AISES Celebrates 40 Years
Denver Convention Center in Denver, CO

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) celebrated its 40th year serving American Indians in STEM in Denver, Colorado. The mission of AISES is to substantially increase the representation of American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, First Nations and other indigenous peoples of North America in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) studies and careers. AISES started in 1977 and has grown each year. AISES has over 189 college and university chapters throughout North America, 4,000 current members, and more than 1,3000 lifetime members known as Sequoyah Fellows (www.aises.org). There are 4 tribal college chapters, 2 university chapters, and 11 pre-college chapters in the state of North Dakota!

The 40th Annual AISES National Conference began with the opening ceremony. A local drum group, a blessing from the Council of Elders started off the conference opening ceremony. This was followed by an introduction speech on the impact of AISES by Dr. Twyla Demaray-Baker (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation), President of the Nuestra-Hidatsa-Sahnish College and the Region Call Out. Each year, each region competes in the Region Call Out for the spirit stick. The region that is the most enthusiastic wins the spirit stick which is held by the respective Regional Student Representative. Region 3 won this year’s Regional Call Out. The ceremony ended with the featured keynote speaker, Hattie Kaufman (Nez Perce). Hattie is the first Native American journalist to report on an evening national network. She is a 4-time Emmy Award-winning news correspondent. She reported for 48 Hours, Street Stories, Sunday Morning, CBS Radio, CBS Special Report, the Early Show, and CBS Evening News. She shared her story about growing up in Seattle with her brothers and sisters and how her reporting career started at the University of Minnesota. She emphasized the impact of doing “just a
little more” than the job description can open many doors of opportunity. More of her story can be read in her autobiography titled, Falling into Place: A Memoir of Overcoming that was released in 2013.

NDSU INBRE was one of many breakout sessions to present during the 3 day conference. The presentation was interactive and titled “Building Research Capacity with Tribal Colleges through Cultural Capacity.” The presentation discussed how NDSU INBRE conducts engagement with tribal colleges, the SURP curriculum, and a Rez Café activity to engage the audience in thinking about how they can include cultural capacity in the work they do. For a copy of this presentation visit www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/inbre.

Other highlights from the conference included the student poster and oral competitions for pre-college, undergraduate, and graduate students, Networking Suites, Sequoyah Fellows breakfast, the AISES Career Fair, and a morning Blessing Ceremony from the Council of Elders.

The AISES National Conference closed with a Gala to celebrate 40 years of serving American Indian students and professionals in STEM. The keynote address was Norbert Hill, Jr. (Oneida), who was the founder of the Winds of Change magazine that AISES issues quarterly to its members and subscribers. He is retired as the Director of Education for the Neidà Nation of Wisconsin and has an impeccable background in American Indian education. Following the keynote address, the Professional of the Year Awards, and words from former Region Student Representatives currently pursuing Ph.D.’s, the evening’s entertainment was presented by the Grammy nominated drum group Northern Cree who was also the host drum for the annual AISES Powwow.

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**Tribal Community Perspectives in Higher Education**

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, MN

September 26-27th, 2017 the Center for Indian Country Development (CICD) located at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis hosted a conference on Tribal Community Perspectives in Higher Education. NDSU INBRE staff attended the conference to be a part of the conversation and learn from others in attendance. The goal of the conference was to identify opportunities for addressing gaps in American Indian education including research, data collection, and action plans for a follow-up conference. There were 3 sessions specific to the gaps in American Indian education: 1) Data-based introduction to tribal communities and higher education; 2) Perspectives on how higher education serves students from tribal communities; and 3) Perspectives on how higher education serves tribal communities.

Session 1 featured presentations from the American Indian College Fund and American Indian Higher Education Consortium staff who spoke about qualitative and quantitative data on tribal students. Session 2 featured staff from College Horizons, staff from the Department of Education and the Coeur d’Alene tribe, and Washington State University who spoke on the strategies that work well for improving educational experiences for students from tribal communities. Both groups addressed the need for improving access to education begins in the womb and a pre-K through 12 models of improving education for American Indians must be a part of the discussion of American Indian higher education. Session 3 included words from Candessa Cikana Community College President, Cynthia Lindquist (Spirit Lake), and former Chairwoman of Fond du Lac, Karen Diver. They both discussed the role their respective tribal colleges had in providing students with scientific research opportunities, building partnerships, and the impact consistency and role models can have on their students. Staff from the CICD have developed a list of actionable plans to work on improving higher education.

View the recorded conference at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDGfqc5wtlo&feature=youtu.be
Native Youth Science Night Planning
Sponsored by NDSU INBRE

NDSU INBRE will be partnering with other departments and student organizations to host a Native Youth Science Night in the month of October. October 4th is National Youth Science Day. The idea to host this event spawned from the National Youth Science Day and need for more involvement with local Native youth interested in science.

The event will feature games, interactive learning, door prizes, and refreshments. All local Native youth and families will be invited to participate in Native Youth Science Night.

For more information visit our program website at www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/inbre under the SURP tab or contact our staff.

Highlighting TCU Research through Video
A Collaborative Project

NDSU INBRE staff and faculty are beginning new initiatives for the research training modules this year. Another addition to the new direction of the modules is to partner with local TCU researchers to develop a video series that highlights the research done at the tribal colleges. Each tribal college has had an array of students present on their research projects completed at a tribal college at local, regional, and national conferences. The goals of this project will be several fold including: strengthening relationships between NDSU INBRE and TCUs, promoting TCU research, highlighting student researchers, and providing a resource for TCUs to use as desired. As this project unfolds, NDSU INBRE staff will seek TCU researchers who would like to be a part of this project and provide updates and project progress as applicable.

Educator Opportunities
Upcoming and Open Applications

Educator Summer Research Opportunity

- Educators of Native American students are invited to apply for the Optics Research Experience for Teachers in Native American Schools (O-RETINAS).
- 8 week program with projects in STEM
- June 4-July 27, 2018
- $6000 stipend, travel, housing, and $1500 classroom supply budget
- Application due: December 4, 2017
- http://cian-erc.org/_ret-native-american-students
- Contact Amee Hennig with questions amee@optics.arizona.edu, 520-621-8253

Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program

- NIFA RFA for FY 2018
- Eligible applicants include: public food program service providers, tribal organizations, private nonprofits
- Applications due: December 4, 2017
Student Opportunities

Upcoming and Open Applications

2018 Paul Ambrose Scholars Program

- Application deadline: Monday November 20, 2017 at 11:59PM (EST)
- Exposes health professions students to public health professionals
- Leadership development
- April 9-10, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA
- More info at: http://www.ambrosescholars.org/

The Obama Foundation Fellowship

- Inaugural class of 20 Fellows
- 2 year non-residential fellowship
- Hands-on training
- Leadership development
- Visit https://www.obama.org/fellowship

Student Spotlight Section

This section could feature you and/or one of your students who is involved in research!!

If you would like to submit an announcement, student research opportunity, or nominate a student for the Student Spotlight section please contact us:

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For archived monthly newsletters or more information visit our website:

www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/inbre