From the AIC Director’s Desk….

The 2014 fall semester started with 63 new entering and transfer students who self-identified as American Indian. Combining these new students with our returning students brought our American Indian student headcount to 236. The American Indian Center (AIC) hosted its annual Open House in August and the House Blessing in September to welcome many new faces. Once again, the fall semester was filled with many events and activities that included; the popular Wednesday Retention lunches, our usual table presence at MAINSTREET!, a trade show booth at the NIEA conference in Anchorage, Alaska where two SCSU American Indian students also participated, and our annual Native Leadership Retreat. We held a “Truth about Columbus” booth in the Memorial Student Union to explain the native perspective surrounding Columbus Day. We continued our AIC pumpkin carving contest tradition and announced the winners at the Fall Harvest Feast. We welcomed several native elders and educators for our American Indian Speaker Series, including presentations by AnnaMarie Hill (Red Lake), Gary Charwood (Leech Lake), Herb Sam (Mille Lacs), and Bianca Mendoza (Red Lake Ojibwe); all were well attended by the campus community. Our student community continues to grow; if you haven’t yet completed an intake form, feel free to stop by anytime and meet with our AIC staff and student workers. A big CONGRATULATIONS to all of our 18 winter American Indian graduates. All graduating American Indian students are invited to stop by the AIC to pick up their graduation gift and an American Indian sash to wear for the graduation ceremony.

Upcoming AIC winter/spring programs and services include many opportunities to get involved with the Center and campus. Every year at the end of January, the AIC collaborates with the MSS office on the Power-in-Diversity conference. Come join us for the American Indian Speaker Series on February 19, 2015. Travel with us to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Lame Deer, Montana over spring break in March. Volunteer to help with the American Indian Awareness Week and our annual Powwow on April 11, 2015.

Visit our AIC website: (http://www.stcloudstate.edu/aic/) for current information and updates regarding upcoming events, programs, services and scholarship opportunities. Also like us on Facebook to see what we are up to. The AIC is open daily from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We will continue to concentrate on our main mission: “to respond to the self-defined educational needs and goals of American Indian students and communities alike.” The AIC staff encourages all administrators, faculty, staff and students to increase their knowledge about American Indian sovereignty, and to continue their involvement with the AIC so we can build our future together. Have a safe & Happy Holiday season!

Sincerely,
Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, Director
On Thursday, September 11, 2014, Annamarie Hill spoke in front of St. Cloud State students and staff, sharing her knowledge and experiences focusing on the “Why Treaties Matter” exhibit at SCSU. She is an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. Annamarie has been the Executive Director of the state of Minnesota Indian Affairs Council since June 2006. Annamarie is also an active participant in public policy on a tribal and state level, and has worked for state government for many years. She has held various positions including State Legislative and Public Relations Director for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Investigator for the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, and Drafting and Editing Assistant for the Office of the Revisor of Statues. Annamarie is also an active vocalist and a member of the Woodbury Lutheran Chorale. She obtained her BA in Music Performance and Business Management from the College of Saint Teresa, Winona, Minnesota in 1986. She is due to start her master’s degree in fall of 2015.

On Monday, October 3, 2014, Gary Charwood presented on cultural barriers and struggles occurring on reservations today. Gary is the Cultural Coordinator for Leech Lake Tribal College, located in Cass Lake, MN. With over 15 years of experience working with the Local Indian council, 20 years experience in the building and logging trades and 12 years of experience working with youth, he is using education to help break the cycle of drug and alcohol abuse on reservations.

Bianca Mendoza visited SCSU as a guest speaker on Thursday, November 19, 2014. Bianca is a Red Lake High School Valedictorian, who is currently working on her business degree. She specializes in the marketing of fresh and frozen fish for domestic and international sale from Minnesota. Prior to marketing and sales at the Red Lake Nation Fishery, Bianca worked with local youth mentoring programs and also gained experience by working at the tribal council in the Chairman’s Office. Bianca has traveled to France, Germany, and across America working with the Intertribal Agriculture Council for four years on behalf of Red Lake, promoting the unique product line they have to offer. She has also been part of a Lifetime Television show called the Balancing Act, marketing the product known as “Famous Red Lake Walleye”.

Bianca Mendoza
New Employees

The American Indian Center welcomed three new employees to its team this fall! Stop by and say hello to student employees Grace Espinoza, Austen Poss, and BrieAnna Lindquist!

Grace Espinoza is a freshman at St. Cloud State University where she will be double majoring in Social Work and Spanish. She began working at the AIC in November, 2014. Grace is from Eau Claire, Wisconsin and chose to attend SCSU for its diversity. Some of her goals are to study abroad in Chile and have her poetry published. Grace said “I can’t wait to become a part of the team and make long lasting friendships as well as a difference in the St. Cloud community with my coworkers and those I meet through the AIC.”

Austen Poss is from Lake City, Minnesota. Austen is a junior here at St. Cloud State University, which is where he began his college career. He plans on double majoring in Business Finance and Communication Studies with an emphasis in leadership. Austen would like to work at a bank in Southeastern Minnesota or pursue something that involves sports. Someday his dream job is to work for a sports agency with professional athletes as clients. Some of his hobbies include: football, pond hockey, playing video games, hunting, fishing, and hanging out with friends. In the summer, Austen drives trucks for an agricultural company called Ag Partners, tending to sprayers. Austen said “The AIC is a friendly location where you can hang out with friends and do your homework.”

BrieAnna Lindquist is a junior going to school for Fines Arts with an emphasis in Graphic Design. BrieAnna is originally from Grand Forks, North Dakota. She also works with the Department of Campus Involvement and the Art Department as a Graphic Designer. In the summer, she works as a pedicab driver in Minneapolis. She one day hopes to open a small public screen printing studio and work as a designer for a smaller business in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her hobbies include: biking, camping, reading and creating art of different varieties.

The AIC is very fortunate to have such a strong team with great team players! Grace, Austen, and BrieAnna have shown enthusiasm and commitment to the AIC and its mission at St. Cloud State University. Those here at the AIC are grateful for the work and contributions made by all at the AIC. Thank you for all of your hard work!
Emma Needham is a non-traditional student parent at St. Cloud State University, who recently returned after two years away from college. During her time off, she changed from a Nursing to Communication Studies major, though she is currently unsure where her area of emphasis will be. She plans to renew her high school French and minor in American Indian Studies. Emma is a descendant of the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe on her father’s side, and attends the All Tribes Council’s Language Table to learn Ojibwe. She is also active in the Communication Studies Club.

When she is not studying, she enjoys spending time with her one and half year old daughter, who frequents the American Indian Center and Language Table with her. She also enjoys cooking, reading, writing, hiking, singing off-key and spending time with her family in the Brainerd area. She has also been known to create various multi-medium art pieces when the mood strikes her, as well as being involved in social and environmental activism. Some of her heroes include Sherman Alexie, Howard Zinn, Laci Green, Evo Morales, Winona LaDuke, her parents, and her sister, Lacey.

Emma grew up around the Brainerd Lakes area, living about a dozen miles South of town in the Fort Ripley/Saint Mathias area. She was awarded a GED by the Area Education Center in 2009. She can usually be found talking with anyone who interested in a conversation.
HENRY M. & J. ELEANOR MEYER/JOSEPH M. & THERESA L. HELTEMES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
($500 Annually)

This is an endowed scholarship founded by a first generation college graduate. Preference for this scholarship is given to persons with financial need, who are of American Indian ancestry and who are involved with campus organizations.

THE JOYCE AND MARVIN HOLMGREN SCHOLARSHIP FOR NATIVE AMERICANS
($500 Annually)

This is an endowed scholarship. The Financial Aid Office determines awards. Selection criteria require that the student: verify enrollment in a tribe or is at least one quarter Native American and is from either the U.S. or Canada (there are no other tribal restrictions); must be eligible for unconditional admittance to St. Cloud State University; must maintain scholastic average of “C” or better; must carry at least 12 credits per term. It is the donors preference that the award be given to a first year student and that the award follow that student as long as s/he is enrolled in good standing at St. Cloud State University and is in accordance with the criteria defined in the scholarship.

DUANE DUNKLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
($500-$1,000 Annually)

Criteria: Preference is given to an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, that is majoring in or intends to major in an educational field, and must submit a written essay describing his/her goals and aspirations upon graduation from college. This scholarship opportunity is available to students of any class level, including freshmen who are enrolled full-time as SCSU. The award may be renewed for one or more years at the discretion of the American Indian Center; a student who has received this award must reapply each year to be considered.

All application packets must be postmarked or received by the second Monday in April, 2015 to be applied to fall 2015 tuition.
House Blessing

The House Blessing was held on September 4, 2014 at the AIC. Red Tree Drum Group opened with an honor song and closed with a prayer song. Ojibwe elder Ron Leif was also present and said a prayer. Everyone who attended smudged, and AIC Director Jim Knutson-Kolodzne smudged the AIC. This event was a great way to start the semester and get familiar with AIC staff and student employees. Guests were provided tours of the AIC and also shared food, refreshments, and stories.

Native Leadership Retreat

The annual Native Leadership Retreat was held at the AIC on October 3, 2014. The purpose of the Native Leadership Retreat is to provide first-year Native students the opportunity to learn about campus services, discuss current issues, and learn about opportunities available to them at SCSU. Additionally, returning students are able to practice their leadership skills by presenting at the retreat or interacting with the new students and serving as role models.

Presentations were provided by the Write Place, the Advising Center, Counseling and Psychological Services, Financial Aid Office, and Richard Green House Tutoring Program. Drawings for prizes were held throughout the event. It was a great experience for all who attended!
The annual Fall Harvest Feast and pumpkin carving contest was held on November 6, 2014. It was a great opportunity to share a turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, stuffing, and have some fun. Congratulations to the pumpkin carving contest winners: Aaron Nordrum-1st place, Emily Olson-2nd place, Emma Needham-3rd place, and June Sayers-Honorable Mention!

The ENGAGE Program provides opportunities for individuals and groups of American Indian students to sample the university experience at SCSU, and enables them to fully explore campus life through a one or two day visit.

Earlier this fall the AIC had a total of three high schools that participated in the ENGAGE Program, including 160 students from Anoka Hennepin/Elk River, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School, and Bloomington Indian Education Program. These groups all came for a day visit where they toured the campus, attended an Indian Education and psychology class, and visited the planetarium. The AIC was pleased to have visitors from MN area schools come and visit us, and we look forward to more in the future!
Casandra Aspinwall is a senior at St. Cloud State University after transferring from Anoka-Ramsey Community College with the completion of her AA Degree. This spring she will receive her B.A in Psychology with a minor in American Indian Studies. While at St. Cloud State, Casandra has had many opportunities to become more involved on campus where she discovered her passion for being apart of an organization. She is now the President of the All Tribes Council student organization where she strives to help American Indian people in any way she can, albeit with fellow students or more broadly in the community. Her ability to succeed in her educational studies as well as expanding her reach in the All Tribes Council is like no other. Casandra is also a single mother raising her four year old son Benjamin. Benjamin has provided her a sense of purpose and determination in life which has driven her to where she is today. Casandra’s ultimate goal is to be admitted into the I-O Psychology Master’s program in the Fall of 2015.

All Tribes Council Language Table

In September 2014, student organization All Tribes Council (ATC) began holding a weekly language table focusing on the Ojibwe language. The table is organized by ATC’s Communications Coordinator Aaron Nordrum. The language table is an opportunity for staff, students, friends, and family to get together to share stories and food while practicing and learning the Ojibwe language. The table is fortunate to have a speaker of the language attend. Matthew Northrup is an enrolled member of the Fond du Lac Band and all members present are grateful for what he brings to the table. The table would not be a success without the dedication of Aaron Nordrum, Matthew Northrup, Cassie Aspinwall, Emma Needham, Samuel Trivette, June Sayers, and Jennifer Ellenbaum. If you would like more information about the language table please contact ATC President Cassie Aspinwall atasca1301@stcloudstate.edu or ATC Communications Coordinator Aaron Nordrum at noaa1001@stcloudstate.edu. Miigwech!
The 2014 National Indian Education Association annual convention was held in Anchorage, AL from October 15 through October 19, 2014. There were over 400 Natives in attendance from tribal communities in the United States and Canada. The AIC had an informational booth on AIC services, where we highlighted our two summer programs: the Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators (NSSWE) and the Native SkyWatchers (NSW) program. AIC Director, Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, and American Indian students Aaron Nordrum and Emily Olson provided information from the booth and attended many sessions regarding Native education. The NIEA annual convention is a great event to learn and network with other Native communities across the United States.

“The trip to Anchorage was an incredible experience. The NIEA convention was a great opportunity to spread information about the AIC while learning about other programs and resources out there. The scenery was beautiful and there were a lot of interesting shops and historic artifacts. There were amazing drum groups, talented dancers, delicious food, and I even won a pendleton blanket!” - Aaron Nordrum

“The trip to Alaska was an eye opening experience. We are taught not to assume things about people or places and I found myself assuming things about my own culture. I assumed the drum groups and dancers would be similar to what I had experienced at home. However, during the cultural night I was stunned to see that a great majority of singers were women. It was an amazing experience to see how all of the different people told their stories through their dances and songs.” - Emily Olson

Peer Mentor Program

During fall semester of the 2014-2015 school year, the American Indian Center in collaboration with the SCSU Honors Department, established a new Peer Mentoring Program to provide academic support services for new entering and transfer American Indian students. Honor students are recruited to serve as mentors to American Indian students who have similar majors and/or academic interests. Peer mentors successfully completed training in October, 2014, half of which are returning American Indian students. Our program has six possible mentors available for the sixty-three new American Indian students who wish to participate in the program. All participants are required to attend the focus groups at the end of each semester. The Peer Mentor Program received a grant from a Cultural Diversity Committee and financial support from the Access & Opportunity funding. A total of thirty-three new American Indian students were paired with the new mentors for fall semester.
Jan. 29th - Feb. 1, 2015
St. Cloud State University’s 6th Annual
POWER in DIVERSITY
Leadership Conference

Leadership development and personal growth opportunities!

The 6th annual Power in Diversity Leadership Conference will offer opportunities for personal growth and leadership development to college students of color and underrepresented students through a variety of workshops, keynote addresses and programs. It will also provide a forum for student leaders to connect with other colleges and universities across the region. Advisors, faculty and staff who work with students leaders will also have a chance to network and to share ideas and strategies. Conference attendees will learn from leadership activities that will assist in the development and enhancement of one’s own skills to successfully navigate through college and into the workforce and to be a support for other students as well.

The conference theme, “Today’s Vision: Tomorrow’s Reality,” will set the stage for keynote speakers and workshop presenters to identify ways that participants can lead the way in implementing the positive changes for tomorrow’s world that they are envisioning today.

Please check out the website for more information about the conference at: http://www.stcloudstate.edu/mss/powerindiversity/default.asp

Congratulations Graduates!!

Congratulations to the following Fall 2014 American Indian Graduates! We wish you good luck and great success with your future endeavors!

Undergraduates

Crystal Stempson
Brittany Tiffany
Brittney Best
Eixley Quiroga
Jessica Almarza
Samantha Bruyere
Nicole Heberling
Eric Poggenburg
Ashley Brooks

Undergraduates

Tashiana Osborne
Nicolas Martinez
Dylan DeCoteau
Fayez Alanazi
Yohanes Quiroga
Samantha Severson
Katharine Gibeau
Joseph Watson

Associates

Braniesney Ortiz Camacho
January
Day and Evening Classes Begin  
Monday, January 12, 2015

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
No Classes; Offices Closed  
Monday, January 19, 2015

6th Annual Power in Diversity Conference  
January 29-Feb 1, 2015  
SCSU Atwood Memorial Center

February
Presidents Day  
Classes in Session; Offices Closed  
February 16, 2015

American Indian Speaker Series  
February 19, 2015, 5:00-6:00 PM  
Ritsche Auditorium, Stewart Hall 111A

March
Lame Deer Spring Break Service Trip  
March 7-14, 2015  
Northern Cheyenne Reservation  
Lame Deer, Montana

Spring Break  
March 9-13, 2015

April
Faculty Duty Day; No Classes  
April 3, 2015

American Indian Awareness Week  
April 6-11, 2015

April cont’d
22nd Annual American Indian Center Pow Wow  
April 11, 2015; Grand Entries 1:00 and 7:00 PM  
SCSU Halenbeck Hall

MSS Awards Reception  
April 23, 2015, 5:30 PM  
Atwood Memorial Center Ballroom

May
Last day of Classes  
May 1, 2015

Finals Week  
May 4-8, 2015

AIC Graduation Reception  
May 6, 2015, 4:30-6:00 PM  
American Indian Center

Commencements  
May 9, 2015

Visit our website at http://www.stcloudstate.edu/aic/ for resources, news, updates, and information about current events!
Support Services

The American Indian Center offers a number of support services to American Indian students on the St. Cloud University campus. All Indian students are encouraged to utilize these services.

Discussion and assistance in:

- Admission process
- Personal concerns
- Tutoring
- Housing
- Financial Aid
- Academic concerns
- Advising
- Career development

Referrals to appropriate SCSU agencies when necessary.

Native Leadership Retreat for all students helping them to become comfortable in their new campus and communities.

Services to Indian student organizations to enable students to become involved in student activities and meet other Indian students.

Social activities are offered throughout the academic year to help students make connections.

Speaker Series events bring American Indian presenters to the SCSU campus. The presenter speaks on a variety of Indian topics.

Student Retention Luncheons are every other Wednesday at noon. These gatherings are a great opportunity to share your story, hear others, and enjoy good food.

Computer lab is available for students to access e-mail and complete coursework.

American Indian Resource Center is a source of educational material relevant to the American Indian.

A quiet place to read a book, write a paper, or study is available.

Are you Native but haven’t stopped by the AIC?
Do you want to learn more about what the AIC has to offer you?

*NEW STUDENTS*
If you are a student who has never visited the AIC, stop by and meet the Director, Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, to get a tour and learn about our services!

All Tribes Council

Another opportunity for students to get involved is joining All Tribes Council. ATC is a student organization which supports the social and academic needs of American Indian Students at St. Cloud State University.

For more information contact
Cassie Aspinwall (President) at asc1a1301@stcloudstate.edu
or
Samuel Trivette (Vice President) at trsa1201@stcloudstate.edu

ATC Office located at
Atwood Memorial Center 117
Montana

Spring Break Service Trip

A week that serves a lifetime.
Lame Deer, Montana    March 7 - 14, 2015

Work with American Indian children through the Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation.

Cost includes transportation, meals on site and housing.

Application Deadline
Friday, February 6, 2015

Fee Deadline
Monday, February 16, 2015

Apply Online at:
www.stcloudstate.edu/volunteer

Contact Civic Engagement
E-mail: civicengagement@stcloudstate.edu
Phone: (320) 308-2205