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Review of NASA Nebraska Space Grant Native American Effort

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Review of NASA Nebraska Space Grant Native American Effort

for

Dr. Sam Massenburg

NASA Langley

September 21, 1999

by

Dr. Hank Lehrer, NASA Nebraska Space Grant

During that last few years, great strides have been made in the Native American outreach activities of the NASA Nebraska Space Grant Consortium. This briefing will cover the following sections:

- Three Pillars**
- Intra-state Activities**
- Inter-state Efforts**
- Western Region Programs**

Three Pillars

The NASA Nebraska Space Grant Native American Outreach Initiative contains of three pillars:

- 1 Infrastructure Building
- 2 Motivation of Students
- 3 Enhancement of Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education in K-14

Intra-State Activities (two tribal colleges and 4 tribal school districts)

The following activities have occurred in the last 26 months:

1. Formation of Nebraska Native American Working Group on February 26, 1997.
2. Preparation of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNO and Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) and Little Priest Tribal College.
3. Awarding of Organizational Enhancement Grants to tribal colleges.
4. Awarding of ACE Academy Scholarships to tribal public school district.
5. Awarding of NASA scholarships to tribal colleges and schools.
6. Agreement to continue to work jointly on future projects.
7. Hosting numerous meetings of the Nebraska Native American working Group in S. Sioux City, NE.
8. Hosting a NASA/Nebraska Space Grant proposal writing workshop in Norfolk, NE in September 1996.
9. Hosting a NASA Aeronautics Day for Native Americans at the Sioux City, IA Airport in September 1997, 1998, and 1999.
10. Sending teachers to a Teacher Workshop on Aviation at Augustana College in 1998.

11. Forming a team of teachers from the reservation schools and sending those teachers to NASA Ames for a two week summer workshop in June 1999.

Interstate Efforts (NE and SD)

1. Dialogue between states has begun; a Memorandum of Understanding between NE and SD is about to be signed.
2. Goal is to use the NE effort as a Model of Best Practice for a multi-state program.
3. Plan is to meet at a later date in a central location.
4. Several joint projects (Kites over the Great Plains and Reservation Weather Stations) are in the discussion stage with NE and SD.

Western Region Programs

1. Establishment of the Native American Working Group (NAWG) on November 8, 1997; activities re-affirmed at the National Space Grant Directors meeting in Washington in March. This group met at the western region meeting in ID in November 1998.
2. The NAWG has begun work on:
 - # WWW homepage and website
 - # NA database
 - # Collection of aerospace/aeronautics career information