FAA Research Grant Possibilities

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Email from FAA concerning Involving UNO and the FAA in tribal college activities

TO: henry lehrer, INTERNET: lehrerh@cwis.unomaha.edu
DATE: 8/24/1997 9:03 PM

Re: Native American/Alaska Native Program, NASA & UNO (fwd.)

***********************************************************
Hank Lehrer, Ph.D. Professor
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422 Allwine Hall Omaha, NE 68182-0508
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email lehrerh@unomaha.edu

"Luck is the residue of design" (Branch Rickey)

***********************************************************
-------- Forwarded message --------
Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 14:33:28 -0400
From: Barbara Fuller fullerb@admin.tc.faa.gov
To: lehrerh@unomaha.edu
Cc: Barbara Fuller fullerb@admin.tc.faa.gov
       Larry Lackey Larry_Lackey@admin.tc.faa.gov
Subject: Native American/Alaska Native Program, NASA & UNO

Mr. Lehrer,

Larry had mentioned that you were scheduling a grant proposal writing workshop for Native Americans in your area. Could you give me information in regard to this activity?

I am the grants officer for the FAA's aviation research grants program. We are authorized to give grants to colleges, universities and not-for-profit institutions for various areas of aviation research. We can also give grants to for-profits if they are specifically researching security topics.

If you give me your address I will also send you some information about our program. We are also on the internet at

   www.tc.faa.gov/aar201/aar201_index.html
   www.tc.faa.gov/aar201/page3.html
   www.tc.faa.gov/grants/solicitations/

As soon as I receive this information, I will speak with my supervisor to discuss how we can be more involved with this initiative. My telephone number is 609-485-4919. I will
be here until 5 pm today and will not return until august 28.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks.....

Barb Fuller

The Presidential Executive Order was signed in 10/96. During the Spring of 1997 I was designated the coordinator for the development and implementation of a Native American/Alaska Native program in FAA to support the Executive Order. I had planned to develop a program.

Incorporating input from various sources, to include: existing programs in other DOT modes, tribal colleges, FAA regional offices and the members of the Native American/Alaska Native FAA Employee Association. One known component of the program was an Intern Program (which we did have this year with 2 Native American students).

With respect to the input sources: much of the other DOT programs involve intern programs, co-op programs, or an emphasis for construction contracts (FHWA, especially on reservation land). I have met with the tribal college umbrella organization, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and provided some suggestions about a survey being conducted which focuses on institutional capabilities of the tribal colleges. I will receive information on the results of the survey. A query to the regions as to completed and projected Native American programs essentially yielded nothing. Information from the Employee Association has been very slow to collect.

In short, when Hank Lehrer suggested meeting with the NASA representatives on the UNO grant I saw it as very fortuitous. Based on the focus of the UNO grant I see the opportunity for the FAA to become involved in a program which should yield a number of activities that can serve as models for use in the FAA regions. In addition, the NASA representatives indicated an interest in identifying and pursuing joint efforts with the FAA.

As I see it, the end result of a cooperative relationship could be the specification of
effective outreach approaches to the Native American groups that can be adapted to the FAA culture and environment for implementation at the regional level. The FAA regions will likely be a key to the success of such a program in that educational activities are best conducted by those in and familiar with the local areas. An additional factor is the frequent barrier to Native American recruitment of a strong desire to remain in the same geographic area.

A critical component of the program will be the relationship that is established with the tribal colleges. The UNO grant has made significant inroads in this area. By capitalizing on their efforts the FAA should be able to continue working with the tribal colleges.

Not only is the identification of the research type of capability at each institution important, but the information and network that will facilitate the establishment of partnership agreements between/among the tribal colleges and other colleges and universities having complementary research competencies may be critical to success.

I believe that the potential is available for the Office of Research and Technology Applications to play a critical role in the development of the Native American/Alaska Native Program, especially with regard to the approach described in the preceding paragraph.

If additional information concerning the UNO grant is desired, please contact: Dr. Hank Lehrer at (402) 554-3683. His e-mail is: lehrerh@unomaha.edu

Please call if I can be of assistance at any time.

LL