NE Native American Program - Briefing for Dr. Elizabeth Ward - NASA

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The NASA Nebraska Space Grant Native American Initiative has three pillars which are:

$ Infrastructure and Partnership Building
$ Motivation of Students
$ Curriculum Enhancement/Teacher Training

Under the Infrastructure and Partnership Building the following activities have been completed in the last year or are currently underway:

$ Formation of Nebraska Native American Working Group (NNAWG) in February 1997
$ Joint SD and NE activities underway; letter of agreement signed by both consortia this past year
$ Summer meeting of the NNAWG in June 1997
$ NASA EPSCoR Proposal Writing Workshop September attended by 24 Tribal College and reservation teachers and administrators
$ Fall Meeting of the NNAWG December 1997
$ Future involvement if KS and another mid-western states is being discussed

Motivation of Students

$ Funded NASA scholarships at tribal colleges and school districts
$ NASA Aeronautics Day School Orientation September 1997 at 4 reservation schools
$ NASA Aeronautics Day at Sioux Gateway Airport September 29 attended by 205 reservation teachers and 5th and 6th grade students.
$ Two scholarships for ACE Academy in June 1997
$ NASA Aeronautics Day 5th grade being planned for September 1998

Curriculum Enhancement/Teacher Training. The goal of this pillar is to better prepare Native Americans to meet national math and science related standards

$ Funded NASA Organizational Enhancement Grants to two tribal colleges
$ Funded GPS Receiver for Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC)
$ Funded two weather stations for NICC
$ Funded 5 reservation and tribal college teacher to attend an Aeronautics for Teachers Workshops at Augustana College in June 1998

Additional Items

$ Two faculty members spend 1/4 of their time working with the Native American schools and colleges in NE.
$ One NASA Fellow spends 50% time on Native American activities.

Approximate Costs for the NE Native American Program for the past year

$ Faculty salaries = $30,000 per year
$ Research fellow = $3,500
$ Scholarships = $5,000
$ Grants = $2,000
$ Workshops and Field Trips = $2,500
$ NNAWG Meetings = $2,000
$ Travel to meeting to inform others of the NE program = $2,500
$ Total Cost for year of approximately $47,500