Panel Discussion at Little Priest Tribal College (LPTC)

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This panel presentation by a Little Priest Tribal College (LPTC) academic administrator, faculty member, USDA extension agent, and University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) research consultant will include extensive information on the extremely successful Family Aeronautical Science (FAS) and Family Geospatial Science (FGS) partnership programs with the Winnebago Public Schools (WPS). The primary focus of the family science initiative has been to improve the science, mathematics, engineering, and science (STEM) performance of 5th through 12th grade Native American students of the WPS.

The teaching paradigm is classroom teachers introduced aeronautical knowledge in the 5th and 6th grade and geospatial knowledge in the 7th & 8th; Family Environmental Science (FES) will begin in high school in two years. The unique facet of the program is students, their parents, and teachers have eagerly attended four evening events at school each year. At these events, there was always a prayer, dinner, and family-centered activities such as constructing and flying airplanes/rockets, learning to operate Global Positioning System receivers, and becoming proficient using Geospatial Information System software; the focus was on families working together in the discovery of science.

Considerable effort has also gone into improving the instructional/research capabilities of the LPTC STEM faculty and associated laboratories and libraries. Many of these enhancements have been funded by grants from NASA and NSF EPScO R. Each panelist will present a 5 to 10 minute PowerPoint overview of their own unique contributions to the family science program followed by 10 minutes for questions.

Handouts will be available.

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