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Needs, Plans, and Rationale for the Nebraska Native American School Team - Ames Research Center

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Needs, Plans, and Rationale
For the Nebraska Native American School Team
Ames Research Center
Summer 1999

1. Educational Reform Goals and Plans: The team attending this summer’s NASA Educational workshop at Ames Research Center is composed of teachers from the four reservation schools in Nebraska. Superintendents in each of these schools have adopted or are in the process of adopting science based on the six drivers of NSF. Of a priority in adopting these drivers, teacher training is #1. FOS science is being used in K-8.

2. Needs Assessment: The native population’s scores in general in the US and in particular in Nebraska on standardized tests in mathematics and science are consistently below national averages. With the development of new science programs as a result of attending this workshop there is now an opportunity to raise scores. An additional component of this issue is that there are few girls interested in math and science; the development of new programs as a result of this opportunity will provide enhanced gender equity.

3. Role of the Team: Several of the schools that are sending representatives have articulation agreements with the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC). The development of science expertise among team members will allow those members to return to their individual schools and better train other staff members in a more NASA/Native American focused science curriculum.

4. Expectations of the NASA Educational Workshops: Currently, there is a consortium of the four schools that have teachers attending. These teachers and their schools network for a common theme in teaching hands-on science; attendance at this workshop will enhance this objective. Team members want programs for all levels to take back to the classroom and it is the expectation of the attending teachers and their administrators that NASA will provide such curriculum enhancement.

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