Founding of NACC: 30th Anniversary

During the 1968-1969 academic year, Project GO (generating opportunities) was developed to establish a support system for diverse students on the CSU campus. From the roots of Project GO several advocacy offices, including the Native American Cultural Center were developed. The doors of the NACC office opened August 1979 under the guidance of Raymond Loretto, who acted as the first director while still a student at CSU. All of the advocacy offices were developed with the mission to serve students with their personal, career, cultural and educational development. The four primary support and service areas for NACC office include recruitment, retention, graduation and community outreach.

The office serves as an advocate on behalf of Native students, strives to educate the CSU and Fort Collins communities about Native American culture and empowers students to succeed at the university. Raymond’s wife Geri became the second NACC director. The NACC office has made steady progress over time. In 1981, 72 Native American students were enrolled at CSU. Currently nearly 400 self-identified Native students are enrolled. The office provides a number of valuable programs including the North Star Peer Mentor program, the Eagle Feather Tutoring program, the Native Women’s Circle, and a number of outreach trips and leadership retreats.

Crow Creek School Visit

In October, in the interest of getting young Native students interested in pursuing college degrees by getting exposure to a college campus, ten students and two faculty members from the Crow Creek Reservation spent three days on campus. The Crow Creek Reservation is located in South Dakota, and inhabitants are members of the Sioux Tribe. During their visit the junior high school students participated in several educational workshops including a mousetrap car demonstration, chemistry experiments, a magnetic lab tour and an optics demonstration. The students were also invited to tour a corn maze, go swimming and attend a CSU football game. Goldlin Wall, who participated in the event, spoke highly of the opportunities that students received while on campus. “I think with them visiting, that they were able to see for themselves that there is a whole new world out there,” he said. When asked to describe his overall view of the trip, eighth grader Tori His Law said, “It was fun, it makes me think about all of the options that I have for college.”

Based on the success of the first visit, a second Crow Creek visit has been scheduled for May 31st-June 4th to allow more students to experience the CSU campus. Natural resources and renewable energy will be the focus of the visit, with 20 students and five chaperones expected to attend. The goal of the visit is to encourage the children to pursue a post-secondary education. The students will spend two days at Pingree Park, CSU’s mountain campus, participating in a wildlife walking tour, compass orienteering a ropes course and other outdoor activities. Once they return to campus the students will participate in science experiments hosted by Little Shop of Physics, take a campus tour, and work on a renewable energy project. The trip is part of a growing collaboration between Crow Creek and NACC to get Native students interested in higher education.
**NACC Welcomes New Employee**

The NACC office is pleased to welcome a new staff member, Melody Jones. Melody will be working twenty hours a week as a student coordinator. Her responsibilities include searching for grants to aid the office, assisting with program planning, supporting the mentoring and tutoring programs and performing regular office duties. Melody received her undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, and is at CSU finishing her prerequisites in order to apply for medical school. Originally from New Mexico, Melody is a member of the Pascua Yaqui tribe of Arizona. She is currently working on organizing a visit of junior high school students from the Crow Creek Reservation, and putting together an alternative spring break trip to the Four Corners region in partnership with the Little Shop of Physics.

**Spotlight: Native Drum Groups**

Several drum groups joined forces to provide the music for the 2009 CSU Powwow. The northern host drum group was the Northern Cree Singers, and the southern host was Headstone. Northern Cree is composed primarily of members of the Cree First Nations community, from Alberta, Canada. Headstone is primarily Pawnee, from Oklahoma. The two groups sang mainly intertribal and dance exhibition songs.

The Ram Nation drum group plays during the 2009 Powwow, while dancers perform.

Northern Cree featured some hand drum round dance songs. A variety of Native dances accompanied the drum groups. Videos of the drum groups can be accessed at www.itunes.colostate.edu.

**End of Year Reception**

In order to formally recognize Native graduates the Native American Cultural Center will be sponsoring a year end reception. Graduates and their families are invited to participate in the event. In addition, NACC mentors and tutors are recognized during the ceremony for their contributions to the office. The event will take place Wednesday May 12th in the Lory Student Center, Greyrock room. All of the offices of diversity programs and studies will partner for a celebration of graduates event, Friday April 30th in the Lory Student Center, Main Ballroom. Graduates will be recognized for the richness of diversity they bring to campus. Family members and faculty or staff mentors who helped students succeed at CSU will also be acknowledged.

**Spring Break K-12 Outreach**

Several students and staff members from the NACC office, in partnership with students from the CSU Alternative Spring Break Program and Little Shop of Physics, will travel to the Four Corners region March 14th-20th to bring hands-on learning to schools with high populations of Native students. The outreach program is designed to encourage Native American students to consider attending college, and to create a sense of excitement about science and learning in general.

Ten NACC volunteers, six Little Shop of Physics volunteers and six Alternative Spring Break Program participants will travel by van to the region to demonstrate a variety of science experiments for the children. Experiments are grouped into two rooms: dark and light. The group will spend time at schools in Cortez, Farmington, Shiprock and Newcomb, working with children of all ages, Kindergarten -12th grade. The group will also get to experience the cultural and ecological attractions of the area during a visit to Chaco Canyon, in Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

**Tutoring Program Update**

The Eagle Feather Tutoring Program will continue to provide students with free tutoring in a variety of subjects, thanks to the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation. Tutoring is available during regularly scheduled office hours or by appointment. For a full schedule of tutoring hours and a list of subjects offered visit http://www.nass.colostate.edu/.
2009 CSU Powwow

The Native American Cultural Center office, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and the Associated Students of Colorado State University (ASCSU), came together to host the 27th annual CSU Powwow in the main ballroom of the Lory Student Center on, Saturday November 7th. The Powwow is traditionally held during November, which has been declared by President Obama to be National Native American Heritage Month, to celebrate Native American culture. Volunteers ran the event, with more than 50 student volunteers participating. An estimated 290 students, 27 faculty members, 30 staff members and more than 400 community members attended the event. The Powwow featured a number of drum groups performing traditional songs. In addition, dancers of all ages in traditional dress performed many dances including a gourd dance.

Pine Ridge Outreach Trip 2010

Several students returned to the CSU campus from winter break early to participate in an outreach trip to visit the Pine Ridge reservation, located in South Dakota. Students and staff from the NACC office, in partnership with volunteers from the Little Shop of Physics program, traveled in large vans the second week of January to bring hands-on science experiments to children on the reservation.

On the first day of the trip the group went to Red Shirt Table Elementary, working with children ranging from Kindergarten to eighth grade. The group performed a number of experiments, both light and dark, to get the children interested in and excited about science. The group also hosts educational sessions for teachers, to provide them with hands-on alternatives to teaching science. Visiting the Porcupine Day School the next day the group was able to interact with more than 300 Native students in one day. To allow the students to explore the region stops at the Badlands and some other features of the South Dakota wilderness was also included in the schedule. The trip is a very important part of the NACC mission which includes Native student recruitment.

CSU Play Features Native Actor

Lewis Headrick, a senior social work major, brought the role of Chief Bromden to life in a School of the Arts production of One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest. Headrick, an Appalachian Cherokee, came to CSU later in life than the traditional student. He spent 10 years as a monk, among other things, before coming to Fort Collins to continue his education.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest was adapted for Broadway from the novel written by Ken Kesey, and tells the story of various inmates at mental hospital. The play is told from the point of view of Chief Bromden, a Native American inmate at the institution that is presumed to be deaf and dumb. The play ran February 4-13, receiving critical praise. Several members of the NACC office attended the play Friday February 12, to show their support for the production.

Spotlight: Native Staff Member

Leslie Hilbert, director of web communications at CSU, is both a Native staff member and strong supporter of the NACC office. Leslie spent her childhood traveling with her family, living in New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. After attending the University of Oklahoma she eventually settled in Colorado. Leslie is a member of the Cherokee Nation, and has been working in the web communications department since 2001. In her role with CSU Leslie assists the NACC office in promoting upcoming events and programs, providing strong online coverage of those items to a broad audience specifically on the school calendar, in Today @ Colorado State, and on the University homepage. Leslie encourages students to seek her out, “I enjoy working with students and would be happy to talk with anyone who is looking at a career in web or public relations.”
Greetings from the Native American Cultural Center Office! Writing this message is one of the items on my to-do list before embarking on our annual K-12 Outreach Program to the Four Corners Region. As before we are partnering with Little Shop of Physics to excite young minds about science and leave them with a can-do attitude! This year we are taking sixteen CSU students to northwest New Mexico and Southwest Colorado. Trips such as this are a priority to our office.

My staff and I have been very busy thus far and we look forward to continuing to provide quality programs that impact student success and retention. I hope you enjoy reading about our various events and programs in this issue of the Indigenous Reader.

Warm regards,
Ty Smith

Upcoming Events

Denver March Powwow .......................................................... March 19-21, Denver Coliseum
Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day ........................................... March 20
K-12 Four Corners Outreach Program ........................................ March 16-20, Southwest Colorado and Northwest New Mexico
Celebration of Graduates ......................................................... April 30, Lory Student Center, Main Ballroom
AISES Barbeque ................................................................. May 6
NCIPA Powwow ................................................................. May 8-9, CSU Foothills Campus
Graduation Reception ............................................................. May 12

Please visit the NACC website calendar for additional event information: www.nacc.colostate.edu