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Report, Native American Working Group Western Region Space Grant Meeting

Hank Lehrer

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Professor, retired, lehrerh@erau.edu

Brent D. Bowen

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, bowenb6@erau.edu

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**Report, Native American Working Group
Western Region Space Grant Meeting
Santa Fe, NM
2:00 PM
November 8, 1996**

Submitted by
H. R. Lehrer (Nebraska)

The first meeting of the Native American Working Groups of the Western Region Space Grant Consortium was held in on November 8, 1996 with 13 participants. An overview of the Articulation Model with Native American Tribal Schools was presented by H. Lehrer (NE). Victor Pedro (Pueblo) joined the group and shared many insights with the attendees with respect to specific Native American educational values; he also emphasized the importance of observing various protocols when interacting with tribal officials.

Significant discussion followed and there was strong interest by the attendees in development of a Western Region Native American initiative. Although the exact form that such a regional project will ultimately take was not decided, several preliminary segments necessary for a strong and vital program were agreed upon.

The following actions were taken.

- I The formation of a more permanent Native American (NA) working group for the western region; Hank Lehrer (Nebraska) has agreed to lead this initiative. It was agreed by the attendees that this working group would meet again during the 1997 Western Region Space Grant Meeting tentatively planned for Idaho in October or November 1997. At that meeting, it is hoped that several representatives of Native American Tribal Colleges would attend and participate in working groups activities.

- I The development of a Western Region World Wide Web site. Leadership for this initiative will be by Andy Klein (Oregon). This web site will contain western region NA news and items of general interest as well as links to other western region state NA homepages and selected NA web sites.

- I The establishment of a western region NA database; Bill Hiscock (Montana) has assumed the leadership role for this initiative. The database will be the first such aerospace/aeronautics specific site focusing exclusively on Native Americans employed in the field.

- I The collection of aerospace/aeronautics career information for inclusion on the Western Region NA Homepage; this initiative will be under the leadership of John Gardner (Nevada). It is envisioned that this career information will ultimately include job overviews, descriptions of various career ladders, and profiles on Native Americans currently working in the aerospace/aeronautics field.

- I The development of a Western Region NA reflector site email list that can be accessed from the Nebraska Space Grant Homepage at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

- I The sharing of progress on the Nebraska Space Grant Articulation Model with Native American Tribal Schools with the western region. This information will also include progress reports on the envisioned joint project (based on the Nebraska initiative) between Nebraska, South Dakota, and Kansas. Although letters of understanding between participants have not been formally signed at this time, it is planned that these documents will be completed by early in 1997.