

# Indigenous Reader



NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

218 Lory Student Center  
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www.nass.colostate.edu



## Special points of interest:

- |                                     |                            |
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## NASS All Nations Leadership Retreat



All Nation Participants

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual All Nations Leadership Retreat at the Tamasag Conference Center kick started the semester for the NASS office. Students, faculty, and guest speakers attended the retreat which enhanced leadership, communication, teambuilding and problem solving skills, as well as, diversity and cultural awareness. It gave students a chance to network with on campus offices and programs.

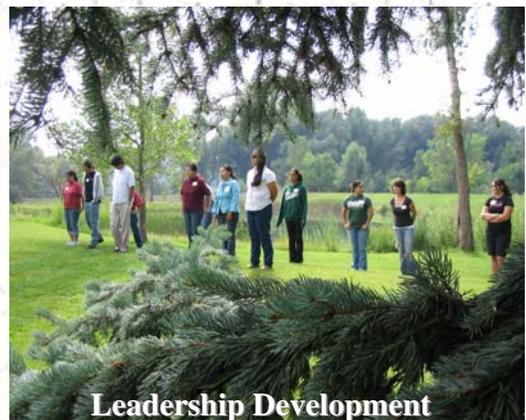
Agricultural Business and Agricultural Ed. added," *The retreat gives students the chance to visit new ideas and reflect on issues that students may face and not realize. I have attended the retreat for the past three years and it has given me the opportunity to work on my teambuilding skills through leadership roles*". The retreat has been

successful over the years and contributes to the goals of the NASS office. The All Nations Leadership Retreat will continue to be a part of one of the programs offered every year. Any questions regarding the retreat can be directed to the NASS office at 970-491-1332 or stop by 218 Lory Student Center.



Teambuilding Exercises

*"The retreat gives students the chance to meet each other, talk about goals for the year, and build a strong foundation,"* said Seraphina Wall, Assistant Director. The program ranged in topics from "Songs and Symbolism of the drum" to "Phi Sigma Nu: Native American Fraternity".  
Marcella Talamante, Senior



Leadership Development

## 2006 Native American Music Festival

Cultural awareness is an important and valuable resource for any person entering the workforce. However, barriers to finding interest in different cultures can be somewhat hard for some to accomplish. Music is one form of communication that continues to unite every type of person. Native American music has been on this continent as long as the indigenous people themselves. Even today the music continues to burn inside artists and be released as memorable and emotional bal-

ads, notes and songs. On August 31, 2006 Colorado State students were able to witness two 21<sup>st</sup> century Native bands; The Atoll and Pura Fe. Their performance was outside the Lory Student Center in the Sculpture Garden and was rockin' down to the foundation. Even though the show was a "warm-up" for the Native American Music Festival the following weekend, there was electricity running throughout the students in attendance. The "main event" was held on September



2<sup>nd</sup> in the grassy park outside the Ft. Collins Museum. The Saturday event featured over 6 bands; a DJ, a MC, and a traditional drum group. Featured artists included; The Atoll, Pura Fe, Star Nayea, Old Krow, Bunky Echo-Hawk, Jackie Bird, Scotti Clifford, Lance Allrunner, The Iron Family Dancers, DJ Abel, and Culture Shock Camp.



## NASS/LSOP Spring Break 2007



For the past three years over spring break, the NASS office has been teaming up with the CSU Little Shop of Physics (LSOP) to perform outreach to elementary schools in northwest New Mexico, northeast Arizona, and southwest Colorado. Brian Jones, Director of LSOP, and Ty Smith, Director of NASS, brought both programs together to achieve one goal; promoting the importance of science and education to Native youth on reservations.

Preliminary plans for the spring break 2007 trip include visiting schools on the Zuni, Southern Ute and Navajo Reservations. In addition, LSOP and NASS students will visit and explore the Anasazi ruins at Chaco Canyon National Historic Park.

The elementary students are not the only ones that benefit from this event. LSOP student volunteers are able to experience a different culture, Native students have an

opportunity to give back to a Native community, and elementary school teachers see alternative ways to teach science.

If you would like to be part of the team or have questions call Ty Smith in the NASS office at 491-1332.

## Native Women's Circle

A new program has been added to the list of events for NASS. The "Native Women's Circle" is a new program that will be held each semester of the academic year. For the **Day of Learning, Leisure, and Shopping**, the group spent Saturday, September 30th in downtown Denver. In addition to lunch and shopping, the Molly Brown House Museum was toured. The group had a chance to learn more about the famous Titanic survivor, the "Unsinkable

Molly Brown".

The program was created to bridge the women of NASS together through female empowerment, cultural sharing and awareness, and social gatherings. "The Native Women's Circle provides students an opportunity to bond and connect with one another. It also focuses on the needs of women in the office", says Ty Smith, Director of NASS.

Events can be anything from

spending an afternoon discussing topics and issues, visiting a museum or event, and or a day of shopping. The NASS

office hopes the new program will help unite and bring together discussion on topics that Native American women can address and actively participate in, while building a foundation of friendship and social gathering. If



you would like more information on the program please contact Seraphina Wall at 970-491-1332 for further information.

Next social event TBA.

## Native American Student Survey

During the spring semester of 2006, Native American Student Services performed a survey of all self-identified Native American students enrolled at Colorado State University. The goal of the survey was to determine the satisfaction of the services provided by the NASS office.

There were 350 self-identified Native American students of which 78 responded to the survey (21% response rate). Of the respondents, 41% had used the services of the NASS office and 59% did not. Top reasons for visiting the office include; computer usage, attend student organization meetings, socialize, mentoring, and researching scholarship/internship information. Other elements surveyed were reception staff friendliness, convenience of

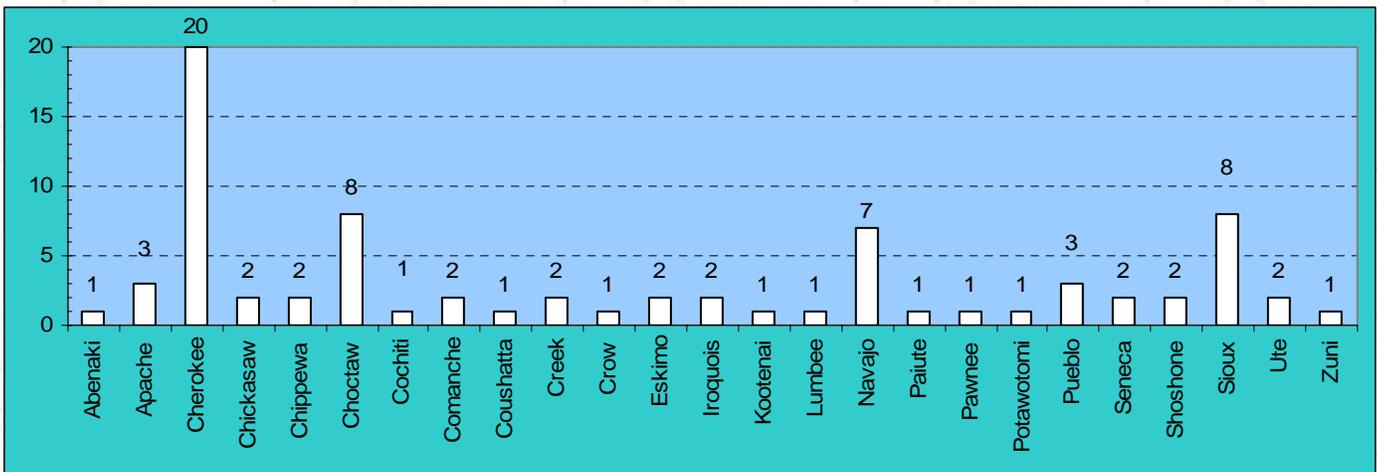
office location, helpfulness of office, trust in confidentiality of office, and recommendation of office to other students.

There were a variety of reasons that students did not use the office. Of the non-users, approximately 30% felt that they did not need the services, 10% did not know of the services, 10% did not identify with a Native American background. Other responses included lack of time, procrastination, and being distance students. Students would more likely use the office if they had a greater understanding of services provided and others simply said if they needed the services they would use it.

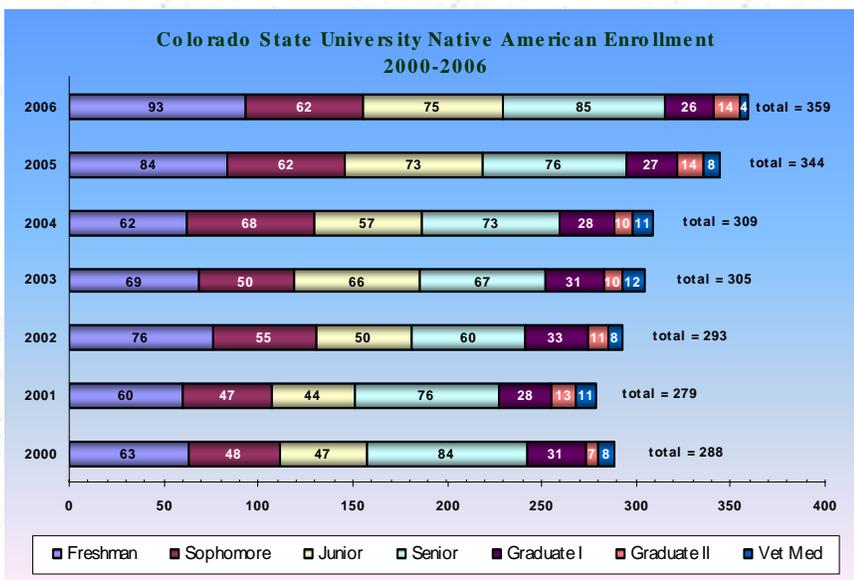
Approximately 75% of respondents receive enough information regarding the office and related events and the remaining

25% did not receive enough information. The preferred method of receiving information about the office was via email, newsletter, website, and word of mouth.

The NASS staff has incorporated survey results into planning for this year's activities and services. For example, the website has undergone recent updates to provide additional information, and email (Ram Mail) is being utilized as a means to improve communication with self-identified Native American students. Student feedback and comments reveal their satisfaction with the office and the survey will be administered again during the spring semester 2007.



## Native American Enrollment Continues to Increase



Native American enrollment continues to increase at Colorado State University. According to Fall 2006 data recently released by the Office of Budgets and Institutional Analysis, enrollment from Fall 2001 to Fall 2006 has increased by 28%.

Since Fall 2004, the freshman class has increased by 50%, and since Fall 2003 the number of students classified as seniors has increased by 26%. Numbers of sophomores, juniors, and graduate students has remained steady.

The majority (approximately 78%) of this year's incoming freshman, transfers, and graduate students are from Colorado. The ratio of males to females is almost 1:1.

## NASS North Star Mentoring Program Welcomes New and Transfer Native Students

Continuing strong into its third year, the Native American Student Services North Star Mentoring Program has started in full swing this '06 Fall semester. The program has been a success so far and has helped out many Native freshmen and transfer students.

New recruits Cirano Breazeal, Katrina Gillette, and Shequeita Byrne have been added to the already stunning roster of mentors. Fresh new face, Cirano Breazeal stated that "It's very humbling that other's respect me enough to put me into this leadership role. Being new to college can be extremely

overwhelming and I would like for both my successes and failures to be lessons for everyone." This program has opened up many doors to students that are struggling to find their place at Colorado State University.

The program offers mentors the opportunity to earn upper division credit (3) through the Psychology Department (PY 486) each semester. Mentors meet weekly for an hour and discuss enhancing skills in leadership, career development, networking with other programs on campus, develop communication skills

across cultures, and discuss different Native American issues that students may be facing. This year each mentor will be doing an individual presentation on a topic of choice. More cultural issues and topics will be incorporated into the agenda this year. The North Star program bridges new and transfer students through academic, social, and cultural programs.

Contact the NASS office at 970-491-1332 for more information.



North Star Peer Mentoring Program Participants

### North Star Mentors:

Michael Frank  
Ashley Curley  
Cirano Breazeal  
Katrina Gillette  
Shequeita Byrne

## Calendar of events for Fall & Spring Semester

**October:** NASA/AISES/NASS Homecoming Float Decorating (10/6 5pm)  
CSU Student of Color Leadership Retreat (10/14)  
NASA/NASS Challenge Ropes Course (10/22 12pm)  
NASS Pumpkin Carving Contest (10/31 1pm)  
NASS Halloween Night (10/31 6pm)

**November:** Native American Awareness Month (events TBA)

**December:** NASS Christmas Pot Luck Dinner TBA  
Holiday Break: December 15th-January 16th

**January:** 1st: Apply for FAFSA (Department of Education pin number required)  
2006-2007 Renewal on web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).  
Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243

**March:** 1st: Deadline for academic scholarships

**April:** NASS Graduation Reception  
Thursday, April 12, 2007  
5:00pm-7:30pm  
Cherokee Park Room, LSC  
NASA 25th Annual Powwow TBA

\*For further updates and event postings call the NASS office at 970-491-1332\*