

# Nebraska Indian Community College

## Fall 2020 Newsletter



*The Nebraska Indian Community College provides quality higher education and lifelong educational opportunities for Umonhon (Omaha), Isanti (Santee Dakota) and all learners.*





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# Student FAQ's with Student Services

NICC's Student Services Representatives serve all four campus locations, and know the in's and out's of student status. Pictured L-R: Crystal Ross (Macy Campus), Alvin Parker (South Sioux City Campus), Terri Grant (Santee Campus), and Amanda Kanuho (Pawnee Nation Campus) answer some student questions below.



**"I've taken classes before, but now I want to move to full-time. How do I know if it's the right decision for me?"**

**Crystal:** Being a full-time student means to take 12-15 credit hours per semester. First thing is would look at, is how will this fit into your schedule? Do you work? What other activities are you involved with? Reviewing your current schedule will help determine your availability for classes.

**Amanda:** A full time class schedule requires a lot of time and discipline. If you feel like there will be no major distractions in your future and your schedule permits, a full- time schedule can be possible. An Academic Advisor can help work out a schedule that will best suit your needs.

**"I'm thinking about taking classes for the first time, but I'm not too good with technology. Should I still enroll? "**

**Alvin:** Yes enroll, we have introductory classes that will teach you how to use our technology.

**Crystal:** There are classes for first time student to help learn the technology needed to navigate through NICC courses and resources i.e. Student Success Strategies and Intro to Computer

**"I'd like to connect with my culture more. Are there classes that will teach me about my tribe and where I come from?"**

**Crystal:** Yes, NICC offers history and language classes in Omaha, Pawnee and Dakota culture. i.e. Omaha Culture and Tradition, Native History to 1890, as well as Dakota and Pawnee Language.

**Terri:** We offer Dakota Language and Omaha Language. We have many culture classes, and a degree program in Native American Studies. Other courses too go hand-in-hand with our culture like environmental sciences and others as well.

**"I have a really busy schedule. I can't take classes at regular 9-5 hours. Do you offer any online or evening classes?"**

**Alvin:** We offer online as well as classes that meet in person after 5:00.

**Amanda:** Yes, NICC offers both online and evening courses. Our Academic Advisors can create a class schedule that can work around your busy schedule

**Terri:** We start by looking at what degrees they are interested in, and then we look at what evening and online classes are offered in their program. We also touch base with their Division Head to let them know about their schedule.

**"I want to take classes. I have had learning barriers, and I want to make sure I'm getting the support that I need. Can NICC help support me?"**

**Crystal:** Yes, NICC can make reasonable accommodations for students with learning barriers. Disclosure of a learning barrier is the student's responsibility. Once disclosed to an instructor or staff, a Student Application for Accommodation and a Faculty Release must be completed to provide support. As well as providing any supporting documentation.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

*Adrianna Duarte*

**What are you majoring in at NICC? What are your career goals?**

**AD:** I am pursuing a general science degree. I am still undecided on what exactly I want to do in terms of title. Although, I have a genuine concern for the well-being of humans as well as for our environment. I believe we can learn to protect and preserve a healthy lifestyle for Unci Maka (Mother Earth) and ourselves.

**What courses are you looking most forward to this fall?**

**AD:** Personally, I am excited about my entire schedule. Each class was picked based on my goals-both educational and personal.

**Describe your journey with online learning. Do you have any tips?**

**AD:** I have some experience in taking online classes, so the transition was not that straining on me. Although, I have learned a lot about my behavior as a student while taking online courses. I found my strengths and weaknesses while evaluating my performance and participation. Although, this was not done solely by myself. I learned to accept but mostly ask for help. Always share, communicate and show up.



**What's your favorite thing about being a student at NICC?**

**AD:** My favorite thing about NICC is the class sizes. Along with Native culture being implemented and practiced within the NICC institution and curriculum.

**What advice would you share with students interested in taking classes remotely?**

**AD:** My advice for anyone interested in classes via online would be to just do it. If distractions are a concern, please understand- anyone who knows that knowledge is medicine will help make attending classes possible. The classes require self-discipline- meaning time management and organization is of high importance. Calendars, planners, hour-by-hour and day-by-day to do's, or anything that keeps the ball rolling will be useful.



# PTAC Program Comes to NICC

New employee, Mike Channell (pictured right) was the first hire for the new PTAC Program. Serving as the PTAC Program Manager, Mike Channel details more about himself and of the program below. Since this interview with Channel, all 4 positions have been hired.

Be on the lookout for Employee Spotlights for Nettie Grant-Sikyta, Administrative Assistant, Debra Grant, Macy Counselor, and Derek LaPointe, Santee Counselor in the Spring 2021 Newsletter issue.



## **Tell us more about you, your background, and experience working with TCUs or tribal communities.**

**MC:** I am Enrolled in The Oglala Lakota Nation. I am adopted and that is how I got the name Channell. Medford Salway is my Dad. I got married @ 20. Was friends with my wife before we decided to go on a date. 6 weeks later we got married. We have 3 boys all grown with their own families now. I was a carpenter in Local 253, 400, and 444 for 18 years. I worked for several General Contractors that had 8a status through the SBA. I got an opportunity to go into business for myself in 1998 on the construction of the Conagra World Headquarters in Downtown Omaha NE. The company grew. Had 2 locations Omaha and Des Moines offices. At the height we had 99 employees and did \$54,936,231 worth of contracts in 4 years. All that was made possible through the SBA's subcontracting programs that are mandated @ the Federal Market level of Government. For the last 15 years I have been working as a Private Consultant. I have worked with several different Companies providing all different types of services. I have also worked with 9 Different Tribes.

## **How did you come to be with NICC and your current position?**

**MC:** A Friend of mine called and said he was writing a Grant for Nebraska Indian Community College. He asked if I would be interested in helping him with budget numbers. If it was funded would I consider applying because of the experience I had gained over the years. I told him as well as the people that I interviewed with for this position. My background is in a For Profit World. I have no Non Profit Experience.

## **Can you share more about your new role and what you'll be focusing on?**

**MC:** I was given the opportunity to be Program Manager. I have hired 2 of 3 positions that I need for this Grant. I have gone with People who have the experience that I Lack and also very strong connections to the communities we will be serving. We will be focusing on Entrepreneurs from the community. Businesses that want to come into the communities. I am also hoping to get some referrals to help other PTACS that might not have some of the experience needed so we can help. I have helped Tribes set up For Profit Entities and protect their Sovereign Immunity. On 2 occasions I help Tribal For Profit groups Acquire already established Companies. This is not something a lot of PTACs experience even allows by the rules of the Defense Logistics Agency. They are the funders of this Grant.

## **What are you most excited about with your new position?**

**MC:** I am always hopeful to take the mystery and enormity of the Federal Government market away. It is one of the easiest markets to survive in because it is totally transparent. I love being around entrepreneurs I have gone to so many of these PTAC events in my Life when you walk into a room full of business owners you can really tell who is scared and who isn't there is a glow about the group. All at different levels of development. Getting my people comfortable and experienced in this process. Helping People develop their dreams and what to expect is extremely satisfying. Create Change in Indian Country.

# Workforce Development Update with Paul Fowler

NICC's Workforce Development Director, Paul Fowler has been busy with a multitude of projects. Despite Covid regulations, Paul has been busy looking to future semesters and findings safe alternatives that provide growth for NICC. He details some of NICC's projects here. Pictured below are items from the Student Representative Canvas Course page.

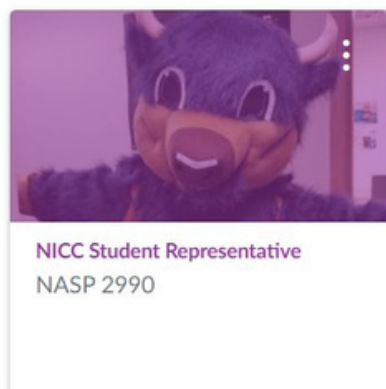
He writes, "Some of new things are that coming to NICC is our welding programs for Macy and Santee campuses. We will be building a new welding building to house the welding program. Students will learn the welding skills that help them become employable in the that industry.

Another program that will be coming to the Macy campus is our solar installation program, were students will learn how to install Solar energy panels. Part for VOC Tech building will be updated so students will learn how to install solar energy equipment.

NICC offers Work study opportunities for students when funding is available, and we also offer opportunities for internships in the student's field of study. We are always looking to partner with outside agencies to allow students to intern outside of NICC and gain real life work experience.

At NICC we will starting a new program for our students, its call the Representative program. Students will be employed by NICC and earn college credits while involved. Students will learn the history of NICC and other aspect of the Tribal college movement. Students will make presentation for prospective students on campus or virtually. Will assist with tours and recruitment events. The students will learn leadership skills and public speaking, so when they are in the workforce, they will have those valuable skills that will help them be successful.

We are always looking for ways to get students involved and take suggestions on how to make students feel comfortable or start a new group on our campuses."







## NICC ALUMNI NEW ROLE AND RECOGNITION

NICC Alumni, Anthony Warrior has been a student, chef, extension assistant, and more with NICC. Warrior steps into a new role as Interim Human Resources Director while finishing up his bachelor's degree at Wayne State College. In addition, Warrior also received recognition from The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian for his pumpkin blue corn bread, compote, and sweet corn ice cream recipes. You can find the recipes directly in the 2020 article, "Seven Native American Chefs Share Thanksgiving Recipes". Pictured to the left, Warrior stepped into his role of chef for the 2020 Graduation.

### **How did you come to be with NICC in your current position?**

**AW:** After graduation I continued onto Wayne State College, during my junior year, I realized that NICC invested in me and I Felt that I could invest in The colleges development in the Human Resources area. Once the HR position came open, I made the decision to put my 20 year experience in corporate to use. President Oltrogge along with the EC felt I would be a great fit.

### **Can you share more about your new role and what you'll be focusing on?**

**AW:** Human Resources is more than just tracking a businesses human capital, the position also requires that the entity stays in alignment with its Mission and goals. My goals and efforts will be focused on ensuring that NICC as a family and community are provided structure, support, and cultural value.

### **What are you most excited about with your new position?**

**AW:** Well, if anyone knows me I like to talk!! This position allows me to meet and empower our dedicated staff on a daily basis, its also wonderful to see when something you say or do influences another to strive to be better. That's investment in human resources!!

# PAWNEE NATION COLLEGE AND NICC COLLABORATION UPDATES

**Nebraska Indian Community College and Pawnee Nation College (PNC) have been collaborating for a while now. Can you tell us more about how this relationship came to be?**

**Pawnee Nation College President, Michael Burgess (MB):** A dialogue began in the spring of 2019, however contact was initiated by Dr. Oltrogge when NICC brought some students through the region on its way to a conference, I believe, for the AIHEC association. PNC, via President Burgess began the discussion in the late fall, 2019, and it continued with Dr. Oltrogge making a visit to meeting of the PNC Trustees. The initial discussions were very positive and the relationship has blossomed into a working arrangement in the fall of 2020

**This Fall 2020 Semester was the first time NICC and PNC collaborated on classes. What were some of the highlights of the semester?**

**MB:** A positive, definitely for PNC, was the COVID-19 response for students and faculty of PNC. The assistance that NICC provided to students with distance learning capabilities was enormous. Many of the PNC students in prior semesters, due to our rural location had great difficulty over the previous spring and summer to stay 'connected' to our campus. NICC and its assistance was and still is most beneficial for all of PNC.

**How have PNC and NICC been able to support one another during Covid?**

**MB:** PNC students are most grateful for the laptops, the connections via WIFI in home areas, and large support of financial aid for students on the PNC campus. While all of the faculty and staff at PNC know that such a union as our two school have made, due to distance, can be testing, our relationship is working. Communications with staff and faculty at NICC with PNC is phenomenal. PNC staff are highly impressed with the technical capabilities which NICC has in place and the ease with which students receive guidance is a plus for the staff, Marcella and Amanda Kanuho, who are the frontline workers with students at PNC.

**What are some goals that NICC and PNC have for the future together?**

**MB:** From the perspective of President Burgess, NICC is providing great guidance towards accreditation standards. In addition to this guidance, students of PNC are receiving a very large benefit is scholastic assistance. The many programs which NICC has available for student support, guidance, and the strength of the Native educational environment are very much appreciated by the faculty of PNC.

A mutual goal is that of assistance to PNC to meet accreditation standards and to assist PNC with development of internal management systems to continue with educational opportunities for student scholarship, to assist with student recruitment and retention. NICC and PNC will continue to improve collaboration for developing relationships in educational grants and opportunities to achieve further funding for both colleges to meet our stated missions and goals.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

*Rex Webster*

**Tell us more about your job/internship at NICC this summer. What was your title and job duties?**

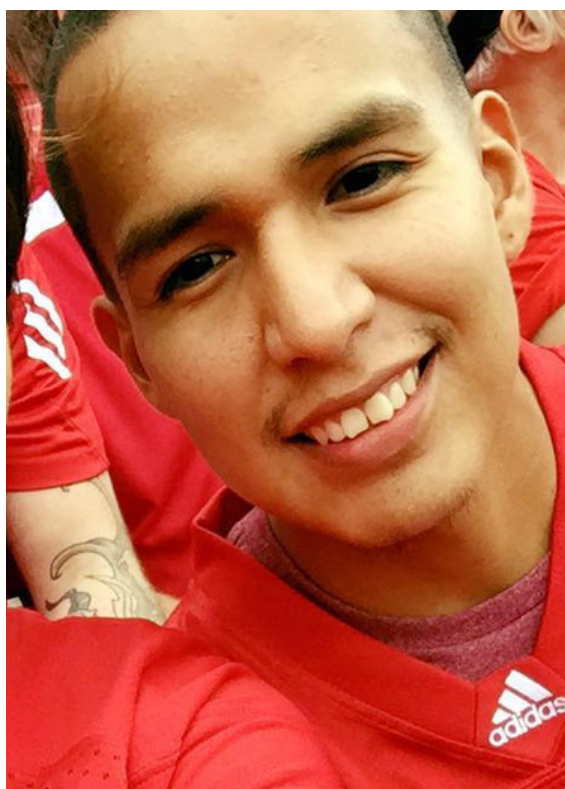
**RW:** I was brought on temporarily as IT support. My job consisted of assisting students and faculty with resources the college has available. The virtual learning environment at first presented many obstacles and I was glad I was able to assist Justine Kocian in this area.

**How has your skill-set helped support others during this transition online? (Either at full-time job or at NICC)**

**RW:** The transition pushed many to learn a lot on their own. I consider myself a kinesthetic learner and have majority of experience helping others face to face. I helped those who needed assistance remotely via Zoom, Skype for business. A big part of my job at both NICC and UNPS consists of helping others turn new concepts/ideas into common practices to be more efficient whether you're in a Microsoft or Google environment.

**You are also taking courses at NICC. What are your educational and/or career goals?**

**RW:** My goal is to continue to adapt and learn in the IT field. I am in progress of getting my COMP-TIA A+ Certification and plan to finish in the Paraeducator program with NICC.



Rex Webster pictured above is majoring in Paraeducator/Pre-teacher Associates of Arts at NICC.

**Are you taking any courses this fall? If so, what are you most excited for?**

**RW:** I plan on taking as many classes as I can. I'm excited to finally graduate from NICC as I have been part time for quite a while now.

**What advice would you share for students moving to online classes for the first time?**

**RW:** My advice would be to familiarize yourself with the online resources NICC has to offer. The experience you gain from NICC being a Microsoft environment will benefit you in your courses and in almost any career down the road.

# VISTA's Dr. Judith Dudley Honored with Star Quilt from NICC

Vista worker, Dr. Judith Dudley completed her service at NICC in Fall of 2020 after a year of service with NICC. Dudley worked with NICC through a variety of avenues from assisting with grant-writing to revising policies and procedures. "Dr. Dudley was critical in developing our national science foundation grants for our TCUP grants," says Mike Berger. "As well as USDA NIFA Research and enhancing NICC's research capacity." Berger also adds, "She is a very big fan of renewable energy and was very glad to help us expand in solar research and rural business development grant." NICC is very grateful for her service, effort, and dedication. NICC awarded Dudley with a star-quilt. President Michael Oltrogge is pictured with Dudley after offering the star quilt at NICC's campus. Berger says, "She was especially excited about the quilt, as well as working with the sewing guild in South Sioux City and finding funding support for the guild."





# Early Childhood Education Update with Jackie Hahn

## **Tell me more about your department. What makes it unique?**

**Jackie Hahn:** The early childhood education program is unique in a number of ways. Most of our students are Native American and they work on reservations in Native American early childhood classrooms. Our college includes the Omaha Nation and the Isanti people. Additionally we now have Pawnee Nation College under our wing. Our early childhood education program includes cultural diversity and understanding Native American culture, language, families and communities.

## **What are some new changes/news/updates in your department since 2020?**

**JH:** We recently implemented the Accelerated CDA (Child Development Associate) certificate program. This was completely new to NICC, we did not even have the CDA program. This alone increased our early childhood enrollment students from under ten students to thirty students.

## **What are some courses your department is offering this fall?**

**JH:** This fall we are offering ECED 1050, Early Childhood Expressive Art, ECED 1060, Observation, Guidance, and Assessment, ECED 1100 Infant/Toddler Development, ECED 1150, Intro to Early Childhood, ECED 1160, Early Childhood Language and Literacy

## **What careers can I go into with a degree in your department area?**

**JH:** Right now we have the CDA, and the Associate's Degree with Emphasis on Early Childhood Education. Students can get hired for early childhood as Teacher's Assistant or classroom teacher in an early childhood environment such as Head Start.

## **How do I know if this is the right major for me?**

**JH:** The main question you should ask yourself is do I like children? You have to enjoy being with children for eight hours a day. Second question, what could you do for the children? Hopefully your answer is to educate and nurture. Nurturing is something that usually is inside of you. Education is what we will instill in you during your education at NICC.

## **What are you looking most forward to this fall semester?**

**JH:** I will enjoy working with my students this fall. The previous students and the new students always have thoughts and ideas and do a great job bringing them up in class.

## **What is your favorite thing about working with your students?**

**JH:** My favorite thing I enjoy working with my students is seeing their face when they understand something that was being taught.



## Student Spotlight

LaDawna  
Lovejoy

by LaDawna Lovejoy (pictured to left)

My journey at NICC started when I was a senior in high school and I decided on a career choice for myself. The college was offering classes to some of us, and I happened to be one of them. I enjoy young children very much. I knew I either wanted to be a pediatric nurse or work in early childhood development and become a pre-school teacher. At the time ECED classes were offered so I started out with one class, and then after that semester was over I really liked the class so I took 2 more. Eventually I graduated from high school, and I continued to stay at NICC! I enjoy it very much, and it's very convenient for me!

I am majoring in Early Childhood Education. I would like to keep going and get my bachelors, eventually have my own home, and start a small private day care. I also would like to double major and still fulfill my dream of being a pediatric nurse. Anything is possible!

As some may know, I was currently reigning as the Umo<sup>ho</sup> Veterans powwow princess. I am very proud of the people I come from! My mother is a very strong woman. I admire her very much. She raised all of her children in a very strict culturally-oriented home. My father is a very knowledgeable person and comes from beautiful Umo<sup>ho</sup> people. I've grown to know where and who I come from, and I hold that highly within myself. I love expressing who we are. I'm at my happiest and most content when I'm around all of our people hearing our languages at all these social gatherings and ceremonies! So I did my best to be a good role model for our youth and for our people I took my reign seriously and was very proud to represent our Umo<sup>ho</sup> wanonshe!

One big goal of mine is to have a small private school/child care of my own. I'd like to be a real cultural oriented school [teacher] and show young children our way of life and the language we should be speaking! From that I'd also have to keep learning and learning and learning myself but, I look forward to it.

Some advice that I have to people that want to learn or know our culture [is to] look deep within yourself, and then look deep within your community. As indigenous people we already have it all lying within us our blood lines. I'd say go offer a word of prayer and it'll all come to you, some way, some how, it will.



# Miller Honored with Bob Steffen Pioneer Award

Math and Science Division Head, Hank Miller, was honored as the Bob Steffen Pioneer Award recipient for 2019. This award was chosen by The Center for Rural Affairs and recognizes contributions in community, building and engagement. The award ceremony was scheduled in March but was cancelled due to Covid.

Miller has done environmental work with NICC as well as The Center for Rural Affairs. NICC has had nearly a ten year relationship NICC has had with The Center through garden projects. Other projects Miller, NICC students, partners, and community has taken on include: prairie restoration, artesian well, no till garden research, and other environmental research projects. Another key development that Miller is looking forward to is the greenhouse project. Construction is completed in Macy, and Santee's greenhouse construction is underway.



Pictured above: Hank Miller in Santee's garden and prairie outdoor space. This area is part of varying projects and research.

# SNR's Shulski to partner with Nebraska Indian Community College to study ecological impacts of 2019 floods

by Cory Matteson, SNR communications via University Nebraska Lincoln's Announce web page.

In the spring of 2019, historic flooding from the nearby Missouri River temporarily wiped out electricity, water and roads into Santee, the principal village on the Santee Sioux Reservation and the home of one of three Nebraska Indian Community College campuses. Residents were forced to evacuate and relied on water and food donated from nonprofits and other tribes in the immediate aftermath. The human impact of the flooding was devastating, said Hank Miller, director of Natural Resources and head of the Math and Science Division at NICC.

Now, Miller and additional NICC faculty and students are partnering with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources to examine the ecological impact of the 2019 floods. Together, an NICC and UNL SNR team will explore how the floods reshaped the Missouri River and the ecological makeup of the surrounding area.

The partnership is funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Nebraska State Climate Office, said NSCO director and associate professor Martha Shulski. And the official partnership is the culmination of nearly a decade of collaboration between Shulski, a climatologist, and Miller, a biologist and ecologist.

"He and I have worked together for nearly 10 years now informally, but we finally got something funded," Shulski said. "Over time, we got to know one another and developed a relationship with shared goals and a deep understanding of our communities."

In 2014, NICC faculty and students embarked on a NASA-funded project to examine the impacts of climate change by gathering and comparing a variety of weather data from sources that included newly installed weather stations on the college's three campuses. Shulski, then with the High Plains Regional Climate Center, helped Miller set up the weather stations and interpret the data pouring in from them.

"With anything on the landscape that they're studying, weather is an important part of that," Shulski said.

In the years that have followed, Miller has periodically checked in with Shulski for advice when his students have worked on climate- and weather-related projects, such as a study that involved local weather's influence on native prairie plant succession rates.

"Because I do life sciences, I'm really interested in ecological settings," Miller said. "I'm not a climatologist, but I need that information. I need to use that in my curriculum in my classes. We use this data for our NASA research, our weather stations and other data that the State Climate Office offers, and she's always helped us organize that and come talk to our students. That's been going on a long time."

Our students understand climate change. It's very indigenous to be attuned to the environment. It's cultural. Martha understands that. When we approach a project, or when we're looking at something and coordinating on things, she understands that Native connection. Putting all those environmental pieces together is really easy with Martha. Our students really respond well. This partnership has really helped with the curriculum. We've built a lot of climate material that Martha has provided into the curriculum.

"With grant money in place, the two will lead multiple research efforts to see what flooding did to the three communities where NICC campuses are located. The project will begin in Santee and expand to the South Sioux and Macy campuses. With GIS imagery and historical weather data, students and faculty will examine how plant composition, stream and channel flow, sedimentation rates and other components of the ecosystem operated before and after the flood, and what changes, good and bad, occurred. After they study the 2019 flood, Miller said examinations of the 2012 drought and 2011 flood are likely.

"There's no end to what we can put into this project," Miller said. "My mind goes crazy with all of the possibilities. We've been trying to partner for years. I read the grant proposal and said, 'This is kind of what we've been looking for, being both a faculty research and student research project.' We are getting the students involved and expanding the research we are doing on the Missouri River to include historical data, pre-flood and post-flood. We've been working on incorporating drones and utilizing our boat to get out on the river and get hands-on plant samples. The fit was really good.

"It was just a phone call, and Martha said, 'Yeah, let's roll on this.' So that's what we did." Cory Matteson, SNR communications

# #NICC HALLOWEEN CHALLENGE WINNERS & ENTRIES

## COSTUME CONTEST

**1st-Markell Grant**  
(bottom left on left side)  
**2nd-Mary McCauley**  
(top left)  
**3rd- Faith Grant**  
(bottom left on right side)  
**1st- Rachel Reyes**  
(right photo)



## DECORATION CONTEST

**1st- Mary McCauley**  
(top left)  
**2nd- Faith Grant  
and Markell Grant**  
(bottom left)





"When is the best time to plant a tree?" "Ten years ago "...when is the next best time to plant a tree?" "Today." In other words , a tree planted 10yrs ago bears fruit & provides shade & beauty today, & if you plant a tree today , it will be ready to bear fruit 10yrs from now.....  
~Honoring relatives~

Rachel Reyes  
#NICCHonoringOur  
Relatives Entry



# HONOR OUR RELATIVES

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, NICC students answered the question of what 'Honoring Our Relatives' meant to them. Each Campus's winner's entries pictured here (Clockwise L-R Rachel Reyes, Gabriela Median, Mykal Grant, and Jamie Good Bird.



## Modern Day Warrior

The days of the buffalo hunt are now replaced with the hunt for jobs  
The days of fishing are now replaced with fishing for scholarships  
War ponies are replaced by Dodges, Fords, or Chevrolets  
No longer are we equipped with bows and arrows, instead we are now equipped with laptops and smartphones  
The long hours of cultivating crop are now replaced by cultivating knowledge from books  
Earning a degree is now equivalent to earning an eagle feather  
Thus, we are modern day warriors  
This is the "new" livelihood for the Indian in the 21st century

Mykal Grant's #NICCHonorYourRelatives Entry

# Educational Access Team FAQs

Nebraska Indian Community College is focused to supporting our students in classroom and beyond. NICC is addressing gaps in access in the classroom through the Educational Access Team. Educational Access Team Coordinator, Susan Tyndall, and Santee Campus member, Megan Miller share more about the support NICC may be able to provide for students who are experiencing learning barriers.

## What is the Educational Access Team?

**Megan Miller (MM):** The Educational Access Team is a select group of NICC Team Members who focus on supporting students who may need accommodations in the classroom. This could be for a variety of reasons, and NICC can offer a variety of support. We want our students be able to have the tools they need to succeed.

**NICC Website, 2020:** "Nebraska Indian community college desires to create an accessible community where individuals with disabilities have an equal opportunity to pursue their educational goals limited only by their abilities not their disabilities to this end the college will: Provide direct, reasonable accommodations and support services for individuals with disabilities. Encourage self-determination, independence and personal responsibility for students with special needs. Provide resources, advocacy, collaborative services, and outreach throughout the College community. Promote an open and welcoming environment around campus for individuals with special needs. Inform and educate the NICC community about disability-related laws, rules, regulations, and policies. Members of the Educational Access Team at all three campus locations have the responsibility for coordinating the efforts of the college to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This team is responsible for working with eligible students to coordinate and provide appropriate academic accommodations.

## What are examples of accommodations NICC may be able to provide?

**Susan Tyndall (ST):** Additional testing time. One on one-time meetings with instructor.

**MM:** It depends on the student need and also what helps them learn best. It's different for every student.

## Is additional support available for online courses?

**ST:** Yes, with the instructors and Students services.

**MM:** Absolutely. There may even be apps or programs that could be supportive. For example, there are apps that read PDFs to you.

## Does a student have to claim if they have a disability if they would like to receive accommodations?

**ST:** Yes, at the College they must self-identify [if they would like to receive accommodations].

**MM:** The team can't know how to help the student if they don't share what support they need. However, not all students with learning barriers choose to report.

## Where do students go to get started if they are interested additional support?

**ST:** They should talk to anyone on the Educational Access Team.

## Educational Access Team Members

**Macy Campus-** Susan Tyndall macstyndall@thenicc.edu, Zeke Brummels ebrummels@thenicc.edu, Crystal Ross- Macy Campus maccross@thenicc.edu

**South Sioux City Campus-** Alvin Parker aparker@thenicc.edu, Jackie Hahn jhahn@thenicc.edu

**Santee Campus-** Terri Grant tgrant@thenicc.edu, Megan Miller mmiller@thenicc.edu

**Pawnee Nation Campus-** Amanda Kanuho akanuho@thenicc.edu, Marcella Stephenson mstephenson@thenicc.edu

# NEW FACES AT NICC



DR. KEISHA SIRIBOE

Assistant to the Academic Dean, Dr. Keisha Siriboe's background is in childhood literacy and education research. Dr. Siriboe also is the founder of Dr. Keisha Cares, a literary consulting service. In addition, she earned several academic awards and has served in national leadership positions in the education field.

CHERYL PHILLIPS

Santee Campus's new Librarian and GED Instructor joins the NICC Team in December of 2020. On the new position, Cheryl says, "I am most excited to help promote information literacy and find ways to make online information more available to the Santee community."



## MEET NEW MEMBERS OF THE NICC TEAM IN THE SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER!

Join us in welcoming many new members to the NICC Family! Nettie Grant Sikyta (PTAC Administrative Assistant), Debra Grant (PTAC Macy Counselor), Derek LaPointe (PTAC Santee Counselor), Dr. Anita Warrior (Human Services-Counseling Division Head), Tina Wolfe-Ricehill (Accounts Payable Clerk), Chastity Warrior (Santee Extension Assistant), Lani Moran-Samqua (Macy Extension Assistant), David Clark (Assistant to the Dean of Student Services), and Patti Page (Grant Writer).

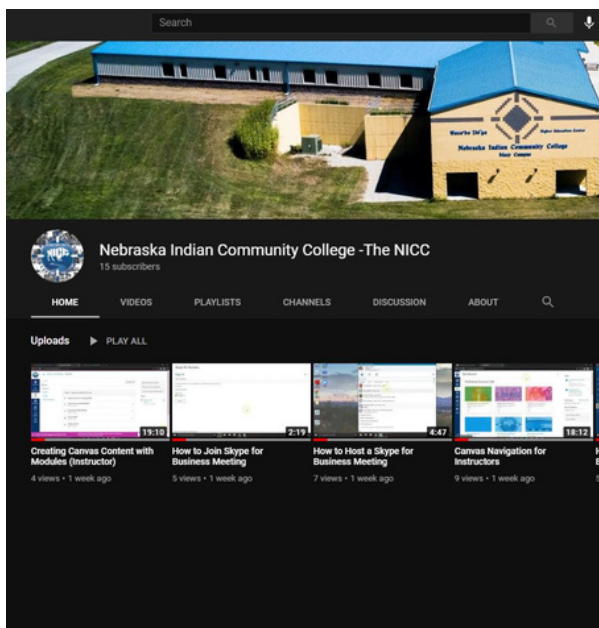
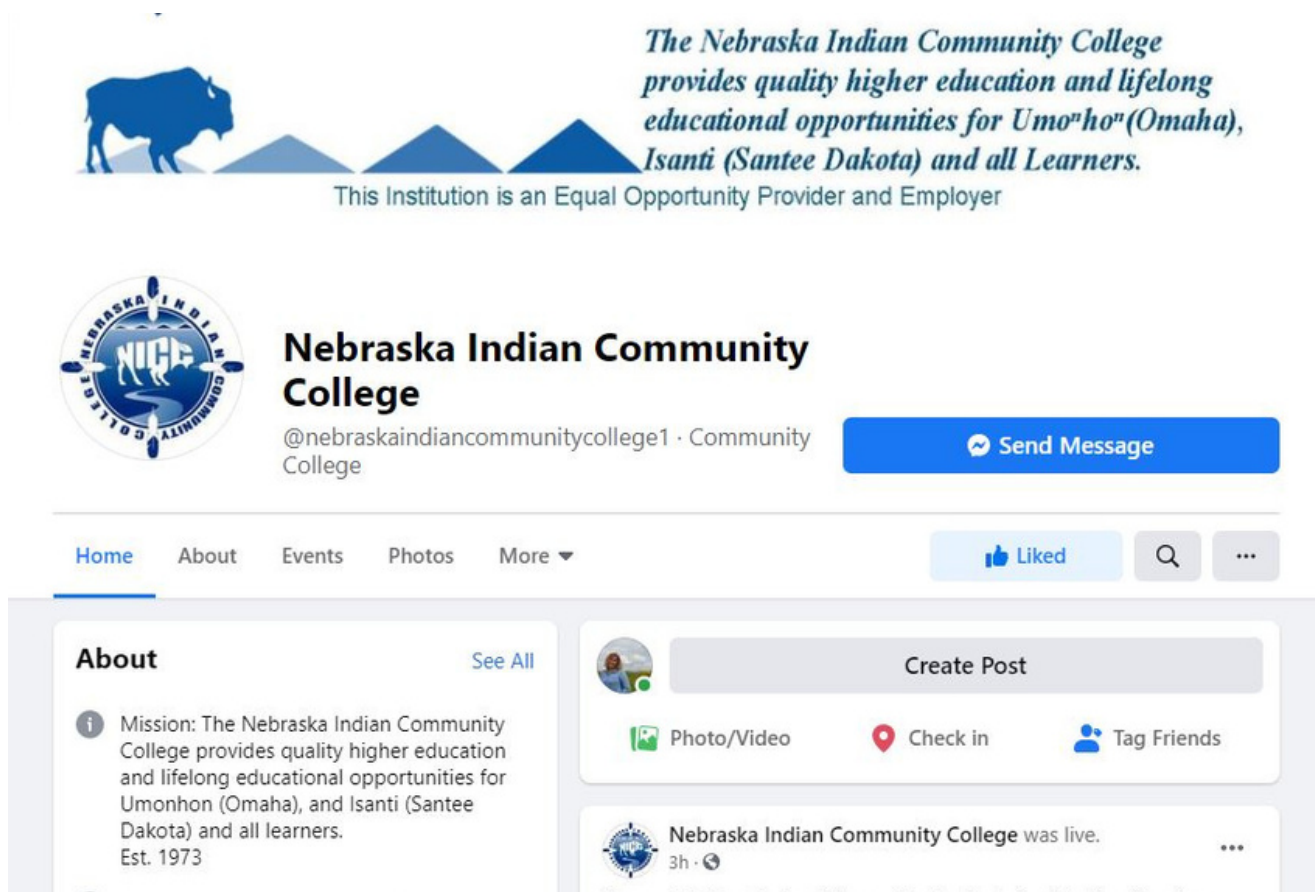


# FUTURE NICC STUDENTS



Future NICC students pictured above Clockwise from top left: Jeffrey Freemont, Cialla Walker (Beez) children of Ashley Blackbird and David Walker, Angela Morris-Robertson daughter of Marcia and Steven Robertson, and Christopher Ross (Lil Chris) son of Chris Ross and Bridget Vargas.

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FOR  
CAMPUS  
UPDATES,  
TUTORIALS,  
AND MORE!



# Spring 2021 Newsletter Dedication

This spring, NICC would like to honor the lives of our loved ones who have been lost. Our NICC Family extends beyond our students, staff, BOD, Santee Sioux Nation, and The Omaha Tribe. Community members, local businesses, elementary and high schools, collaborators across the country and beyond, and family near and far have all helped shape the lives of our students. We know that grief has impacted so many of us, and NICC will be dedicating the spring newsletter to those we have lost.

We would also like to extend the opportunity to share a memory of your loved one and/or stories in the upcoming issue. This newsletter will focus on remembrance, healing, and honoring their lives. If you would like to share a quote, photo, and/or story about your loved one, please send details to Megan Miller at [mmiller@thenicc.edu](mailto:mmiller@thenicc.edu) by the end of March.

Prayers, well-wishes, and best sent to you.  
Pidamayaye/Wibthahon/Thank you,

-Nebraska Indian Community College