit Wayne State College



On October 19th, students from the Student Success Strategies (SSS -100) course from two campuses had the opportunity to visit Wayne State College to learn more about transferring to a four-year institution upon graduating from NICC.

After going on a campus tour and eating lunch at the campus cafeteria, the Admissions Counselor spoke to us about the opportunities available to WSC students. These opportunities include (but are not limited to): over 90 different programs of study, scholarships for tribal college graduates, multicultural affairs, intramural sports, student senate, and other clubs and organizations.

Participating students from South Sioux Campus: Shirlena Saul, Gerry Dobbs Garcia, Anthony Sharpfish, and Aleesha Barthelemy.

Participating students from Macy Campus: Priscila Parker, Jeremy Hardenbrook, and Derrick Grant.

Also in attendance: Nicole Parker (Recruitment and Retention Specialist), Paul Fowler (Vocational and Career Counselor/ SSS 100 Instructor) and Kristine Sudbeck (SSS



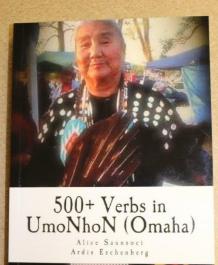
structor)

100 In-

For more information, please view the following website (<u>https://</u><u>www.wsc.edu/site/</u>) and speak with your advisor about your interest in transferring after graduation.



# NICC Faculty Member Publishes Book 500+ Verbs in Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> (Omaha)



Afdis Eschenberg

A new publication is in print for learning and preserving the UmoNhoN language. Alice MoNshinhoNthiN Saunsoci, fluent elder and language instructor at NICC for numerous years, in collaboration with linguist Ardis **TioNgthehe** Eschenberg a former NICC employee have produced a new teaching aid for the **UmoNhoN** language. The book entitled 500+ Verbs in UmoNhoN (Omaha) Doing Things in UmoNhoN-Way recently went to press and is now available through amazon.com.

Alice and Ardis completed work on the book in the fall of 2015 shortly before the unfortunate passing of Alice a few weeks later. The two had collaborated on language instruction and preservation for 16 years researching and preparing for this publication. The book documents the meaning and conjugations of over 500 different verbs in the UmoNhoN (Omaha) language. The major verb patterns and a basic overview of sentence structure are also discussed.

The project to produce the book was funded by the National Science Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities grant program Documenting Endangered Languages, award number BCS-1360869, "Discovering Omaha Linguistic Structure through the Documentation of Fluent Elders' Voices." Alice's work to teach and preserve the UmoNhoN (Omaha) language will continue with this publication, benefiting language learners for decades to come. The book will be available at the NICC libraries in mid-December 2016.

#### https://

www.amazon.com/500-Verbs-UmoNhoN-Omaha-things/ dp/1519281773/ ref=sr\_1\_1? s=books&ie=UTF8&qid= 1480617243&sr=1-1&keywords=500% 2B+verbs+in

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# NICC Staff Attend Higher Learning Commission Persistence Academy



NICC staff recently attended the Persistence Academy Workshop that was hosted by the **Higher Learning Com**mission in Chicago from Nov. 9-11. NICC applied to the Academy and was accepted and this was the first session the college attended. The Academy extends over four years and its purpose is to assist institutions that are hoping to build institutional capacity for the improvement of persistence and completion. The Academy provides guidance to institutions on how they can better improve methods for defining, tracking, and analyzing data on student success. Additionally, they assist in establishing clear goals and strategies for improving persistence for student populations. Lastly, the Academy introduces institutions to new techniques for researching and comparing emerging methods of evaluation and improvement.

NICC started the Academy in August of this year and is in the early stages of this process. The first year of the program will involve identifying and better understanding the student population at NICC and establishing draft plans and methods to increase retention and persistence of these students. Those who attended the Academy include: Dawne Price, Dean of Student Services; Mary Johnson, Academic Dean: Carlton LeCount. Financial Aid Director: Troy Muhofen, Registrar; Nicole Parker, Recruitment and Retention Specialist: and Paul Fowler Career and Vocational Counselor.

# Santa Visits NICC Campus During The Week of December 5.



# Native Youth Standing Strong

My name is Will Meier and I am one of the volunteers at Native Youth Standing Strong in Sioux City, Iowa. Native Youth Standing Strong (NYSS) is a nonprofit youth group that meets weekly in Sioux City. Over the years NYSS has partner with NICC on several activities. Jim Hallum, Jackie Hahn, Pierre Merritt and many alumni have been instrumental in the partnering relationship between NICC and NYSS. On Halloween of this year NYSS and NICC once again partnered to create a special night for the youth in our community.

Due to Jackie Hahn and Jim Hallum's efforts we were able to give out one pumpkin to each of the youth that attended the program. We have over 100 people in attendance. We had a nice snack that night and then we then painted the pumpkins and had a pumpkin painting contest where several cash prizes were handed out.

The night was a huge success with many smiles all around. I want to thank NICC and the staff for the great partnership. We at NYSS look forward to our continuing partnership with NICC and making our community a better place for all.

This Program is funded in part by a Nebraska Indian Community College Tribal College Grant, Project New Dawn, supported by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under grant Award No. 2014-47002-22149.



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My older brother was the first person in our family to attend college. We were all very proud of his accomplishments. Due to his example, I had always known that I wanted to attend college although I wasn't exactly sure of what I wanted go into. After graduation from Santee **Community** School in 1997, I decided to stay in the community and attend college working on my general education classes. I would encourage anyone to start out with your generals if you're not sure what you want go into. This

way your credits are building and can be transferred when you do decide. I started at Nebraska Indian Community College the very next fall and finished a full year of college before heading out to workforce.

I moved around for several years, started a family, and worked many different jobs. In Texas I worked for Labor Ready and worked some pretty awful jobs. In Wisconsin and later back in Nebraska I worked for several packing houses. Working at a packing house is pretty tough work. I was proud of the fact that I worked hard for my children but the hard work made it so I was extremely tired when I got home in the evenings. It was because of this and with the encouragement of my husband that we returned to Santee in 2003 so that I could return to college at NICC.

I worked very hard and even took 21 credit hours my 2<sup>nd</sup> semester to graduate that year. I received my Associate of Science from Nebraska Indian Community College in May of 2004. The great thing about NICC was that it was close to home and I had a lot of support. I got the assistance I needed to be a successful student.

By the time I graduated I had decided that I wanted to be a teacher. I took advantage of the tuition waver to Wayne State College and started the next fall. Driving to Wayne several days a week was very difficult because I had three little boys at home and still worked a part time job. Although it was tough I never missed class and I finished my semester with straight A's.

I was excited to learn about the Indigenous

Continued on page 24

# Alumni Continued from Page 23

**Root Teacher Education** Program through the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. The Indigenous Roots Teacher Education Program worked great for me. I was able to gain college credit through UNL by taking distance classes at the high school, classes at NICC, Wayne State, and a few week-long summer classes at UNL. The program completely paid for my credit hours, books, fees, tutoring, and even provided a stipend. I also worked part time at Santee Community School as a para during my education. It was nice to be able to work with students every day.

After three long years, another little boy (my college baby), and a lot of hard work, I graduated from UNL with honors. I had a 3.9 GPA. It wasn't easy. I wasn't just naturally smart. It took a lot of time and dedication. I spent many late nights up after my children were

sleeping to complete my homework. I didn't miss class. I completed all my assignments on time, even when it was hard. It was a struggle managing my family, work, and my education. The sacrifice my family made for my education was well worth it. I was able to get a job teaching right after graduation. I made more my first year of teaching then I had in my life. I was able to provide health insurance for my family and provide them with financial security.

Being a teacher I knew that I need to be a lifelong learner. I have continued learn by going to workshops and taking classes. In 2010 I started a Master's Program through Wayne State College and graduated with a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction in 2012.

I encourage everyone to further their education. Being a student is tough and we often feel pulled between family, work, and being a student. It is important to remember that to be a successful student you have to be very dedicated. Your education can't take a back seat to anything and it won't last forever, just remember that. Sacrifices now will make all the difference later in life.

Nepthys Justo



# Entrepreneurship Student Reflections on the Cleveland Indian Mascot

1.) Indian Americans were here first and some do see it as disrespect by using their face as a mascot and some don't even realize and don't see the disrespect. I had read an article and it makes a lot of sense to just remove the image completely. But I want to hold a meeting of some sort to hear more stories on how it is disrespectful and then let the people of Cleveland vote on if it should be removed or not. 2.) I could also find some different images, places, things, or animals that people think of when they think of Cleveland and see what the team thinks, and they can vote on what they would like since they are the ones who must wear it and hear the most complaints.

#### Mercedes Sandoval NICC Student



I remember when the Indian mascot controversy started and I remember not having much a feeling towards it. I grew up on the reservation and was always proud to be Indian. I never knew the word Indian was offensive by some people until I got older. I always knew who Indians were and embraced my culture. Everyone always has said to me because I am lighter than most Indians that I have never had to deal with the stereo types of being Indian and maybe I haven't. I attended the Winnebago Public school from Kindergarten to eighth grade and our mascot was the Indians. I never realized how much it mattered until I got older. I remember there was always a big controversy between them and the Ponca Indians during basketball games due to name calling and

Opinion matters

NICC Newsletter

making fun of their Indian mascot. Now that I am older I feel like we should be recognized as a people of a beautiful culture not a mascot to be dressed up as. It seems as if all America sees Native Americans as something to make fun of and joke about. They don't take us serious as a people who survived the Europeans trying to kill our ancestors off or even breed us out. I liked the point the author made about America watching a baseball game and dressing up as Wahoo but can't realize how important the fight against the oil pipeline is. Some people don't realize Native Americans still exist besides old cartoons and mascots.

Aleisa Labelle NICC Student

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