

# THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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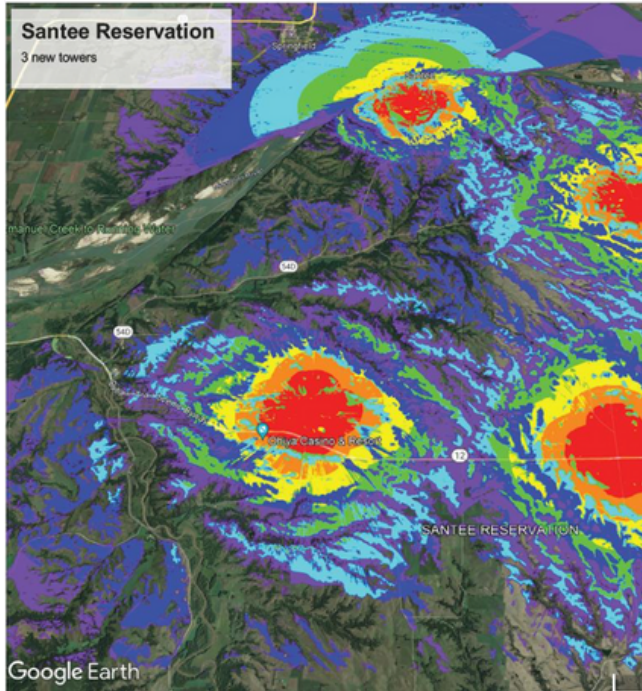
## A NOTE FROM DEAN SUDBECK

As 2022-2023 academic school year begins, it is a good time for us to reflect. Over the past year, we have developed four new certificates that serve as stackable credentials into associate degree programs: Certificates in Contemporary Tribal Leadership, Native American History and Traditional Culture, Child Development Associate (CDA): Infant & Toddler, and CDA: Preschool. We continue to offer in-person, online, and hybrid class options so that you can earn a degree from wherever you may be. Beyond the boundaries of what is now considered Nebraska, students from 18 other states joined us. This year, we hit record enrollment, which is pretty exciting!

We have a number of projects in the works, as we continue to expand course, certificate, and degree offerings for our students and the communities we serve. In the upcoming academic year, I look forward to the new faces we will meet and the continued developments at the Nebraska Indian Community College.

Thathi-the udon!  
It is good that you are here!





COVID-19 disrupted many aspects of College operations, but a \$1.2 million grant will help expand wireless internet for the NICC community to keep students and teachers connected. The grant will fund the construction of new 195-ft broadband towers on and around the Omaha and Santee Reservations.

## TRIBAL WIRELESS BROADBAND NETWORK SET TO EXPAND SERVICE AREA

The NICC has spearheaded a **\$1.2 million Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program** will expand free educational broadband internet access to students on and around the **Omaha and Santee Reservations**. Students who attend Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> Nation Public School, Santee Public School, Walthill Public School, Bancroft Rosalie Public School, Pender Public Schools, and the NICC are all eligible for **free educational home internet access**.

The **grant** secured by the NICC is meant to expand the existing Tribal Broadband Wireless Network. **Federal pandemic relief** CARES Act money provided resources for existing broadband network infrastructure, though because of the topography of the local area, many students on

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the Omaha and Santee Reservations are still **unable to access the internet**. The grant will expand the coverage area on and around the reservations from **30% to 90%**.

Once the towers are erected, connected to the national network via fiber cable, and electrified, students within one mile of the towers will be able to use a **simple mobile MiFi hotspot** to bring internet into their home or school. For students who are outside of the MiFi coverage area, the \$1.2 million grant will also pay for home installation of a **mid- or long-range antennae** that will connect households up to **7 miles** from an access tower to the Tribal Broadband Network.

Students and parents who are interested in connecting to the Tribal Broadband Network for educational purposes can **contact the IT department** at any of the above listed public schools or at the NICC.

In total, four additional 195-foot broadband internet access towers will be built using the \$1.2 million grant award. The three Santee Reservation towers should be operational mid-2023. The Bancroft tower, near the Omaha Reservation, should be completed this December.





# MEGAN MILLER 2021-2022 FACULTY OF THE YEAR

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## What is your current role at NICC? What courses do you teach?

My title at NICC is an Instructional Designer, which focuses on supporting faculty in designing their courses and building their teaching skills. Our team also provides workshops, resources, and support for employees and students. Additionally, I teach online, virtual, and blended courses in sociology and education... It's a great mix of teaching and learning that involves both students and colleagues.

## What are a few of your most memorable experiences at NICC?

Sociology Through Storytelling – Every semester, the students in Intro to Sociology write creative fiction pieces about spending a day in the life of another person. I learn so much and get to see them express themselves in such a unique way. Any time students can bridge creativity, content, and application beyond the textbook—that's lifelong learning.

Intercampus Meetings & Trainings – Whether connecting for an all-staff meeting or hosting an advising workshop, some of my favorite times at NICC are when employees get to connect and collaborate in a hands-on way. It's like a family—brainstorming ideas, sharing laughter, and working on projects together.

Lifelong Learning – The opportunity to take classes as a student, particularly within Native American Studies, is one of the best parts of being at NICC. There are classes here that you won't find at other colleges. As a non-Native instructor, I know there is a lot to both learn and unlearn. There are many parts of Indigenous peoples' history that have not been acknowledged in mainstream U.S. society. NICC's NASP Instructors are so knowledgeable and have a unique way of looking at the real history, acknowledging diversity in Native cultures, languages, etc. I would strongly recommend taking an NASP course at NICC to anyone.



# New Aviation Course Offerings Give Students Wings

The Nebraska Indian Community College and **local pilot Richard Quandt** have partnered to develop a curriculum that will give NICC students the chance to become ground instructors and work toward their **private pilot's license** at the Martin Airfield in South Sioux City. Quandt will teach Private Pilot Theory and Ground School as well as Ground School Flight Instructor Training.

Quandt's curriculum and **decades of experience** will prepare students to test for the first two exams required for **a career in aviation**. One of the biggest things that the NICC's ground instructor program has going for it is the **cost**. Quandt explained that with current economic inflation, operating a training aircraft costs around \$150 an hour between aircraft rental and flight instruction. Given the **60 flight hours** that students can anticipate in Quandt's course, and including ground exam preparation, the whole



THE NICC OWNS THEIR OWN CHEROKEE 140.  
THE SAME MODEL AS PICTURED ABOVE

process would normally cost **upwards of \$10,000**. At the NICC, students won't pay any money at all as they work toward their ground instructor certification and, eventually, their private pilot's license. The whole process, from ground exam to flight hours to practical exam, is **free of charge**. That's because the NICC actually owns its own aircraft—a Piper Cherokee 140—and receives grant funding for fuel and other expenses.

# New Aviation Course Offerings Give Students Wings



THE USE OF DRONES ALLOWS THINGS LIKE  
RAPID TRIBAL EMERGENCY AND DISASTER  
RESPONSE AND MONITORING

The NICC isn't just developing its crewed aircraft capabilities; with the expertise of entrepreneur, professional drone operator, and NICC **Drone Instructor Morgan Dorsey**, students can take classes in drone operation that will eventually lead to the **FAA Part 107 license**, which will authorize them to operate drones in a professional capacity.

While **Quandt's** and **Dorsey's** classes can equip students with real, marketable skills with which to earn a good living, there are community benefits to be had from their classes as well. Students who work toward their **pilot's license** can do things like start a crop-dusting business and pursue **entrepreneurial endeavors** that will benefit their entire communities, while students who work toward their **Part 107 license** can provide disaster response services that can identify wildfires, floods, and other emergencies. Math and Science Department Head **Hank Miller** explained, “If there’s a break in a water line, for instance, a drone operator can get out there and identify the location of the break much more efficiently than a crew on the ground could.”





# **SPRING 2022 DEAN'S LIST**

**AMBER BELLAMY  
MICHAEL BURGESS  
ELIZABETH DALLAS  
GEORGIANNA DENNEY  
LACI DENNEY  
DAVID FREEMONT  
TIFFANY GARDNER  
RAFAEL GEORGE  
ARLANDRA GRAY  
MATTHEW GRAY  
RAQUEL GRIMALDO  
MARIKZA HAHN  
CHARITY HARLAN  
REBEKAH HARLAN  
CRYSTAL HAWKINS  
RHONDA JAMES**

**CODY JOHNSON  
THERESA JUAREZ  
ALEISA LABELLE  
ANAYA LAMARR  
CARON LITTLECOOK  
OLICER LITTLECOOK, JR.  
DEBORAH LONG  
RANDEE LORENTZ-MARKS  
DEANDRE LOVEJOY  
DUSTIN LOVEJOY  
JAYLENE R. LOVEJOY  
CHRIS MCCRAY  
DANNA MILLER  
NYJEL B. MILLER  
TIFFANY MORGAN  
CATHERINE MORRIS  
NIZA E. PARKER**

**CHEYENNE ROBINSON  
VALERIE RUSSELL  
CHELSEA SAUNSOCI  
JAMIE SAUNSOCI  
STEPHANIE SEWELL  
WHITE EAGLE SHERIDAN  
JAY STURGES  
MARQUEL TAPIA  
ANDREA M. THOMAS  
CHRISTOPHER TURNER  
TOSANNA L. WALKER  
CHASTITY WARRIOR  
DASHA WEATHERMAN  
HOPE D. WENKE  
TIFFANY MORGAN  
TIA WHIPPLE**

**A huge congratulations from President Mike Oltrogge, Dean Kristine Sudbeck, and the entire NICC community for your achievement, discipline, and dedication.**

# Dual Credit Courses Set High School Students Up for Accelerated Start

The **NICC** has partnered with Niobrara Public Schools (NPS), Umo"ho" Nation Public Schools (ONPS), and four other **Northeast Nebraska** school districts to offer several dual-credit courses to high school students. These classes award both **high school credit** and **college credit** and give college-bound students a **huge advantage**. In-person and hybrid options are available, and **tuition is covered** by NICC.

This past spring, **NPS** juniors Chloe Reynolds and Billie Pritchett and senior Olivia Holz earned five high school credits at NPS and four college credits at NICC by taking a dual-credit **Nursing Assistant class** taught by Registered Nurse Lacey Vanis. The class had 12 students in total.



NPS STUDENTS PRACTICE VARIOUS  
PATIENT MOBILITY MANEUVERS



Students at Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> Nation Public School also participated in the NICC's Dual Credit CNA program. The Nursing Assistant class was far more rigorous than the average high school course. The first section of the curriculum was academic-based and focused on memorization, retention and assessment.

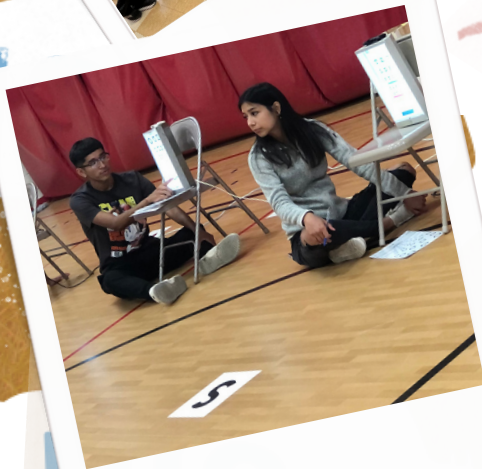




The next portion was practicum-based—during the week, the students spent time practicing with an array of health monitoring equipment and mannequins, while on the weekend they got hands-on experience in local nursing homes. Upon completion of the dual-credit Nursing Assistant class, students were able to test for a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate, which will allow them to start their professional health careers immediately. A list of all dual-credit courses available through the NICC can be found on the NICC website.



# ONPS & NCC





# NICC Partners with Bellevue University for Unique Transfer Experience, 4-year Degree Fast Track



Bellevue University, one of the nation's leaders in preparing students for lifelong success with career-relevant knowledge and skills, has announced an innovative Nebraska Indigenous Grant that allows Nebraska Indian Community College graduates to transfer in credits earned in an associate degree and apply them toward a 4-year bachelor's degree.



# NICC Partners with Bellevue University for Unique Transfer Experience, 4-year Degree Fast Track



**BELLEVUE**  
UNIVERSITY

The Nebraska Indigenous Grant is open to all graduates who have completed an associate degree at the Nebraska Indian Community College, no matter when they completed their degree. The grant covers Bellevue University tuition and fees after all outside scholarships and grants are applied for Pell Grant-eligible graduates. Graduates can choose from Bellevue University's more than 50 online bachelor's degrees.

"The Nebraska Indigenous Grant allows NICC graduates to bring their entire associate degree with them to Bellevue University using transfer credits to get them halfway through their bachelor's degree," said Charles Kreber, Public Information Officer for Nebraska Indian Community College. "This innovative grant provides a convenient and flexible pathway for students to earn a bachelor's degree while they stay in their home communities." For more information about this opportunity, please contact Bellevue University.

Sponsored by AICF-2021 Covid Aid for Student Success (2021 CASS)



# 2022-2023 Academic Year **FINAL GRADE BONUSES\***

**\$200 FOR EACH A, A- \$100 FOR EACH B+, B, B-, P**

*\*To qualify, students should complete their work by the end of the course's final week. It is the students' responsibility to complete their work and check Empower for grades by day Final Grades are due.*



# Traditional Earth Lodge Returns to Omaha Reservation

The **Omaha Reservation** has been without a traditional Earth Lodge for decades, but now, one of the structures stands at the top of the hill behind the **Macy Campus**. Standing 19 feet in height and with a diameter of over 40 feet, the **Earth Lodge** was built by members of the **NICC community** with help from the **AmeriCorps** National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC). NCCC is a 10-month federal program for 18–24-year-old volunteers who travel as a team and serve with nonprofit organizations across the country. This past **May**, a team of seven NCCC volunteers traveled to Macy to **realize a dream** that the NICC has had for over two years: constructing their very own traditional Earth Lodge.

Upon NCCC's arrival, work commenced immediately. The first step? **Removing the bark** from seven 20-foot logs that would construct the inner ring of the lodge. Phase two was **placing the poles**, a job that required digging **four-foot holes** and lifting and leveling logs that weigh hundreds of pounds using a skid loader and telehandler. NCCC members learned to drive the skid loader and handle its attachments. They also received **chainsaw training** and OSHA certification. In addition to the seven center poles, the team debarked and placed 20 poles for the outer ring, 27 headers, 40 rafters, and hundreds of feet of branches to form the outer walls of the lodge.





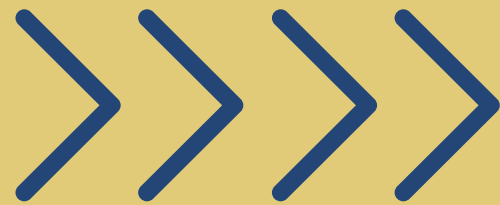


The AmeriCorps team departed in early June for their next project—working at a garden facility with Iowa State University—but their impact at NICC’s Macy Campus will stand tall on that hill for years to come. The College intends to use the Earth Lodge for community events, ceremonies, and even as a classroom space. Our resident Earth Lodge experts are faculty members Wynema Morris, Zeke Brummels, and Kodi Urquidi, all of whom are happy to answer questions about the history and future of the Earth Lodge.









# SOIL SNAPSHOT

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## NICC AND ISU'S SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP

On September 25, NICC Faculty **Hank Miller** and **Lavonne Snake** conducted a soil health testing, cover crop, and compost making workshop in collaboration with **researchers from Iowa State University**. The workshop also included an indigenous cooking portion conducted by NICC's **Anthony Warrior**.





*The Right Direction!*

**[www.thenicc.edu](http://www.thenicc.edu)**

**844-440-NICC (6422)**

*Degrees and Programs Offered at NICC*

*Associate of Applied Science - Carpentry • Associate of Arts - Business Administration*

*Associate of Arts - Early Childhood Education • Associate of Arts - General Liberal Arts*

*Associate of Arts - Human Services • Associate of Arts - Native American Studies*

*Associate of Science - General Science Studies • New Vocational Programs*

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