

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2018
Volume 4, Issue 1

ABOUT NICC

For the past 46 years, the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) has been and remains dedicated to planting the seeds of knowledge through unique and culturally 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.



Have you
listened to
NICC's radio
station?

Programming provided locally in Santee, Nebraska on 88.9 FM and worldwide through the web. Current programs include Native Voice One, environmental news, tribal and local news, Dakota Language, public service announcements, and music including pow wow singing, country, rock, blues, classic, and other programs.

The first live radio broadcast started in July 2012 for the purpose of expanding our public value throughout the Santee/Niobrara area. This program is funded in part by a Tribal College Grant supported by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of

Macy Campus



Santee Campus



South Sioux City Campus



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NICC's Radio Station (Continued)



Agriculture, under grant Award No. 2014-47002-22149, "Project New Dawne: Anpao Teca & Onba Konge 2014-2018". Nebraska Indian Community College is the grantee administering these funds for local Tribal College Extension activities. The radio station equipment was funded through DOE Title III Strengthening and Development Grant P031T60003. Development sup-

port from the Nebraska Broadband project, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and technical assistance from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Education Media Department

Contact us by phone 402-857-2355 or by e-mail kzyk@thenicc.edu

<http://www.thenicc.edu/index.php/en/kzyk/radio>

LISTEN LIVE!

**CONTROL
LEFT CLICK**

"The last day of MATC Scholars Program was very interesting as well as entertaining." Kassie S. Phillips.

Encouraging Native American Students into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math... Kassie S. Phillips



Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) Scholars Program, an annual educational conference, is to encourage Native American students into STEM fields to transition from attending two-year tribal and community colleges to four-year degree-granting universities. The program provides targeted seminars to improve the performance, recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in STEM and transportation-related fields.

The MATC Scholars Program has a very engaging agenda consisting of presenters specializing in Engineering, UNL recruiters, and graduates and current students attending UNL. The presentations are directed towards a future when obtaining an Engineering degree. The conversations discussed throughout the presentations are not only educational but also, extremely motivational and give great, valuable advice for any interest of study a person may have. Students will gain knowledge and interests in particular fields that they may not have been interested in before coming to the MATC Scholars Program.

MATC Scholars Program Continued

In the opening Welcome Reception, students are able to meet UNL professors and UNL alumni, as well as others. Following the meal, there was a panel discussion on expanding your future using education. This panel is informational but also helps students get comfortable with their setting and asking questions.

The full day agenda for the MATC Scholars Program is made up of introductions and presentations from specialist in Engineering, Chemistry, Indigenous Research, Recruitment, MATC and, University of Nebraska Inter-Tribal Exchange (UNITE) students. These presentations and panels discuss Native American student experiences and why choosing a 4-year degree program is right for you, Native American journeys with Indigenous communities, concerns involving transferring credits to a university, funding your success and scholarship opportunities, different paths in educational journeys and getting involved with college life, groups and programs. All topics discussed are very important and critical in obtaining success for your educational career. Each presenter involved were very easy to converse with, were always open to any questions or concerns we may have had and very open about their struggles and their journey to obtain the success they have now in becoming an educated Native American.

The last day of the MATC Scholars Program was very interesting as well as entertaining. After breakfast, we discussed strategies for success at a 4-year institute and involving yourself with Native student groups with Marisa Miakonda Cummings (Director, Native Student Services USD) and Moises Padilla (Assistant Director, Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services -OASIS; UNITE Advisor UNL). We also took a University of Nebraska-Lincoln tour of the campus and Memorial Stadium. At the closing lunch, we got to enjoy the company and motivational words of Dr. Robert “Bob” Wilhelm (Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, UNL) and Ronnie D. Green (20th Chancellor of UNL, chief executive of the state's flagship, land-grant university). We then broke off into our focus groups to discuss what we had learned from the MATC Scholars Program and what we enjoyed most about the program. Our Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) students had a lot of positive things to say about the program.

Our NICC students enjoyed and appreciated every bit of the Mid-America Transportation Scholars Program. This program was very educational, motivational and extremely helpful in furthering our goals as educated indigenous people. This was a great opportunity

MATC Education and Diversity Coordinator Gabriel Bruguier led the group in a hands-on tower building competition.



Dr. Bob Wilhelm, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, addressed the group during the closing luncheon.



Encouraging Native American Students into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Continued

full of significant academic information. It helped students understand more about the options with an Engineering degree and students are thinking about furthering their education in an engineering degree and would not have known their interests in this particular field if it had not been for this program. This program helped encourage me in furthering my education at a 4-year institute and furthering my college career in a graduates program. Every topic discussed was valuable information that I could apply to my educational and personal struggles. This program helped me understand that as a young Native American,

I can succeed in whichever path I choose and that with my education my goals can be obtained. The MATC Scholars Program is great and I would recommend this program to many students.

Scholars program presenters include: Dr. Laurence R. Rilett, P.E., a professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and serves as the director of the UNL MATC; Dr. Christopher Cornelius, a professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and received his master's degree and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering

Encouraging Native American Students (Continued)

from Virginia Tech.; Mr. Gabriel Bruguier, the Educational and Outreach Coordinator for the MATC; Dr. Aaron Thomas, has his B.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University and the University of Florida and works closely with Native undergraduate and graduate students; Ms. Judi Gaiashkibos, Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs (NCIA) since 1995 and worked with government and private sector to provide opportunities for Nebraska Native Americans; Mr. Kevin Abourezk, an award-winning journalist who spent 18 years as a reporter and editor for the Lincoln Journal Star and the winner of the Associated Press's Best Enterprise Story Award in 2006 and the Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism from the Casey Journalism Center on Children and Families; Ms. Marisa Miakonda Cummings, an Umó'ho"/ Omaha woman that holds her B.A. in American Studies and a Minor in American Indian/ Native Studies from the University of Iowa and pursuing her master's in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota Duluth; Dr. Colette Yellow Robe, an educator with a position that specializes in the education of college students from first-generation, low-income backgrounds and/or disabilities with the Student Support Services Program at UNL and teaches ALEC 102 course for the department, which is Interpersonal Skills in Leadership.

Judi Gaiashkibos, Executive Director of the NE Commission on Indian Affairs, provided the keynote speech for the formal dinner.



The 2018 participants had the opportunity to tour Memorial Stadium on the last day.

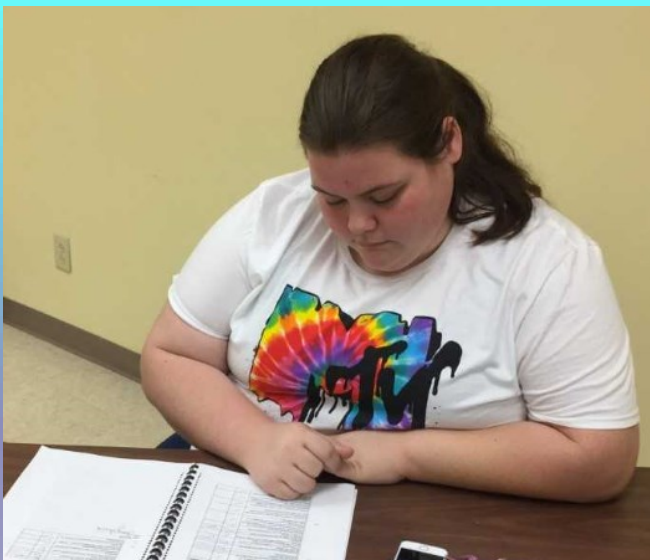
NICC Receives State Accreditation to Offer Certified Nursing Assistant classes...Paul Fowler

NICC is pleased to announce that we have received our State Accreditation to offer CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) classes at all three campus sites.

The CNA course offers training for the non-licensed student to provide effective, safe and caring services to residents, patients and clients in a variety of health settings. This course meets the training requirements of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (OBRA) and the State of Nebraska Guidelines for Certified Nurse Aides. Successful completion of the program prepares the student to perform the duties of a Certified Nursing Assistant.

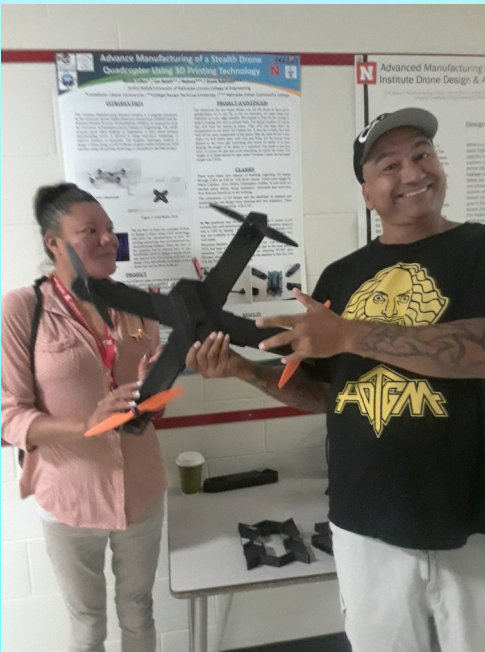
All courses are taught by licensed RN professionals who have long-term care experience as well as teaching experience. Students meet for 80 contact hours and lessons are designated as lecture or lab. This means reviewing the material for course (lecture) and time dedicated to learning and practicing clinical skills (lab).

Upon successful completion of the written and clinical exams, students are eligible to receive their state certificates and be placed on the state registry.



“Overall, it was outstanding! I got to experience college student dorm life. I would recommend everyone to attend the summer internship,” Grace Robinson and Rodney Gilpin.

Using innovation technology to improve products or processes...Kassie S. Phillips



Grace Robinson and Rodney Gilpin
Drone Poster Presentation

The Advanced Manufacturing Summer Institute is a program sponsored by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), in conjunction with the University of Nebraska - Lincoln College of Engineering. The AMSI program gave our Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) students the opportunity to learn about ad-

vanced manufacturing which is defined as using innovation technology to improve products or processes. The program challenged our students to design a drone using a CAD software program called Solidworks 2018 and then using 3D printing technology to manufacture the final product (picture left).

There were many new aspects of building regarding 3D design through CAD, as well as, soft skills classes which were taught by Marie Capitan, Amy Moser, and Christopher Griffen. The classes consisted of group ethics, being unbiased, introverts and extroverts how both are beneficial in the working.

NICC students, Grace Robinson and Rodney Gilpin, participated in this years summer internship. Our students say, “Overall, it was outstanding! I got to experience college stu-

dent dorm life.” and “I would recommend everyone to attend the summer internship!” Our students gained knowledge about making drones, building them from start to finish. Our students also learned about how 3D printing works and how to put it into use. They also enjoyed the discussion with the speakers about the Honeywell Company.

The Advanced Manufacturing Summer Institute program was very exciting and full of new learning experiences for our students. The summer program was a great opportunity for our students to be exposed to new learning experiences that may have not known they would be interested in, had this program not taking place. NICC is appreciative of everyone involved to put this program together so our students can be educated and participate in this outstanding educational summer internship program.

NICC Employee Needs Our Help

Three year-old Monnai Rouillard-Torrez, daughter of our NICC employee Falon, recently suffered from a life-altering episode of Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM), which is a brief but widespread auto-immune attack on her brain and spinal cord. Similar to Multiple Sclerosis, damage was done to her myelin sheaths, which covers and protects nerve signals. This serious condition has altered Monnai's vision, speech, and her ability to walk. There is no cure for ADEM, only long term in-home treatment of suppressing her immune system to try to prevent more damage. Monnai is an incredibly bright, sweet little girl with a big personality who loves to play with her 4 older siblings and toys such as *Shimmer & Shine*, *My Little Pony*, and *LOL Surprise*.



After a seven-day stay at Children's Hospital in Omaha, Monnai is home being cared for by Falon. She has to receive multiple high-dose medications throughout the day through her IV, which Falon is administering. Since her immune system is being suppressed, she is immune-compromised and very susceptible to germs. It's critical that Monnai be kept away from anyone that is ill right now – even the common cold could be devastating to Monnai.

- A fundraiser is being planned and information will be sent out once the logistics are finalized.
- Some raffles are being put together and information will be sent out about those soon.
- We would also like to help out Falon's family by gathering dry goods/supplies. Donated items can be dropped off with Terri in Santee, Vanessa in Macy, or Dasha in SSC. Here is a list of things that would be helpful:
- Gift cards (Walmart, Hy-Vee, Target, etc.)
- Paper products (plates, bowls, drinking cups, plastic silverware, paper towels)
- Non-spray cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, kitchen-size garbage bags, dish soap, Swiffer duster yellow refills)
- Laundry supplies (liquid Tide with Oxy in the yellow bottle, dryer sheets without perfumes)

Thank you for your help!

Forget the ghosts—beware of the Halloween Door Contest



1st Place-VTC1 Kassie Phillips



2nd Place-VTC2 Sara & Isha Morris



3rd Place-Language Room Inessa Lyons



4th Place- Office Door Lucinda Sparks

Are You Ready for Some More Hauntingly Great Halloween Doors



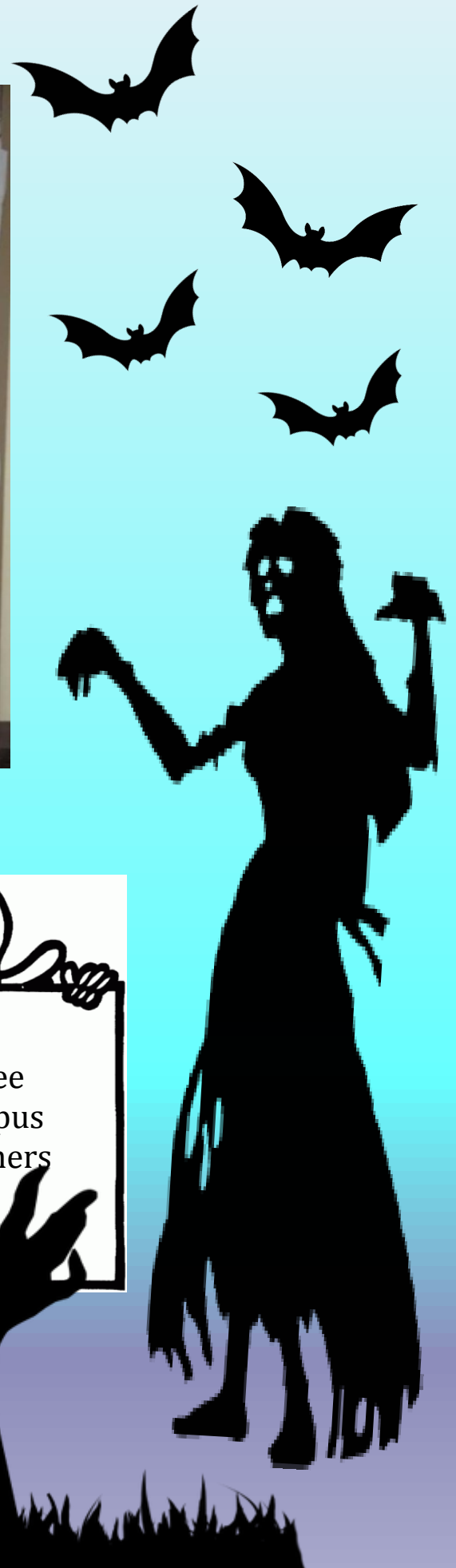
1st Place—Estelle Farley and Alexander White



2nd Place—Hazel Hallum



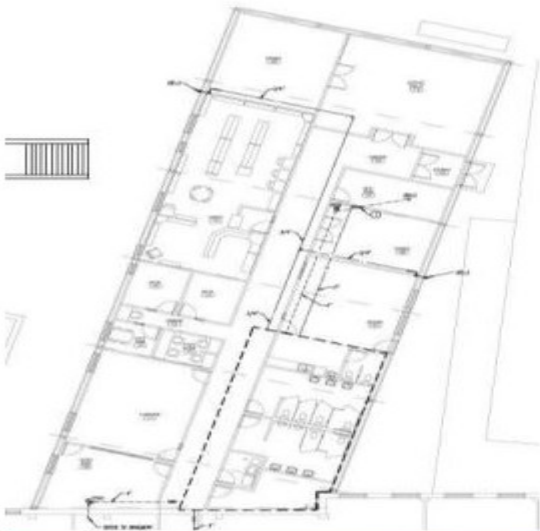
3rd Place—Hazel Hallum



“Expected to be completed by December 2018” states Justin Kocian, NICC employee.

Macy Campus North Wing Expansion Project

The construction project will add a wing to the north side of the main campus building. The structure will add approximately 6,000 square feet of instructional space to the campus. Rooms to include a classroom for GED instruction, GED Testing area, Science material storage room, Early Childhood / Daycare room, new Library, Library Storage, and Archive/Artifact Viewing room. The project began with the external structure built during 2017 and the interior is currently expected to be completed by the end of December 2018. USDA Rural Development and Title III Grant funds have been used for the design and construction of the wing.





Learning Dakota in Our Communities (Voices of our Ancestors)...Sidney C. Bad Moccasin, III



During the month of October 2018 our Voices of Our Ancestors Group (VOA) were summoned to an annual VOA meeting on October 23-24th held at Sisseton Wahpeton College. The meeting focused on field-work and the technical pros and cons of language documentation. Tips were given by SWO linguist Josh Wayt regarding equipment functionality and best practices. Dakota Studies Director, Erin Griffin, gave a presentation on Fundamental Assessment processes and concepts. Group reflections were given at the end of every day and the topic of learning Dakota in Our Communities touched on the five stages of second language acquisition:

- Silent/receptive. This state may last from several hours to several months, depending on the individual learner
- Early production
- Speech emergency
- Intermediate fluency
- Continued language development/advanced fluency



Focus of the September Leadership Knox County Session in Santee



Front Row (Left to Right):

Lizzie Swally, Santee Sioux Nation; Mary Sawatzke, Crofton; Amber Endres, Bloomfield; Debi Doerr, Creighton; Jennifer Ebel, Creighton; Jason Wessendorf, Verdigre;

Back Row (Left to Right):

Eric Wynia, Wausa; Tim Beckmann, Bloomfield; Trisha Zach, Bloomfield; Tanner Zach, Santee Sioux Office of Environmental Protection

Not Pictured: Stephanie Anderson, Wausa; Tyler Dimig, Niobrara

The Leadership Class IV met on Thursday, September 13th at the Nebraska Indian Community College in Santee and the Ohiya Casino. The group was welcomed by Jim Hallum, member of the Santee Sioux Nation. Jim works for the Nebraska Indian Community College which serves the Santee Sioux Nation and does tribal extension work. Following a welcome, the group toured the Santee Health and Wellness Center as well as the Nebraska Indian College. The morning session involved a presentation from Craig Schroeder with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. Craig presented his Youth Attraction Formula designed to help rural communities set attainable goals for addressing the youth out-migration and population loss. Discussion was held on ways to continue to involve youth in the communi-

ty. Craig also discussed his '5 Key Recruitment Steps' for alumni and newcomers, which include: Identify your strongest community assets; Define your target marketing for these assets; Create a compelling brand and message; Invite to your target market; and Welcome visitors and new residents! He ended the session with an activity that involved mapping our communities' assets.

Following lunch at the Ohiya Casino, Thelma Thomas, Ohiya Casino General Manager spoke to the group about the history of the Santee Sioux Nation and the Ohiya Casino. A tour of the Ohiya Casino Resort was featured.

The goal of Leadership Knox County is to identify potential leaders in each community across Knox County and help them to engage in leadership positions. Ultimately, we hope the program will act as a catalyst to allow for more community and economic development to happen across Knox County! For more information about the program contact the Knox County Development Agency at: 402-288-5619 or megan@knoxcountynebraska.com

5th Annual New Years Eve 2018-19 Sobriety Powwow

MONDAY, DEC 31ST • SIOUX CITY, IOWA
WEST HIGH SCHOOL GYM

HEAD STAFF

HOST DRUMS:

Northern Drum - BAD NATION

Southern Drum - OMAHA WHITETAIL

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

ANTHONY WARRIOR & GARAN COONS

ARENA DIRECTOR

SHANNON LEROY

HEAD MAN DANCER

ROBERT HOFFMAN

HEAD LADY DANCER

VANESSA HAMILTON

GRAND ENTRIES AT 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

FAMILY EVENT • FREE TO THE PUBLIC

DAY PAY FOR ALL DANCERS

SPECIALS

Woman's Old Style Fancy Shawl
\$100 winner take all 2 songs

Old Style Grass
\$100 winner take all 2 songs

Young Woman's All Around
Ages 13 – 18 \$100 | \$75 | \$50

Grass Dance Special
\$250 | \$150 | \$100

Woman's Traditional Special
\$150 | \$100 | \$50

Sacred Horse Society Jr. Boys Traditional Special
\$100 | \$75 | \$25

Tiny Tot special

2 step special
\$100 | \$75 | \$25

SPONSORS



OMAKA TECA WACIPI

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE 2018 AND DANCE IN 2019. SPECTACULAR MUSIC, DANCING & FOOD.

LET'S MAKE THE 2018-19 NEW YEAR'S WACIPI A GOOD TIME TO REMEMBER AND MAKE SOBRIETY A TRADITION FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE GENERATIONS.

• For More Information •

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Minerva Valenzuela 605-464-4882 • Vanessa Hamilton 402-241-5921
Shona Campbell 402-241-5470 • Saundra Wilch 402-494-2311



*This Program is funded by a Tribal College Grant supported by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under grant Award No. 2016-47002-21708, Project New Dawn. Nebraska Indian Community College is the grantee administering these funds for local Tribal College Extension activities.

"My experience was fantastic and made me appreciate what an opportunity NICC gave me, exclaimed Marcus Redwing."

Nebraska Indian Community Paid Internship Program Saundra Wilch

The Nebraska Indian Community College Paid Internship Program was implemented May 1, 2017. The student internships officially began the Fall 2017 semester. The goal of the Nebraska Indian Community College Paid Internship Program is to provide students with a paid work experience that is related to their program of study.

Student learning is enhanced with hands-on experience outside the classroom setting. Nebraska Indian Community College provides students with the opportunity to seek paid internships internally and externally with employers who agree to provide applied experience in select disciplines.

NICC has successfully provided 15 internships since the start of the program. The average wage for an internship is \$12 an hour with an average of 170 internship hours per semester.

Student experiences:

Intern: Estelle Farley Internship: Science Research Assistant

I learned about how science is in every field in life. I gained experience on knowledge about the

"Prairie Restoration" and how the agriculture fields are badly damaged. Prairie restoration is restoring the native grasses on fields and bringing back the natural soil. Helping Shelley Kosola with the garden on Santee Campus has been a eye opener on how to prepare the garden patch for the winter and also I am learning about the native plants making a comeback in the area. This participation in this internship has opened me up to socialize a little more then being in my quiet bubble. This is my 1st semester back in school from being away from school for the last 13 years. I say thank you to Hank Miller for asking me if I would be interested in the internship.

Intern: Kassie Philips Internship: Student Support Services

I really enjoy working with the Student Services Internship. I get to learn about how to work in a proper office area and understand, in depth, the behind the scene process of becoming a student at NICC. The best part about my internship is getting to work and talk with our students at NICC, it's a great opportunity to encourage one another and finding comfortability to start building relationships with stu-

dents. My co-workers are very motivating in both my work and school ethic. I appreciate the staff and instructors who prompted my interest in working with the Student Services Internship. I have been having a great learning experience and highly enjoy being an intern for the Student Services department at the Nebraska Indian Community College.

Intern: Marcus Redwing
Internship: Business, Entrepreneur, and Agriculture Business Intern

My name is Marcus Redwing and I have partaken in the Entrepreneurship Internship at NICC this fall of 2018. Some of the stuff I learned was the fundamentals of agribusiness management principles, management theory, planning, organizing, and controlling. My task was to develop a marketing strategy such as a commercial. My experience was fantastic and made me appreciate what an opportunity NICC gave me.

Continued on Next Page

Nebraska Indian Community Paid Internship Program Continued

Intern: Anthony Warrior
Internship: Business Program
Intern
Campus: Santee

My name is Anthony Warrior I am a second-year student here at NICC. I have been given the opportunity to work with Waylon Laplante in the tribal enterprises our main goal is to establish an efficient inventory system for the six properties owned by the Santee Sioux tribe. Although timing has been tight the review of software that would be affective for each outlet has brought new prospective to the business plan-

ning process. I would like to encourage other Business students to engage in tribal businesses and to gain leadership potential. Would like to thank Nebraska Indian community college for the opportunity to further my education.

Through the NICC Paid Internship Program, students gain relevant workplace skills and can use their internship experience to help secure a job after graduation. Next round of internships begins June 1, 2019-October 31, 2019. If you are interested in

an internship, please contact your division head or Saundra Wilch the Vocational Career Counselor/Program Administrator for the Paid Internship Program.



Intern: Kassie Phillips
Internship: Student Support Services
Campus: Macy



Intern: Estelle Farley
Internship: Science Research Assistant
Campus: Santee



Intern: Marcus Redwing
Internship: Business, Entrepreneur, and Agriculture
Business Intern
Campus: South Sioux City

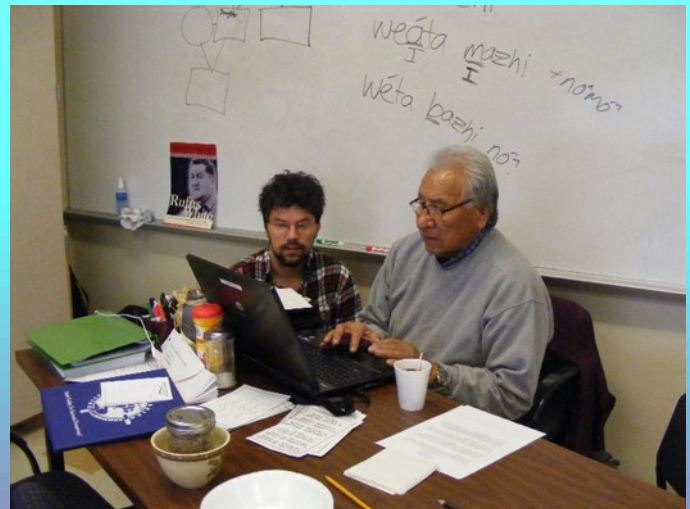
Nebraska Indian Community Paid Internship Program Continued



Intern: Jennifer Ross
Internship: Archive Intern
Campus: Macy



Intern: Anthony Warrior
Internship: Business Program Intern
Campus: Santee



Intern: Donald Grant
Internship: Omoⁿhoⁿ Language Intern
Campus: Macy

Umonhon Language
Umonhon Language Intern
Donald F Grant



Perspective of Umonhon Language

My name is Donald F Grant member of the Umonhon Tribe, fortunate to be one of the full remaining full bloods of our tribe. My father was a member of the Tecinda Clan, my mother was from the Honga Clan, and each spoke our language very well but to some extent as with most families they encouraged us to speak English appropriately.

As I enrolled in our Umoⁿhoⁿ Language class I've been fortunate to be asked and given the opportunity to be an intern for the class and in this short period of time I've come to learn so much and truly believe as I've heard numerous times that our language is 'sacred.' And I truly believe that it is, being here at NICC I've been introduced how unique our language is and come to have a great respect and appreciation for our language and for the remaining fluent Umoⁿhoⁿ Language speakers.

What is, to me, is that one phrase can mean so much on how it is interpreted by the listener and the speaker, the phrase 'Tha ay ke thai ga', means so much as it is described on one of our initial flyers. And other phrases especially in regard to relationships, such as our biological family, other relatives, in-laws, etc. When we or if we are fortunate to be in families that speak Umoⁿhoⁿ on a regular basis you don't realize the intricacies of our Umoⁿhoⁿ Language.

As I've been fortunate to be an intern I've also respect and appreciate the young people that are interested and are willing to get involved in learning, sharing and teaching our Umoⁿhoⁿ Language. I have great respect for our Umoⁿhoⁿ Tribal individuals that take the time to share and teach others the uniqueness of our Language, it is their gift to other Tribal members. I also feel blessed that NICC gave me the Internship as it has really opened my eyes to the importance of our language and I've come to believe that our Umoⁿhoⁿ Language is truly "Sacred."



Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

For our Macy Thanksgiving Pot Luck dinner we started off with a prayer. We had all members of the NICC Staff and Facility, NICC Students, and also we had some community members for the dinner. Everyone enjoyed themselves. Lots of laughs. The food was great. So glad everyone had a great time. Submitted by Jennifer Ross.



NICC Participates in 2018 Research Symposium

For thousands of years, the Missouri River, in her greatest capacity, has provided to her surrounding ecosystem great diverse life. Her character and personality give way to her environment creating the beauty from within and beyond her banks. This free-flowing life is ever so changing but not as great as within the past hundred years. Development of the Dam Systems and time has accelerated that change and the course of those who rely on her. Research helps us understand past, present and future functions of this vast ecosystem, dealing with the negative aspects of what our human imprints have left within her body and along her shorelines.

What are the issues and how can we positively impact her struggling functions? As with everything in nature's intricately woven complexity, the problems also remain complex. Research leads us to those answers creating a more sustainable river system. On Thursday November 15th, recent and current Nebraska Indian Community College students: Cory Widow, Shelley Kosola, and Estelle Farley traveled to Vermillion S. D. to present their NICC research posters at the Annual USD Missouri River Institute Research Symposium. USD's event coordinators Dr.



David Swanson, Biology Department Head and Dr. Meghann Jarchow, Sustainability Department Head, along with 15 other researchers presented their research pertaining to the Missouri River.

During event intermissions, Shelley, Cory, and Estelle along with other USD REU interns shared their Missouri River research posters.

Cory, Estelle, and Shelley presented their research: "Regenerating an Artesian Well Ecosystem". This project is on the Santee Sioux Reservation and after the well's clean up, water and soil samples have been and will continue to be taken to ensure environmental quality. They also presented "Environmental Monitoring Through Native Prairie Restoration" which is being conducted on the NICC Santee campus. This research project is looking at how native

prairie plant succession is influenced by management techniques and local weather. The final research poster presented at this event: "Does Seeded Species Phenology Effect Establishment of Non-seeded Species in Tallgrass Prairies" deals with how seeded native species compete with non-seeded species in a prairie restoration process.

The NICC student research projects "Regenerating an Artesian Well Ecosystem" and the "Environmental Monitoring Through Prairie Restoration" are sponsored by NICC under the direction of faculty mentor Hank Miller. Shelley's "Does Seeded Species Phenology Effect Establishment of Non-seeded Species in Tallgrass Prairies" research project was part of USD's Summer REU Internship program and sponsored by USD under the direction of Dr. Meghann Jarchow.

Famous Community College Graduates

Tom Hanks. This Oscar-award winning actor, known for his stellar performances in flicks like “Forrest Gump” and “Saving Private Ryan,” reportedly couldn’t land roles in theatre productions during his college years. According to the Huffington Post, Hanks first attended Chabot College in Hayward, California, for two years, before transferring to California State University in Sacramento. Hank’s audition at a community theatre near CSU launched his now successful acting and directing career.

James Belushi. According to a biography at IMDb, James Belushi grew up in Wheaton, Illinois, where he attended the College of DuPage before transferring to Southern Illinois University. Belushi, who got his acting start during his high school years, jokingly said he originally got involved “for the girls,” since many more girls were involved in his high school theatre productions than boys. Belushi continued his study of theatre and performing throughout his college years, until he graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in Speech and Theatre Arts.

Eileen Collins made history as the first female pilot, and then the first female commander, of a space shuttle mission. Collins was selected by NASA in 1990, according to Business Insider, and became a space shuttle pilot one year later. During her NASA career, which lasted until 2006, Collins logged hundreds of hours in space, manned four space flights and earned numerous awards for her work. Before her NASA career was launched, Collins began her college career at Corning Community College, where she earned an associate degree in mathematics and science. Collins then continued her education at Syracuse University, Stanford and Webster University. Corning Community College now has an observatory in Collins’ name.

Ross Perot. This two-time presidential candidate ran on the independent ticket in 1992 and 1996. A successful businessman in his own right, Business Insider reports that Perot worked for IBM before leaving the company to start his own business, Electronic Data Systems, in 1984. After Perot sold that company to General Motors for \$2.4 billion, Perot started a second company, Perot Systems, Inc. That business was acquired by Dell in 2009 for \$3.9 billion. Before beginning his long and illustrious business career, Perot began his quest into higher education at Texarkana Community College. After taking classes at his local community college, Perot transferred to the Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1953.

Dr. Craig Venter. This pioneer in genomic research has been touted as a successful businessman, author and biologist who is best known for his part in sequencing the human genome. Today, Dr. Venter has an institution in his name, which has been primarily used for genomic research since its founding in 2006, according to the website for the J. Craig Venter Institute. Dr. Venter began his scientific studies at San Mateo Community College, before earning his bachelor’s and Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego.

George Lucas. This gifted film maker has built an impressive movie empire that includes Industrial Light and Magic (a visual effects company), THX and Lucas Films. Lucas has received numerous prestigious awards for his work on the big screen, including the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award and the DigiGlobe Award, according to the American Association of Community Colleges. After graduating from high school, Lucas attended Modesto Community College before graduating from the University of Southern California.



Updated July 18, 2018 | by Grace Chen

Clearly, community college has been the starting point for so many famous people today - and in the future!

“Without much hesitation, we were on our way up to soar above the local glaciers. Pinch me! It was almost like a dream come true! Our little six seat Piper acceded into the sky as the landscapes became visible below us,” voiced Shelley Kosola.

Alaska Climate Change Workshop

Nestled along the tip of the Cook Inlet, which opens into the vast Pacific Ocean waters, lies the vibrant culturally rich community of Anchorage in Alaska. High in the sky as we descend into Anchorage, I am in awe at the sheer splendor of this magnificent place on the planet. Snowcapped mountain ranges, trees abundant, extensive bodies of water, and a landscape of unmitigated awe grasped at first sight. Hearts beat with excitement in anticipation, waiting for a small taste of this state's grandeur, knowing though, that our mission coming here is to help remediate extensive challenges this state faces along with the rest of the planet, as climate change brings uncertainty to our planet. Ecologist John Muir once wrote, “When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world”. How true we find this to be as Climate Change has affected every aspect of our natural world, every aspect of our existence. So, we ask ourselves the pondering questions, “Why should I care and What can I do”?

Hank Miller and Shelley Kosola, representatives from Nebraska Indian Community College at Santee, Nebraska, were hon-

ored to have the opportunity to travel to Anchorage, Alaska in October to take part in a climate resiliency workshop, organized by Martha Shulski head of the Nebraska State Climatology and Hannah Birge, Water and Agriculture Program Manager with The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska and Craig Allen, leader of U.S. Geological Survey / Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit. The theme of this workshop centered around “Adaptive Capacity and Resilience in the New Arctic” with the focus from some 25 scientific disciplines gathering from different areas across the United States and Canada sharing specific areas of study to help define and understand the challenges that climate change brings, brainstorming ways to blend solutions through a sharing of ideas.

We may ask why Alaska? Alaska is on the front lines of climate change as the melting sea ice, glacial melts, permafrost melts and rising temperatures are responsible for threatening ecosystems natural cycles and upsetting balances creating trickle-down effects. It is

home to 15 hundred billion tons of carbon locked within the frozen landscape. As it melts it will release back on to our atmosphere. According to The Nature Conservancy, “Me Becomes We”, Alaska is heating up twice as fast than had been originally predicted, more than six degrees in the last 50 years. This has created a shift of jet streams, record low sea ice levels, receding glacial levels, permafrost loss, erosion and changes in wildlife habits, just to name a few. The upset of our natural cycles creates devastating losses as one system change directly affects the next.

Subsistence within Alaskan cultures is significantly threatened as changes in foraging and wildlife availability declines or moves. The negative impact of these changes increases hunger, poverty and disease. Alaska is home to 224 Federally recognized tribes where the majority still reside on original home lands that date back to when the raven made the world and the crow brought daylight to the land. Thirty-one Alaskan communities face relocation, as they contemplate leaving

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behind generations of “Home” due to the destruction of the shorelines where they reside, as the open sea water storms erode land back onto the sea.

Fear of these changes tend to paralyze us leading to disengagement. One of the single most important factors in tackling the complexity of the issues is to simply “talk about it”. Talking about it brings discovery of new ideas leading to feasible solutions. This resilience workshop gathering of scientists brought together ideas for positive change in our negatively impacted climate through a series of presentations on what is being done through specific scientific disciplines to enable adaptation with the changes we face physiologically, psychologically, biologically, geologically, socially, and economically. Orville Huntington with the Alaskan Native Science Commission joined us for round table discussions offering valuable Native perspective. The round table discussions calculated information from all the disciplines present to help determine where the most vulnerable areas of impact are with possible solutions. The mission of this gathering was to develop ways of helping our systems adapt to existing and future changes. Diverse solutions allow for better chances of success. Life on this

planet functions as a complete unit that knows no state boundaries. “We do not have another planet.”

To get a better feel of the Alaskan environment, Hank, Shelley, and other colleges from the workshop grabbed the opportunity to explore a bit of this landscape and its culture, navigating south of Anchorage along Seward Highway. Stopping at the Chugach National Park was a treat as we explored the richly diverse vegetation lying within the understory of the forested mountain range. The majesty of mountain rich landscapes along Cook Inlet and Chugach National Park left us in awe as we ventured southward snapping photos along the trail. My first view of Glacier Byron was exhilarating as we seized the moment to stop and view this beautiful ice canvas and walked along the Byron Trail. The blue-gray melt waters flowed through the swiftly moving creek close to Byron as we investigated the wonder of this amazing landscape. Traveling south brought us to Whittier Lake to view Tracy Arm Fjord with Sawyer Glacier greeting us from a distance. The drive back to Anchorage was just as spectacular seeking out a glimpse of any Alaskan wildlife that may present themselves. The evening ended by a gathering of new work-

shop friends at the Alaskan Moose’s Tooth for pizza and fellowship.

Our final day in Alaska found us destined north of Anchorage to get a first-hand glimpse of territory we had not yet seen before. The thought was exhilarating as Hank, Shelley and our new-found friend John journeyed toward an adventure we will not soon forget. Destination Denali! Along the trail, a short stop at an alluring river path gave us the opportunity to view the sheer beauty of an Alaskan river at her best. So proud and free. Up the road a bit found us taking a few moments to soak up the picturesque views of Nancy Lake along with studying the diverse landscape features adorning the way. A small nature reserve along the journey caught our eye as curiosity lead us on the next phase of our journey stopping to enjoy nature’s diverse interactions along this small nature trail. Telkeetna was our next stop. First thoughts were that of sheer delight as time had somehow been frozen in this eclectic small community. A stop at Nagley’s Store in Telkeetna took us back in time, as the aged smell told an old story of existence. The warped wood floor led us to a stair case of fur lined walls and tools once used for survival in Alaska. The feel was extraordi-

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nary. A step back in time.

After a short tour of this vibrant little community of Telkeetna, it was decided that we did not have enough time to reach Denali, so we ventured back South only to run across K-2 aviation which gave tours of the monumental glaciers of the area. Without much hesitation, we were on our way up to soar above the local glaciers. Pinch me! It was almost like a dream come true! Our little six seat Piper acceded into the sky as the landscapes became visible below us. Grasping every moment, we could to view such beauty and wonder, soon brought us into full view of Glacier Ruth. What an amazing sight as our pilot shared landscape features and information about her. Unfortunately, we were unable to view Denali as she was momentarily hidden by the low-lying cloud covers. We didn't want this part of our trip to end. To soar above Ruth's hundred-year-old ice, was breathtakingly humbling to say the least. We had a first-hand view of her path, cutting rock and debris as she ambles slowly down the mountain valley gulch, scattering pieces of herself along the way, emptying into local river systems. Her vibrant blue hue glistens back as if she were sharing with us her very best moments of splendor. Words can not describe the feeling

she left in our hearts, as we flew back to Telkeetna, with having gained perspective of this magnificent landscape along the way. Descending back onto the airstrip left a bit of melancholy in our hearts as we all knew Ruth is receding yearly due to rising Alaskan temperatures and may someday succumb to the consequences of climate change. After snapping a few photos of our crew and sharing gratitude to our new-found friends of Talkeetna, our journey continued back to Anchorage.

Hunger brought us to the Flying Squirrel, a small bakery/café just south of Telkeetna. This charming little locale hosted a real personality of her own. Within her walls she shared food of sheer delight. As I scoped out her inner workings, I spotted an old brick oven that I learned had been refurbished to working condition which baked the Flying Squirrel's goods. On the counter lay locally grown, vibrantly beautiful garden vegetables. Alaskan vegetables had been the sweetest I had ever tasted. After nourishing our bodies, our journey continued back south contemplating our departure from this magnificent state of Alaska.

The drive back gave me the opportunity to reflect about

our experiences in Alaska. Thoughts raced through my brain, sorting and putting together pieces of the puzzle that this Alaskan adventure had so graciously shared knowing I would leave here with far more than what I came with.

It was with a bit of heaviness on our hearts that we awaited our redeye departure from Alaska, enjoying an Alaskan airport meal with some of our new-found workshop friends. Friends who are passionate about the condition of our planet. Friends who are willing to sacrifice in order to solve complex issues. Friends who have made lasting impressions.

As we begin to ascend, I bid my Farwell to this place that has left a huge impact on my heart. I will leave here with much gratitude for Alaskan life and hospitality. I will leave with greater knowledge of how more of our plants systems function together. I will leave here with the greatest desire, more than ever, to somehow help make a positive difference. I will carry with me, a fondness of a place I never knew before. I will carry with me, a piece of Alaska in my heart.

"The Great Spirit is all things. He is in the air we

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breathe. The Great Spirit is our Father, but the earth is our Mother. She nourishes us. That which we put into the ground she returns to us.” Big Thunder, Wabanak Algonquin

Submitted by Shelley Kosola



Shelley Kosola with Glacier Bryon hovering in the background.



Airplane view of Glacier Ruth in Alaska.



Alaskan mountain range with glacial melt water river and tributaries.



Alaskan glacier flight crew Shelley Kosola, John Berge, Pilot Dallas, and Hank Miller.



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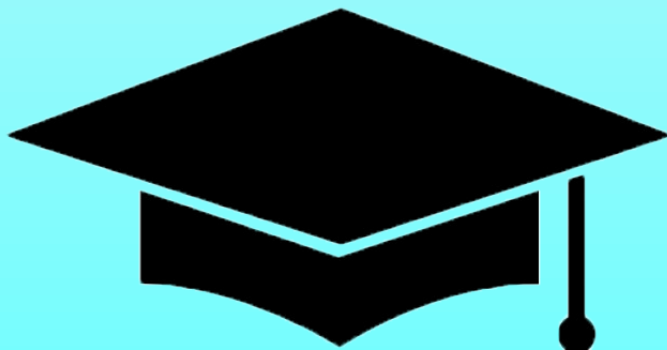
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