

Spring 2010

Another semester is ending with new opportunities....

In six weeks, the 2010 spring semester will come to an end. This opens the door for new opportunities in which our graduates and returning students are able to seek out employment possibilities, summer internships or continue in their studies. Congratulations to the American Indian students who have graduated in the winter semester. We are also excited for the several American Indian students that will be completing their degrees in this spring! For those students who are staying around for the summer; the American Indian Center summer hours are 7:30a.m. – 4:00p.m. Stop by to study, relax or just visit. We will be arranging some Twins baseball trips to the new stadium, join us if you can.

We had another eventful year at the AIC, starting with the annual house blessing. We were able to bring many speakers to campus - to name a few, Sheryl Garcia (Bad River Ojibwe), Annette Lee (Lakota), and Andy Gokee (Red Cliff Ojibwe). We were one of the many sponsors for the Lewis and Clark exhibition during the fall semester. Several of our American Indian students participated in a student panel for this wonderful event.

In October, the AIC was responsible for the evaluation of each session and the overall evaluation of the National Indian Education Association Annual Convention that was held in Milwaukee, WI. The AIC director was joined by SCSU faculty, staff and students in completing this volunteer assignment. A big thank you goes out to Jeff House and Wade Dauphinais for all of their hard work for the entire week. Their initiative and strong work ethic made the job so much easier. It was a great opportunity to network and to learn.

This year, the AIC again received a grant from the American Indian Education Foundation (AIEF) to assist our American Indian students with emergencies that might have prevented them from finishing their education. This grant has helped many of our students. On Tuesday, March 16th, seven of our American Indian students were trained by the AIEF coordinator in conducting scholarship presentations in schools for future college-bound students.

Working with the SCSU Admissions Office, the AIC staff and students co-facilitated a Dare to Dream program at the AIC center in Minneapolis. We had the Shawnee Hunt drum group open with an honor song, several welcome speeches for faculty and staff, Ramona Stately as our keynote speaker, and Indian tacos for about 10 families interested in having their sons and daughters go to college. Next year's event will be bigger and better!

Presenters for American Indian Awareness week April 12th – 17th included: Clinton Alexander – Sacred Spirits, and Leah Prussia, MSW, LICSW – White Earth Tribal and Community College. In a partnership with the Women's Center we co-sponsored Suzanne Koepplinger on the exploitation of American Indian girls and women. Darlene St. Clair presented Pow Wows 101, and the annual All Tribes Council (ATC) Pow wow was enjoyed by all on Saturday, April 17th.

Everyone at the AIC wishes you great success in finishing out the semester. Come and join us over the last few weeks remaining events or just stop by to say hi.

Sincerely,

Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, Director

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POWER IN DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

by Jeff House

St. Cloud State hosted its 1st annual Power in Diversity Conference January 29-31. The conference was designed for MnSCU students, staff and faculty interested in developing or enhancing leadership skills and gaining a greater understanding of the role of diversity in a dynamic world. Many of the MnSCU schools were represented - MSU Moorhead, Southwest State, Anoka Ramsey Community College, and many more. The event featured workshops led by sponsor businesses and educators on diversity and leadership, a diversity job fair, and several renowned keynote speakers. One highlight of the event was White Earth Tribal member and former vice-presidential candidate Winona LaDuke, who was the final keynote speaker on Saturday night. Her topic was "Creating a Multicultural Democracy, Religion, Culture and Identity in America".

Overall, the Power in Diversity conference received great reviews from participants. The event drew over 200 students and SCSU president Earl H. Potter III indicated that he was pleased with the event's success and would like to see the conference become an annual tradition.



Grad Assistant Jeff House and Winona Laduke

17th Annual AIC POWWOW

All Tribes Council Powwow was held on April 17 at Halenbeck Hall in the Main gym. The Grand Entries were at 1pm and 7pm. This event is co-sponsored by the AIC and was free to the public. Thank you to all that participated.

Graduates

Fall 2009 and Spring 2010

Undergraduate Students

Crystal Anthony - Chemical Dependency	Rebecca Adams - Special Education
Jennifer Jeffords - Community Health	Krystal Malisheske - Management
Andrew Askew - Management	Larita Nandlal - General Biology
Ross Brandt - Sociology-Interdepartmental	Michael Olson - Social Work
Eric Cagle - Life Science/General Science	Ryan Schneider - Community Psychology
Bradley Kroll - Mass Communications	Kateri Skunes - Psychology
Amanda Wilkens - Environmental Science	Zane Sullivan - Film Studies
Marshall Wilson - Marketing	Carmen Lizee - Chemical Dependency Specialist
Timothy Kindel - Manufacturing Engineering	Thomas Hackey - Communication Art & Lit
<i>Master Degree</i>	<i>Graduates</i>
Paul Singh - Community Counseling	Tara Talbert - School Counseling
Jeff House - Business Administration	

Student Honor Award Recipients:

Another form of scholarship acknowledgement includes recognizing student honor award recipients--students who have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 honor points or higher (this is A or B work folks!) during their academic semesters at SCSU. We applaud these students who achieved this distinction.

Rebecca Adams	Crystal Anthony	Andrew Askew	Cyndi Freilinger	Justine Bjergo
Brooke Capilla	Jeffrey Chaffee	Christina Cottier	Amber Dorr	Aaron Evans
Rhiannon Fahje	Brody Fuchs	Harrison Hancock	Patricia Hanvy	Casey Hardie
Alexander Hoes	Jeff House	Jennifer Jeffords	Cody Jones	Heidi Kempin
Timothy Kindel	Lauren Knutson	Bradley Kroll	Catherine Larsen	Krystal Malisheske
Paula Marozas	Erik Musel	Michael Olson	Kip Perkins	Ythan Pratt
Emily Rohady	Paul Singh	Kateri Skunes	Cory Smallwood	Zane Sullivan
Carmen Lizee	Ramona Marozas	Sonia Moltzen	Chelsea Nemes	Lucas Winskowski
Edward Vondal	Rebecca Walz	Kelly Whipple	Shalon Wilber	Amanda Wilkens
Jim Knutson-Kolodzne	Smmer Austin-Guevara	Marisa Thull-Vargas		

Sheryl Garcia

AIC Mentoring Program

Sheryl is originally from the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. She grew up on the Bad River reservation and left in 1993 after completing her undergraduate Directed Studies degree in Social Psychology in Native American Community at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin.

She obtained employment with the Oneida Nation as a Native American Student Advocate for three years in Green Bay School District in Green Bay, Wisconsin. In 1999 she moved on to work with the Upward Bound Program for two years at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin. Another learning opportunity presented itself, and Sheryl took a position with the EXCEL Program for two years in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. She missed working with Native people, so she accepted a position with the Indian Education Program in the Green Bay School District for six years in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Sheryl became involved with many different boards and/or work related committees in her community such as: AIAA-American Indians Against Abuse, Fox Valley Inter-Tribal Program, Oneida Gang Task Force, and various other educational and diversity committees.

We are very excited about the American Indian Center Mentoring Program made possible through Access and Opportunity Funds. The Mentoring Program has re-started this fall semester with a total of 10 participants. During the spring semester, the mentor program has increased the membership to 12 participants. The purpose of the mentoring program is to provide a support system for new entering students during their first year of college by mentors who are upper classman students. The mentors are carefully selected and matched with a mentee. The mentoring relationship is to help intergrate new students to campus life and environment. The mentor's role is to assist and direct the new students to campus resources - such as tutoring, counseling center, advising and student services. Also, the mentor's role is to encourage new student's interest in organizations. The mentor's role is to be a positive role model, a friendly face but also to provide encouragement, constructive feedback and to help support new students to overcome barriers they may encounter. The mentor also benefits from participating as a mentor in the program. Mentoring helps mentors build their leadership, communication, listening, sensitivity and management skills. The experience as a mentor will build valuable skills which can be included on a resume. The AIC Mentoring Program is a positive learning experience for both mentor and mentee in which it can provide rich opportunities for growth and development for academic and professional success! Students who are interested in becoming involved with our Mentoring Program, please contact Sheryl Garcia by email, sagarcia@stcloudstate.edu or by phone 308-5446.

By Sheryl Garcia
Associate Director

VISIT OUR ALL
NEW WEBSITE!

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/aic>

NIEA Conference

The annual NIEA conference was held in October in Milwaukee. In attendance from SCSU were, American Indian Center Director Jim Knutson-Kolodzne; students Jeff House and Wade Dauphinais; Professors Darlene St. Clair, Rob Galler, and Kathy Johnson; and from the Advising Center, Mike Sharp.



Robert B. Cook, NIEA President 2008-2009 addresses members at the General Assembly



Winona LaDuke addresses NIEA members at Sunday's General Assembly



Dr Joe Medicine Crow, 2009 Elder of the Year Award winner.

Teacher Training Workshop

The Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators (NSSWE) is designed to increase the knowledge, sensitivity and awareness of Minnesota educators, administrators and employees on the histories, cultures and languages of the federally recognized tribes and bands in Minnesota. This high-quality professional development program will promote a greater understanding of American Indian issues and provide opportunities to critically evaluate educational materials and resources. The goal of the Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators is to facilitate learning among teachers, administrators, and student service providers in order to increase the effectiveness of working with American Indian students.

Who Should Attend: Activities: K-16 teachers, students in teacher training programs, teachers involved with the education of American Indian students including classroom teachers, teacher aides, curriculum specialists, library/media specialists, guidance counselors, home-school coordinators, Title IX/JOM coordinators and administrators, tribal education staff, college and university faculty, staff and administrators, and all others with an interest in American Indian Studies and /or American Indian education.

The 4th annual workshop will be held June 7-11, 2010 at Mahnomen High School on the White Earth Indian Reservation. Applications available at : http://www.stcloudstate.edu/aic/teacher_workshop.asp. Rooms are available for \$50 a night at Shooting Star Casino Hotel. Call 1-800-453-STAR and please mention "White Earth Education" when placing your reservation.

