

The Four Winds

Newsletter of the American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS (AIANEA)



Elder Quote

"Ella-gguqallemek yuituq."

Translation: "This world we live in, this universe, this planet, this Earth has no other inhabitants here except us. This includes all the elements, humans, plants, all living things, and we are all one. We acknowledge all life, we are all one. One spirit, one life. We're all thriving together. We are working together for the sake of survival."

Marie Meade, July 2008.

Fall - Niibin 2010

Respect, Harmony, and Beauty

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Please send articles on what is happening in your area. News stories, articles of interest, gatherings, pow wow's, whatever you want to share! Email to

membership@aianeaa.com

Scholarship Committee Chair Position Vacancy

AIANEA Members: Would you like to get more involved in the American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS? Here is your opportunity! The AIANEA now has an opening for the Chairperson position on the Scholarship Committee, effective immediately. The Scholarship Committee is a standing committee whose purpose is to develop a sustaining Scholarship Program for the AIANEA and select recipients of the annual scholarships. You will find more detail about the duties of the Scholarship Committee in the AIANEA Constitution & Bylaws found at www.aianea.com. The Scholarship Committee is becoming a more active committee due to the increasing scholarship funding that currently exists for native students seeking an education in the field of natural resources. The AIANEA now has an endowment fund specified for the scholarships. The Scholarship Committee Chair has the responsibility to communicate effectively with the committee members and the AIANEA National Council to assist in decision-making regarding scholarship recipients and the growth of the endowment fund.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Ciro Lo Pinto, incoming 2011 President at ciro.lopinto@pa.usda.gov and Gina Kerzman, incoming 2011 Vice President at gina.kerzman@wa.usda.gov by December 31, 2010.

2010 Tribal Liaison Breakout Session, Rapid City, SD

Finding Positive Commonalities between Tribal Liaisons, Conservationists, RC&D Coordinators, and others, serving in Indian Country (*using the "Appreciative Inquiry" process*).

The Appreciative Inquiry Process focuses on the most positive aspects of our work, determining the common thread between our experiences and deciding how you can assure repeated, positive experiences in our work. Participants interviewed each other and spoke of each other's most memorable instances and quotable quotes.

These two questions were asked of our participants:

What do you value most about being an NRCS employee that works with Indian People?

Describe a time when, in your NRCS role with American Indian Communities, you feel like you performed really well. What were the circumstances during that time?

The group was asked, what if every day was just like your very best day? After much spirited and joyful contribution and identification of common threads, the group came up with the following "Provocative Proposition" to describe our best work environment:

"Working in an environment of positive relationships and solid support from both NRCS and tribal leadership, motivates and empowers us to create daily successes that have meaningful, consistent and sustainable benefits for the lives of current and future generations of American Indians and Alaska Natives and the (natural and cultural) resources of their tribal lands and the Country".

Elections

This year, once again, there is a group of great nominees to serve as future leaders of AIANEA. Positions open for the 2011 election are 2nd Vice President, East Regional Representative, South Central Regional Representative, and Northern Plains Regional Representative. We are now entering election time for these positions.

Voting rules are as follows:

1. All current dues-paid members may vote for their choice for the position of 2nd Vice President.
2. Only the current dues-paid members of the respective regions may vote for their Regional Representative.
3. **Email** your vote(s) as follows:

Send your vote(s) by email to Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen as President and Ciro Lo Pinto as Vice President. Our email addresses are: Tanya.meyer@ia.usda.gov and ciro.lopinto@pa.usda.gov.

In the subject line, write "AIANEA 2011 Election".

In the body of the email, write your choice(s) for the office(s) you are voting for. For example, 2nd Vice President: (your candidate of choice).

4. Votes must be received by November 30, 2010.
5. Announcements will be made by email to members and on the AIANEA website within two weeks of the election deadline.

Candidates:

2nd Vice President

Levi Montoya – Colorado

Sharron Santure – Illinois

South Central Regional Representative

Leota Burnett – Oklahoma

East Regional Representative

John Whitney – New York

Northern Plains Regional Representative

David Pesicka – South Dakota

2011 Conference Info

JUNE 6-10, 2011

Lodging: \$77.00 / MI&E; \$46.00 / Total: \$123.00

Wind Creek Casino & Hotel

1-866-946-3360

www.poarchcreekindians.org

<http://www.windcreekcasino.com/reservations.aspx>

USDA/1994 Tribal Scholars Program

By Deborah Clairmont- NRCS Soil Conservationist Area 4 Cortez Field Office/AIANEA Leadership, Growth and Mentorship Team Leader

Cloquet, Minnesota- August 11th-12th 2010 Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. The 2010 USDA Tribal Scholar Orientation Training was held at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, Minnesota during August 11-12, 2010 for five students from various 1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges across the United States who received scholarships from the USDA/1994 Land-Grant. Robin Heard, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration at USDA gave the welcome for USDA at the Tribal Scholars Orientation. Students participated in a Swearing-In Ceremony lead by Mona Adkins-Easley - Higher Education Institutions Program Lead from USDA's Office of Advocacy and Outreach. The orientation program agenda included a Traditional Prayer by Brian Jon Maciewski-Business Instructor at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) followed by a warm welcome from Larry Anderson, President of FDLTCC.

Gwendolyn Smith, Equal Opportunity Specialist, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, gave a brief history of the USDA and showed students an organizational chart of the USDA agencies. Stephanie Koziski, USDA 1994 Program Analyst and USDA Tribal College Liaison (Eastern Region), gave a brief history of the 1994 Programs Office and explained how the USDA Tribal Scholars Program began. Velma Real Bird, USDA Tribal College Liaison (Western Region), Lisa Yellow, USDA Tribal College Liaison (Central Region) and Stephanie Koziski, USDA Tribal College Liaison (Eastern Region) were introduced to the students and participants as USDA Advocates. Patricia Grace, Counselor and Faculty Member at FDLTCC administered a Myers-Briggs test to students and led a discussion about 'What Personality Type Are you and How Does Your Type Interact in the Workplace?' Students then toured the campus of the FDLTCC.

On the second day, students received guidance from Gloria Larson, Human Resources Officer USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service- Minnesota, on Ethics/Conduct/ Accountability/Workplace Expectations/Travel Time and Attendance/PII/Computer Security and Alicia Rodriguez, USDA Office of Train-

ing, USDA Headquarters, Washington D.C., explained Civil Rights/EEO Responsibility/Conflict Management. Tracy Troutman, Agricultural Research Service, Washington D.C. spoke briefly to students, Jacques P. Meadows, EEO Specialist, USDA Civil Rights Staff, from Washington D.C. encouraged students. Brian Jon Maciewski, Business Instructor at FDLTCC, instructed students on Financial Literacy/ Business Etiquette. Deborah Clairmont, USDA/ NRCS Soil Conservationist from Area 4 Cortez, Colorado gave a presentation on 'Transitioning to the Federal Workplace as a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) Intern. Deborah had previously experienced being a SCEP student with the pilot USDA/ NRCS Tribal Scholars Program in 2005, graduated from the Salish Kootenai Tribal Community College, Pablo, Montana in 2007, and was hired by the Colorado NRCS after graduation for a permanent federal job.

The Tribal Scholars that have received a 2009/2010 USDA/1994 Tribal Scholarship are Ronald Beaumont, Little Big Horn College/Montana State University, USDA Agency Sponsor: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Lawrence Joseph Jacques, Jr., Bay Mills Community College/ Michigan State University, USDA Agency Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS); Mary T. Haldane-Kennedy, Northwest Indian College, USDA Agency Sponsor: Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Jacob J. Small, Little Big Horn College, USDA Agency Sponsor: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA); Eugenia Tashquith, Tohono O'odham Community College, USDA Agency Sponsor: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).



Front row from left to right: Larry Anderson, Lisa Yellow, Gwendolyn Smith, Robin Heard, Deborah Clairmont, Jacob Small; Second row: Ronald Beaumont, Eugenia Tashquinth, Mary Kennedy, Lawrence Jacques, Mona Adkins-Easley; Third row: Velma Real Bird, Tracy Troutman, Jacques P. Meadows, Stephanie Koziski, and Tori Curley.

Texas Peyote

RIO GRANDE CITY, Texas (AP) — When the state of Texas licensed him as a peyote distributor in 1990, Mauro Morales put a sign in his front yard with his name and phone number: "Peyote Dealer. Buy or Sell Peyote."

His neighbors balked, saying calling so much attention to his trade had to be against the law. "So I called Austin and said, 'I think everything's legal. I've got the paperwork. Can't I put up a sign?'" Morales recalled.

Twenty years later, the sign still stands, but it's harder than ever for Morales to make a living. The hallucinogenic cactus is becoming more difficult to find because many ranchers have stopped allowing peyote harvesters on their land, preferring to plow the grayish-green plant under so cattle can graze. Others now lease their property to deer hunters or oil and gas companies.

The result is over-harvesting of remaining stocks, making peyote even more scarce. "Things are kind of getting slower every year," said Morales, who is one of just three Americans currently licensed to sell peyote, which grows wild in four Texas counties along the border with Mexico.

Peyote is illegal under federal law, except for use in some American Indian religious ceremonies. Since the mid-1970s, the state has licensed a small number of people to sell it to members of the Native American Church.

California voters recently rejected a proposal to legalize marijuana for recreational use, and a drug war threatens to tear Mexico apart. But Morales says his business is simple and honest.

"I try to stay out of problems," he said. "I've been doing it too long."

Morales, 67, has seven employees who search for peyote plants to harvest their "buttons," small round growths that contain the mind-altering juice mescaline, which produces a dreamlike delirium for up to 12 hours.

Users generally chew on the buttons, smoke them or boil them in water to make a drug-infused tea. The number of buttons it takes to feel psychedelic effects varies greatly by person and the potency of individual plants.

Morales' crews now bring in about 3,000 buttons per day, but even four years ago, it was 10,000. He began harvesting peyote at 14, when American Indian elders taught him to cut the buttons without harming the roots. Back then, each button could be sold to distributors for a nickel, but had to be at least as large as a half dollar.

Now Morales pays his harvesters 15 cents per button, no matter the size. "There are no more half dollar-sizes around," he said.

New peyote plants look a bit like oversized green molar. Even fully grown plants rarely get larger than an orange.

Known as "Peyoteros," the peyote distributors use information provided by families in the area to hunt the cactus down, and they know all roads and trails by heart.

Prime spots are usually hillsides that are a bit rocky and have no sand in the soil. The intense heat means harvesters can often search only until early afternoon and must contend with the occasional rattlesnake.

Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange said peyote distributors sold more than 1.5 million buttons worth approximately \$483,000 last year, up from nearly 1.48 million buttons with a value of \$471,000 in 2008. But that's down sharply from the mid-1990s, when distributors sold more than 2.3 million buttons, according to Morales and another licensed peyote dealer, Salvador Johnson.

Mange said the number of licensed distributors in Texas has declined as the job has gotten harder. Experts have noticed the same changes.

"The cactus grows slowly, and the peyoteros are forced to go back too early and harvest re-growth buttons," said Martin Terry, a biology professor at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. He co-founded the Cactus Conservation Institute to safeguard several species, including peyote.

Harvesters once routinely uncovered 100- to 150-year-old plants but now usually settle for cacti that are less than five years old, said Johnson, who deals peyote in Mirando City, about 90 miles north of Rio Grande City, otherwise known for its thriving mesquite tree population.

Teodosio Herrera is spiritual leader of the 30-member Rio Grande Native American Church and calls peyote "the medicine," a monicker used by everyone who deals legally in the cactus. He said the problem of cutting away buttons too early is exacerbated by poachers who harvest peyote incorrectly, harming the roots so the plants cannot regenerate.

"If we don't do something to ensure survivability, it may not be around for my great-grandchildren," said Herrera, 62.

Commercial quantities of peyote grow nowhere in the U.S. outside Texas. Besides Morales and Johnson, the only other licensed peyote dealer is Morales' nephew, also in Rio Grande City. Ninety percent of peyote grows in Mexico, but it is generally not valuable enough to smuggle to the U.S. — Morales sells 100 buttons for \$35.

He said there used to be poachers who hunted down their own peyote and sold it illegally on the roadside, but their ranks have also diminished along with the supply.

Morales has 300 to 500 clients per year. Buyers must be members of the Native American Church and at least one-quarter American Indian. They have to fill out paperwork providing tribal information.

The church traces its roots to the 1880s, around the time of the Wounded Knee massacre, when a new religion known as the "ghost dance" sprung up among American Indians. The church now has branches in more than 20 states and as many as 500,000 worshippers by some estimates.

Herrera, who has church members spread across South Texas, performs seven ceremonial gatherings a year with peyote. He leads more for special occasions such as weddings and funerals.

"In the '60s especially, hippies were experimenting with it," Herrera said. "To us, it's always been a spiritual medicine."

Slight and balding, Morales is extremely hard-of-hearing but chatty — switching seamlessly between English and Spanish. He shares his home with his wife and a Chihuahua that sleeps in a rusty bird cage.

Many of Morales' customers visit him to buy fresh peyote, which he breaks down with a tomato slicer and parcels out in gunny sacks. He will also mail dry buttons all over the U.S.

Many buyers stay on his property to use the peyote. In his backyard, where chickens totter about and mosquitoes feast on any exposed skin, Morales has a brick altar surrounded by a garden of peyote.

In an adjacent shed, he has wooden bins, each holding 1,000 peyote buttons in various states of aging. He generally keeps 20,000 total in stock.

Fresh peyote is fairly smooth. Older buttons become gnarled and even sprout exterior seedlings similar to the eyes on potatoes. Inside, the cactus is yellow and starts out looking moist but dries out over time. After about a month, the button becomes soft and full of bruises.

For years, Morales refrained from using peyote because doing so was against the law for him. But now he acknowledges sometimes taking it with his morning coffee.

He credits it with helping ease his heart disease. Once a day, he steps to his altar and crosses himself, offering a small prayer of thanks.

"It gets in your head after a while and feels pretty good," he said. "The plants were made by the creator. I think about that a lot."



In this photo made Friday, Oct. 22, 2010, peyote dealer Mauro Morales handles peyote buttons in Rio Grande City, Texas, Friday. Morales has a shed full of peyote behind his house and a sign in his front yard identifying him as a legal distributor of the hallucinogen, just in case would-be customers happen past. He is one of three "Peyoterros," Texans licensed to sell peyote that grows wild near the border with Mexico to tens of thousands of Native American Church members across the U.S. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

Colorado Connections: Fair Conservation Youth Activities

By Allen Maez, NRCS

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Towaoc Field Office provided two presentations to the Ute Mountain Ute Summer Youth Program at Towaoc, CO. Teachers for the UMU Education Department Linda Dosh, Tina King along with Student Interns from Denver Metro Elizabeth Rowe and Steven Paysinger provided the young audience (20 to 25 students).

Allen Maez, USDA-NRCS UMU Tribal Liaison along with student interns Nakayla Lestina (STEP from Dove Creek HS), Tommy Taylor (SCEP from CSU), and Sam Lyons (Dolores Soil Conservation District) gave the “Rolling River” Trailer Model presentation on July 1st. Allen Maez, NRCS and Sam Lyons, DSCD gave the “Ground Water” Model presentation on July 14th.

The “Rolling River” Model is an interactive “hands on” presentation that is well received by all ages. Kids like it because it is like a sand box with water running through it. A river or stream is constructed with the sand like material with toy animals, trucks, machinery and houses placed close by to simulate a real river environment. The main emphasis for students is the importance of water, why everything depends on it (plants, animals, and humans) and why we need to protect this natural resource. The power of water in a stream is demonstrated as erosion occurs on meandering streams from the headwaters in the high country (snow melt) to flooding in the valleys. Watersheds from mountain top to river bottoms can be



demonstrated. The River Trailer can be requested by schools other times to help with other class activities. Natural Resources, vocabulary, math, environment and river dynamics can be facilitated with this model. A few photos with the summer program students, teachers and presenters are included.

The “Ground Water” Model is a desk top display that provides a good visual of what happens under our feet related to water. It resembles to the first observer an “Ant Farm”. Water is introduced into the model to show how water filters through soil pores. Within the model are examples of soil layers which is a presentation in itself, but water interacts with soil types differently (sands, loams, silts, and clay) as well as other underground geography. The presentation to the students showed how livestock wells intercept water in the ground from shallow to deep aquifers (pools of water) and how pollutants can be entered into these water wells from surface spills also able to move through soils. The use of food coloring demonstrates a pollutant very well. This model also very well shows how important water is and how other natural resources (plants, animals, soil and humans) are benefitted but also impacted.

Both these models mentioned are used locally for natural resource presentations.

National Resources Inventory in Montezuma County and Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Lands

By Deborah Clairmont NRCS Soil Conservationist Area 4 Cortez Field Office

Cortez, Colorado-August 24, 2010-September 10, 2010 National Resources Inventory (NRI) in Monte-

From left to right: Cynthia Villa, Deborah Clairmont, & Shaan Bliss



zuma County and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Lands. Over a dozen sites were selected in the Cortez, Colorado area and the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation this year to be inventoried by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Iowa State University Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology. The information surveyed by the team will provide statistical data that support analysis of resource trends on rural and developed land on the Nation's non-Federal lands which includes tribal and trust lands, privately owned lands, and lands controlled by State and local governments. Since 1982, NRI statistics have been collected by randomly selecting sites throughout the United States and returning to sites approximately once every six to twenty years to measure the range conditions.

The Cortez and Durango Field Offices sent out letters requesting Landowners permission to access their land. Allen Maez-NRCS Tribal Liaison for the Ute Mountain Ute (UMU) Tribe contacted the Ute Mountain Ute Resource Department and Paul Evans, Director/Manager for Ute Mountain Ute Farm and Ranch Enterprise for permission to access tribal lands included in this year's sites. Allen Maez and Lymon Clayton, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Resource Department did a site visit and helped with survey while the team was on a UMU Tribal Land site. Cynthia

Villa, NRCS Area Range Management Specialist from Area 4 Monte Vista Field Office; Shaan Bliss, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist from Area 4 Pangua Springs Field Office and Deborah Clairmont, NRCS Soil Conservationist from Area 4 Cortez Field Office; Ed McCaw, NRCS Tribal Liaison Resource Conservationist for the Southern Ute Reservation in Ignacio and Elyssa Duran the SCEP student from Area 4 Durango Field Office made up this year's Area 4 team to conduct the NRI selected survey sites.

The Iowa State University Center selects three Global Positioning System (GPS) points within a section of land. Each point takes approximately five hours to do a complete survey depending on the type of soil, range condition, topography and accessibility. At each site the team uses two 150' measuring tapes to make four 75' transect lines run Northeast to Southwest and Northwest to Southeast. The team systematically records range plant community dynamics and invasive plant species, slope, range condition, bare ground, type of litter, type of soil, soil quality and stability, animal impact, soil, water and wind erosion, trend, insects, rodents, wildlife, soil pedon, disturbances, resource concerns and health of vegetation.

From left to right: Paul Evans, Cynthia Villa, Shaan Bliss, & Deborah Clairmont



The information gathered provides data to give a clearer picture of the extent and severity of resource problems requiring future management intervention along with showing the current health of our rangelands, grazing and pasturelands.

NRCS participating in the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair

NRCS was a sponsor at the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair (NAISEF) that took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 11-13, 2010. NRCS is both a Sage and Circle of Support Partner sponsor for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) event. Other sponsors at the event included Lockheed Martin, 3M, IBM, Bonneville Power Administration, Boeing, Google, Navy, Intel, Central Intelligence Agency, Chevron, and Goldman Sachs. Two-hundred fifty eight 5th grade through 12th grade students participated in the NAISEF. Fourteen states were represented, (1), Michigan, Washington, New York, Montana, South Dakota, (2) Alaska, California, (3) Arizona, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, North Carolina, (4), Minnesota, (10) New Mexico, and (11) North Dakota. One-hundred-one volunteer judges reviewed subject disciplines that included the following:

- Animal Sciences
- Behavioral & Social Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Earth and Planetary Science
- Engineering (Electrical & Mechanical)
- Engineering (Materials & Bioengineering)
- Energy & Transportation
- Environmental Management
- Environmental Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Medicine & Health Sciences
- Microbiology
- Physics and Astronomy
- Plant Sciences

AISES is a national, nonprofit organization which nurtures community development by bridging science and technology with traditional values. Through its educational programs, AISES provides opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives to pursue studies in science, engineering, and technology arenas. AISES' ultimate goal is to be a catalyst for the advancement of American Indians and Native Alaskans as they become self-reliant and self-determined members of society. For more information about AISES go to www.aises.org. Typical students are enrolled to become biologists, natural resources specialists, environmental scientists, geologists, business managers, archaeologists or engineers.

Dr. Carol Crouch, Oklahoma District Conservationist and collateral duty National Special Emphasis Program Manager American Indian Program Manager (SEPM-AIPM), and Nathaniel Todea, Utah State Office Hydraulic Engineer and National Civil Rights Committee American Indian Male Representative presented NRCS American Indian Alaska Native Employee (AINAEA) and Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC) \$100 cash awards to six students in Earth & Planetary Sciences, Environmental Sciences, and Plant Sciences. Other participants that judged from New Mexico NRCS are Cliff Sanchez-Assistant State Conservationist/Water Resources, Thomas Gonzales-District Conservationist/SEPM-AIPM, Seth Fiedler-Resource Conservationist, Jon Tunberg-State Rangeland Management Specialist/NM-CRAC Chair, Marcus Miller-State Wildlife Biologist, and Fernando Morales-Civil Engineer. Special thanks go to Oklahoma, Utah, and New Mexico for providing personnel to attend and help American Indian youth pursue dreams in science and technology. Eight students who were awarded Grand Award winners will be advanced to the International Science Fair in hopes of advancing to the International Science Fair.

Grand Award Winners to advance to National Science Fair will advance to Intel-International Science Fair



The NRCS American Indian Alaska Native Employee Association (AIANE) award winners with Dr. Carol Crouch (National SEPM-AI/ANEP) and Nathaniel Todea (NCRC-American Indian Male Representative)

AIANE Winners Left to Right:

Charlotte Kirk (12 grade – Engineering-Oklahoma)

Project: Energize: Optimization of a Process to Determine Algal Species Present in a Sample through Single-Strand Conformational Polymorphism Prior to Permentation into Algal Biofuels

Nick Shepard (11 grade - Environmental Sciences-Oklahoma)

Project: Evaluating the Recovery of the Tar Creek Superfund Site through Macroinvertebrate Analysis and Toxicity Testing

Sienna Whittington (12 grade-plant sciences-Arizona)

Project: Do Modern Human Land Uses Impact the Ecological Functionality of Mountain Portions of the Upper and Middle Gila River in New Mexico and Arizona?

NRCS Recruitment Success by, Carol Vallee Crouch Ph.D.

The NRCS recruiting cadre achieved tremendous recruitment success for the Agency at the 32nd annual American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) conference. The AISES conference was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 11 through November 13, 2010. This year's conference theme was *Power Up*. NRCS participated as a Lapis sponsor for the conference. Dennis Alexander, New Mexico State Conservationist and Ron Hilliard, Oklahoma State Conservationist, received the NRCS recognition award for the Agency at the AISES Gemstone Reception. NRCS was also recognized and honored for their sponsorship during the conference Opening Ceremonies, Closing Ceremonies and Honor Banquet. This conference attracted over 2,700 attendees, college students from 260 Tribal Colleges and Universities from across the Nation and 318 high school students. NRCS recruited among the Nation's brightest and finest American Indian and Alaska Native college students.

During the conference career fair, the NRCS AISES recruiting cadre recruited for: 80 Student Career Employment Program (SCEP) and Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP); 11 Career Intern Program (CIP); and 8 permanent positions in 22 NRCS states. The recruiting cadre handed out approximately 565 recruitment packets which included: NRCS position listings in 22 states; nationwide human resource contact information; career brochure; position flyers that included academic course requirements for NRCS positions to approximately 565 students, 13 high school chapter advisors, 53 College Chapter Advisors, 19 Tribal Colleges and 69 Universities. NRCS Human Resource specialists conducted 52 interviews during the career fair. Cadre members handed out 500 of the NRCS 2010 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Heritage posters and over 2,400 recruitment literature items.

Cadre members; Nathaniel Todea, Steve Durgin, Dr. Carol Crouch and State Conservationist, Ron Hilliard presented a professional concurrent session on Thursday, November 11, 2010, entitled *Career Development after College: Professional Papers*. In addition, cadre members presented a one hour concurrent session entitled, *Power Up: Internships* to college students, AISES high school and college

advisors and professionals on November 13, 2010. NRCS had two NRCS interns, that were recruited through the AISES recruitment last year, present their internship experience with NRCS during this concurrent session. Lyndell Yazzie completed his internship in Missouri as a STEP intern and Chayla Rowley completed her internship in Colorado as a SCEP intern. Ron Hilliard and Nathaniel Todea attended the Government Relations Council (GRC) meeting on November 11, 2010 as representatives for NRCS.

Collected resumes, a listing of students interested in NRCS positions, and interview sheets will be distributed to State Conservationists, AI/AN SEPMs, and the Human Resource office in each state. As part of the NRCS Lapis sponsorship package, NRCS has been provided access to the AISES Resume Database. The Online AISES Resume Database offers NRCS states a variety of querying capabilities, including searching by demographic information (i.e., name, location), as well as, educational field, GPA, type of preferred employment, and preferred region. You may access the NRCS database at <https://aises.portal.daxko.com/> and enter the following NRCS username and password:

username:	USDA NRCS
password:	temp123 (Passwords are case-sensitive.)

A 'Special Thank You' and acknowledgement to the NRCS cadre members who worked effectively to recruit for NRCS at this year's event:

Carol Crouch, District Conservationist, Purcell, OK,
National American Indian/Alaska Native Special
Emphasis Program Manager

Ron Hilliard, State Conservationist, Stillwater, OK

Dennis Alexander, State Conservationist,
Albuquerque, NM

Rose Webb, Program Manager, AR

Nathaniel Todea, Civil Engineer, UT

David Elliott, Soil Conservationist Technician, AL

Leonard Notah, District Conservationist, NM

Steve Durgin, Engineer, Spokane, WA

Penny Daye-Driscoll, Lordsburg, NM

Tanya Robles, Davis, CA

Gerald Hancock, Albuquerque, NM
Thomas Gonzales, Albuquerque, NM
Seanna Sparks, Hardin, MT
Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Flagstaff, AZ

This year's AISES recruiting event was a success due to the support of a number of Agency officials and personnel; in particular, State Conservationists who provided financial support for travel expenses for the AISES cadre members. The following NRCS personnel played an active role in making this recruitment event a reality by supporting cadre travel, recruitment materials and NRCS agreements include;

Frank Clearfield, Outreach and Advocacy Director, WDC

Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist, NRCS, UT
Dr. William E. Puckett, State Conservationist, NRCS, AL

Dennis Alexander, State Conservationist, NRCS, NM

David McKay, State Conservationist, NRCS, AZ
Joyce Swartzendruber, State Conservationist, NRCS, MT

Roylene Rides at the Door, State Conservationist, NRCS, WA

Michael Sullivan, State Conservationist, NRCS, AR
Ed Burton, State Conservationist, Davis, CA
Juan Hernandez, State Conservationist, Bangor, ME
Xavier Montoya, State Conservationist, Casper, WY
Johnny Green, NDCSMC, Co-Director, Fort Worth, Texas

Marvis Montesano, Washington, DC

Special acknowledgement to Dennis Alexander, New Mexico State Conservationist, Rosabeth Garcia-Sais and Gerald Hancock, for their assistance to the cadre and handling the items shipped for the recruitment event and Alan Benge, NRCS Program Specialist, LANDCARE/Earth Team Office, Iowa, for overseeing delivery and shipment of NRCS recruitment display and recruiting items. In addition, Human Resources Specialist, Tricia Mootz, is recognized for working effectively with all NRCS states to develop the NRCS recruitment list for this event.

NRCS looks forward to participating as a Lapis Gemstone sponsor at the AISES Annual Conference, being held November 10 - 13, 2010, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



NRCS Recruitment Booth AISES Conference 2009

Front row Left to Right:

Leonard Notah-NM, Blythe Koyiyumptewa-AZ, Tanya Robles-CA, Seanna Sparks-MT, Penny Daye-Driscoll-NM, Gerald Hancock-NM,

Back row Left to Right:

Thomas Gonzales-NM, Steve Durgin-WA, Rose Webb-AR, Dr. Carol Crouch-OK & NHQ, David Elliott-AL, Ron Hilliard-OK, Nathaniel Todea-UT

Membership Form

American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

www.aianea.com

Please make checks payable to AIANEA and mail your membership form and dues to:

Harold Bryant
1510 29th Street
Hondo, TX 78861

Date: _____

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Office Address: _____ New Address? _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

e-mail: _____

Tribal Affiliation (optional) _____

Type of membership. (Membership is for one calendar year **January 1 to December 31**)

My membership is for the year 20____.

Regular-\$25.00 Check here if this is a renewal membership

Student -\$10.00 full-time high school or college students

Lifetime - \$250.00 or payable in 4 installments of \$65/year

Enclosed is payment # 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Tribal College-\$100.00

Tribal - \$500.00

The 2010 AIANEA National Council

Tanya Meyer - Dideriksen – President

Ciro Lo Pinto - 1st Vice President

Gina Kerzman - 2nd Vice President

Leota Burnett - So. Central Region Rep.

John Harper - Southeast Region Rep.

Ralph Goh - West Region Rep.

Stacy Kimble - Midwest Region Rep.

Nels Liljedahl - East Region Rep.

Levi Montoya - Northern Plains Region Rep.

Blythe Koyiyumptewa - Secretary

Harold Bryant - Treasurer

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

