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## Native American STEM Institute

The Native American Cultural Center and College of Engineering will partner with the Denver Public Schools Indian Education Program and the National Academy of Engineering to bring over 30 middle school Native American students to campus this summer. The week long program will take place from July 29 to August 4, 2012 on the CSU campus and at Pingree Park campus. The Native American STEM Institute will introduce students to hands on activities in mathematics and science, to expose young students

to engineering concepts, and to provide team work and leadership opportunities.

The program emphasis is to demonstrate how mathematics and science are used to create the designed world. Students will get a collegiate experience, spending a week living in the CSU residence halls with college student mentors.

*Did you know that NACC has over 500 Books, CDs and DVDs on Native American topics, that are available to check out for up to two weeks?*

## NACC Emergency Fund

The American Indian Education Foundation (AIEF) has granted the Native American Cultural Center with up to \$12,000 in 3 years for Native American students who have unexpected emergencies or expenses. AIEF nationally supports Native American students enrolled in post-secondary schools, focused on students of all ages who are intent on their educational goals and demonstrate the ability to make positive change in their communi-

ties and in modern society. Students are eligible for up to \$400 per academic year for family emergencies, health related issues or other unexpected expenses. "The support that these funds provide to students can make a difference, allow students to stay in school, stay focused and be successful," said Leslee Lovato, Assistant Director of the Native American Cultural Center and the Office of Admissions. This semester, the emergency fund was

able to assist 9 students with their unexpected expenses. All full-time Native American students enrolled at Colorado State University are eligible to apply for this grant. In order to apply, students can contact the NACC office for further details at (970) 491-1332.



## K-12 Outreach

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During spring break each year the Native American Cultural Center and the Little Shop of Physics pair up and take a trip to the Four Corners region where they spend the week interacting with children and young adults to raise awareness of the importance of education. Participants who went on the trip were Lauren Nagle, Lyla Maloney, Ilse Lira, Denice Chavez and Haley Ruybal as well as Brian Jones and Sheila Ferguson with the Little Shop of Physics program.



*Above: Spring Break Outreach*



*Below: Women's Circle Meeting*

## Native Women's Circle

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The Native Women's Circle met weekly this year to learn some basic sewing skills from our own NACC Administrative Assistant, Teresa Rice. Teresa has also been volunteering her time and has been learning how to quilt with the women in the community at the Christ Center. The Christ Center also donated the material, thread and other tools that the Women's Circle utilized to complete 2 baby quilts that will be donated to the Denver Indian Center.

## AISES Regional Conference Phoenix, Arizona

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This year's AISES 3 regional conference was held on the Arizona State University campus from March 29-31. Each spring AISES colleges and Professional chapters gather to take part in many informative sessions and to engage in various activities from mini career fairs, poster presentations, and engineering competitions. Four AISES student members from the Colorado State University AISES chapter were able to attend this event. Participants include Adele Nez (Undergraduate Civil Engineering Major), Simeon Cas-

key (Graduate Geosciences Major, Audre Etsitty (Undergraduate Equine Science Major) and Goldlin Wall (Graduate Educ & Human Res Studies Major). Each participant had the opportunity to present posters pertaining to their particular field of study. Students elaborated on their works while building a network of educational resources. Goldlin who attend the conference said, "Displaying and presenting our posters, not only expresses our commitment to our research but demonstrates to other's that you can make a difference".



*CSU students presenting project posters at the AISES Regional Conference.*

*From right to left: Simeon Caskey, Goldlin Wall and Audre Etsitty.*

## Seeking Native American Legacy Award Applicants

The Native American Legacy Award is an initiative that began in the fall to give back to eligible non-resident students who are citizens of tribes that have a historical legacy of occupation in Colorado. This award is the culmination of efforts by students, staff, faculty, administration and the Board of Governors to recognize the original residents of Colorado. The Native American Legacy Award offers tuition at resident base tuition plus \$500 per year to undergraduate and graduate students who are citizens of the



*Nala Recipients for the 2011-2012 academic year.*

*From Left to Right: Fr. Terrie Sakizzie, Fr. Raelene Manuelito, Sr. Audre Etsitty, Fr. Rachelle Lee, and Sr. Adele Nez*

93 tribes listed. For the 2011-2012 academic year, this award assisted a total of 15 Native American Students from New Mexico, California, Arizona and Texas. The combined savings for all of these students, by attending Colorado State University, and receiving the Native American Legacy Award, was over \$182,000. Information about this award can be found on our website at <http://www.nacc.colostate.edu/> or by calling 970-491-5232/ or emailing: [Leslee.Lovato@Colostate.edu](mailto:Leslee.Lovato@Colostate.edu).

## Native American Cultural Center Volleyball

Students involved with the NACC office pulled together a team to participate in the Co-Ed Intramural Volleyball season. The team name was NACC Attack and consisted of Freshmen: Aaron Reynolds, Cheryl Lyn Micky, April Smith, and Mando Apio-White, Sophomore: Raelene Manuelito and Terrie Sakizzie, Junior: Joe Lucero, and Senior: Kim Ford. Their record was 3-1 in the regular season, earning them a spot in the playoffs. NACC Attack did a great job representing the office displaying good sportsmanship and team work.



## Upcoming Events

Native American STEM Institute:	July 29 - August 4, 2012
Summer Break:	May 14 - August 15, 2012
Fall Semester Begins:	August 20, 2012
All Nations Leadership Retreat:	September 14, 15 & 16, 2012
Native American Heritage Month:	November 2012

*NACC is open from 8:00am - 5:00pm during the summer.*

*Colorado State University is an equal access/equal opportunity university.*

## Message From the Director



Greetings from the Native American Cultural Center Office! Congratulations to all spring semester graduates and their proud families. Although the semester has ended and all is quiet on campus and in the office, our staff continues to press forward assessing programs, writing annual reports and finalizing plans for our summer program. Before you know it we will be in full planning mode for fall semester programs. Assessing our retention programs is very important and I am proud to share a few results. Of the 204 incoming Native American students for fall and spring semester, 24% participated in our North Star

Peer Mentoring program and 81% are already registered for classes next fall. In regards to the Eagle Feather Tutoring Program, tutors held 213 individual tutoring sessions and spent 338 hours assisting students. Seventy eight percent of these students received a passing grade in the course they sought tutoring in. Ninety percent of these students have either graduated or are enrolled for the fall semester. Our office also continues to expand the programs and services we provide. On the front page of our newsletter you will read about two new initiatives; Native American Cultural Center Emergency Fund and the Native American STEM Institute. We've had a very exciting and productive year. I hope you enjoy reading about our various events and programs in this issue.

Warm regards,

Ty Smith

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