From the AIC Director’s Desk…..

The entire university has been concentrating on the upcoming reorganization, and this has made the fall semester fly by fast. The American Indian Center director and staff have been involved in various meetings, shared discussions and have completed the required reports to help make recommendations on what changes are possible in the Student Life and Development division and the university as a whole. This process has been transparent with opportunities to attend focus group meetings throughout the fall semester. SCSU administration will make the final decisions on the reorganization results in January, 2011. Throughout this transition, we were able to employ a temporary Office Assistant, Heather Folkestad, who will be with us until January 21, 2011.

Visit our AIC website: (http://www.stcloudstate.edu/aic/) for current information and updates regarding upcoming events, programs, and services. Remember our annual spring Pow Wow will be held on April 9th, 2011. Everyone at the AIC 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 continue their involvement with the AIC, so we can build our future together.

Sincerely,
Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, Director
Mentor Program

The American Indian Center Mentor Program was off to great start this year! We began with two training sessions, one session specifically for mentors and a second session for mentees. In the mentee training session the mentors took the lead in the training. The training sessions were very helpful in learning what the mentor program was about and outlining the goals and expectations for both the mentors and mentees. We provided ice breakers and activities to help students and staff get to know one another. We also shared some laughs and great food together.

Many of the mentors met with their mentees one-on-one for breakfast and/or lunch meetings. The American Indian Center has held many events and activities which provided more opportunities for mentors and mentees to meet and to be involved. The mentors and mentees do have different class schedules and life situations so they often had communicated by e-mail and text messaging.

The mentor program provided monthly educational and fun activities throughout the semester for mentors and mentees to get together. Some of the activities were: movie and popcorn night, ice cream social and board game night, and pizza and bowling. We were also able to take a field trip to the Minneapolis Art Institute and Mall of America. We ended the semester with a wonderful dinner held at the American Indian Center.

Submitted by:
Sheryl Garcia
Associate Director

The small pictures are this year’s mentors. Clockwise from top left: Julia Lintgen, Jaqui Bosquez, Kip Perkins, Claire Williams, Cara Grussing, and Jim Knutson-Kolodzne. The large pictures are from mentor program events. Top: Dream Catcher Night, Bottom: Ice Cream Social and Board Game Night.
The American Indian Speaker Series brought two speakers to SCSU during the fall semester. Thanks to these wonderful speakers for sharing their lives and knowledge with us and to all who attended.

The October speaker was Belinda Brennan, Community Wellness Coordinator for the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. Born in Yellowknife, Canada, and a member of the Dene Tribe, Belinda grew up in Wisconsin. Raised in a family with domestic violence, Belinda applies the wisdom from her wounds to assist other people in their journey to wellness. In having the courage to speak the unspeakable, Belinda liberates others to speak their truth. Belinda Brennan is a dynamic leader, healer and teacher in the area of personal wellness. While serving as Women’s Domestic Abuse Advocate for 7 years, Belinda sparked the creation of alternative healing and holistic support in the Oneida community.

Belinda gave several presentations campus-wide. She spoke for Women on Wednesday on October 20th and gave a Healing Workshop on October 21st. For her presentation at the American Indian Center on October 21st, Belinda shared her experiences of growing up in a home with domestic abuse and the gifts that came as a result of her spiritual journey.

Rebekah Fineday, a St. Cloud State University 2009 Alumnus of the nursing program, visited in November. She currently works as a full time RN, BSN at Cass Lake Indian Health Services on Leech Lake Indian Reservation and has received certifications in Public Health Nursing, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and Trauma Nursing Core Courses. Rebekah works primarily in the Urgent Care Clinic, Emergency Room, and the Inpatient Floor. As a senior at SCSU, Rebekah was awarded the IHS (Indian Health Services) Scholarship Award for the 2008 academic year. Rebekah, an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe from Cass Lake, MN, spoke at the American Indian Center on November 18th about her adjustments to change and what her experiences have been since graduation.

The annual AIC House Blessing was held on Wednesday, September 8th. Once again we were able to hold the event outdoors. We want to thank all who participated in the house blessing, especially Mille Lacs Elder, Joe Nayquonabe, who performed the ceremony this year. Many came to participate in this ceremony and learn more about American Indian culture. Thank you again for making the blessing a wonderful and successful way to start the school year.
Fall Harvest Feast
The annual AIC Fall Harvest Feast and Pumpkin Carving Contest was held on October 28th. It was a great opportunity to share a meal and have some fun. Congratulations to the Pumpkin Carving Contest winners: Evelyn Saxon-1st place, Jonathan Volkers-2nd place, and Claire Williams-3rd place!

Native Leadership Retreat
The annual Native Leadership was held at the AIC on Friday, September 24th. This year’s retreat was a success with many new and returning students in attendance. 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 Native students are able to practice their leadership skills by presenting at the retreat or interacting with the new students and serving as role models for new students.

Presentations were provided by the Write Place, the Advising Center, All Tribes Council, American Indian Faculty, the AIC Mentor Program, and AIC Student Workers. Several new students were awarded scholarships for participation and prizes were awarded to all who were in attendance.

It was a great experience for all who attended!

NIEA Conference
The National Indian Education Association 41st Annual Convention was held October 6-10, 2010 in the beautiful city of San Diego, California. The title of the conference this year was called Investing in Youth For Our Vision of Tomorrow.

I enjoyed listening to the different keynote speakers in sharing their life experiences, humor and wisdom. The keynote speakers were Larry EchoHawk, Pawnee Nation, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, US Department of Interior; James W. Anderson, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe, National Motivational Speaker; Louie Gong, Nooksack, Squamish, Chinese, French, Scottish, Artist, Family Therapist, Counselor; Pearl Yellowman, Navajo, Co-Director of the Institute of Native Development. I attended different workshops in hopes to learn new ideas or different programs that I could bring back and possibly incorporate at the American Indian Center in working with our students.

The conference addressed the current issues and policies that affect Indian Education. It was nice to see the current research, services, curriculum and resources that are available to assist in working with students in k-12 and higher education.

I also had the opportunity to connect with some old and new friends from both Wisconsin and Minnesota, too! Overall, I enjoyed the NIEA experience!

Submitted by:
Sheryl García
Associate Director
Student Spotlights

Jessica Garcia, AIC Student Worker

This student worker spotlight is on Jessica Garcia, one of the new work study students at the AIC. Jessica grew up in St. Paul. She chose to attend St. Cloud State University because it is far enough from home but still close enough that she can go home when she wants to. Another reason she chose SCSU is because of the pre-vet program. Jessica has always wanted to be a veterinarian since she was a little kid. She is not completely sure, but she thinks that she will try majoring in pre-veterinary medicine.

Jessica likes how there are always things for students to do around campus. She also loves to play volleyball and spend time with kids and animals.

Jessica says the best part of working at the AIC is meeting all the great people. She also likes knowing that she will have fun and be comfortable at work. She has also been able to increase her knowledge of the Native culture.

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to the following Fall 2010 American Indian graduates! We wish you good luck in your future endeavors.

Frank Hancock
Bachelor of Science, Finance
Bachelor of Arts, Business Economics

Mathias Lorsung
Bachelor of Arts, Travel and Tourism

Jacob McIvor
Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice Studies

Molly Mevissen
Bachelor of Science, Marketing
All Tribes Council

Another opportunity for students to get involved is All Tribes Council. This is a student organization which supports the social and academic needs of students at St. Cloud State University. For more information contact Wade Dauphinais at dawa0701@stcloudstate.edu or Niki Roundtree at rona0701@stcloudstate.edu.

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 used the American Indian Center, stop by and visit with Associate Director Sheryl Garcia or Director Jim Knutson-Kolodzne to get a tour and learn about our services!!!

Student Corner

Just Bead It!

A beading class is being offered at the AIC this spring semester 2011 (January 19th-March 2nd) on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30 PM! The class will be led by Co-facilitators Jeanne LaCourt and Sheryl Garcia. Learn to do loom work and make a barrette or key chain.

Sign up at the AIC by January 14th.

Only 10 slots available!

This picture was taken at the American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) Recruit Meeting held at the AIC on Thursday, December 9th, 2010. Read the article on the next page to learn more about the meeting and what AISES is all about. From left to right, Front row: Jeanne Bendickson, Sheryl Garcia, Liz Clasen, Amanda Sargent, Rosario Garcia, Back row: Evie Saxon, Maricia Varela, June Sayers, Tashiana Osborne, Miranda Nibbe, Claire Williams.

February 3rd, 2011-February 6th, 2011

Power in Diversity Leadership Conference

Take this chance to learn about opportunities for you and to develop as a leader!

“The 2nd Annual Power in Diversity Leadership Conference will offer opportunities for personal and leadership development to college students of color through a variety of workshops and programs. It will also provide a forum for student leaders to connect and network with others from colleges and universities across the state.”

Opportunities at the conference include presentations, speakers, a variety show, an open mic/spoken word event, socials, and a diversity job and internship fair.

Check out the website for the conference at:
http://www.stcloudstate.edu/mss/powerindiversity/default.asp

Contact the AIC if you are interested in attending!
For a couple of years now myself, Sheryl Garcia, Associate Director of the American Indian Center, and others have been attempting to get an American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) student group on campus started. The mission of AISES is to increase the number of American Indians going into science, engineering, technology, mathematics, and related fields. AISES is a nationwide organization that has many levels of participation. There are high school student chapters, college chapters, and many professionals who are members.

St. Cloud State University has already been a part of the North Star STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Alliance for the past few years, and they have been supportive of our endeavors. The North Star STEM Alliance shares a similar goal of AISES, to increase the participation of minority groups in science fields, but it is localized to undergraduates in the state of Minnesota and 16 colleges and universities.

On Thursday, December 9th, 2010, we had our first meeting at the American Indian Center on the St. Cloud State University campus. The meeting was a success, with twelve people in attendance. Sheryl and another student, Evie, prepared two types of homemade lasagna, meat and vegetarian. The food was delicious and everyone won a door prize. With twelve people at the meeting, that was enough to meet the attendance requirement (ten students) to start our application process to becoming a recognized club with the Center for Student Organizations and Leadership Development (CSOLD). In the coming year we will be able to submit a budget proposal to the Student Finance Committee. Should we receive funding, in the future we can do activities such as attend conferences.

At the meeting, the new members represent a variety of majors and are from different tribes across Minnesota and Wisconsin. Students are from the following tribes: White Earth, Menominee, Red Cliff Ojibwe, Bad River Ojibwe, Yerington Piaute, and I’m Red Lake Ojibwe/Ho-Chunk. The students’ majors cover an array of topics; there were Podiatry, Biomedical, Meteorology, Hydrology, Education with a science cognate, and Earth Science majors.

With a paid membership to AISES, the students will be able to take advantage of several benefits. The new members will be eligible for certain scholarships and other programs that are only available to AISES members. AISES offers a Resume Tutorial on their website and Career Services. Members also receive discounts to AISES events such as conferences. The yearly College Guide and Winds of Change magazine are AISES publications that come with the membership. Strength comes in numbers, and individual members now have the support of being part of a system of college chapters.

I have been involved with AISES for the last 4 years. I have attended a couple of the National AISES Conferences in the past, November 2006 and September 2009. At the 2009 AISES National Conference I presented research at the poster presentation session and gave an oral presentation. I am hoping that we get more members to our club and that they will also be able attend conferences in the future.

Some of our upcoming events include the AISES Rocket Competition, taking place in May in Kansasville, Wisconsin. We will attend the next AISES Regional Conference which will be in March, 2011, location TBA. With some time off from school, we will be snowshoeing over the winter break. Our next meeting is scheduled to take place the last week in January 2011. We hope to see some new members show up!

Miigwetch,

June Sayers

Resources:
http://www.aises.org/
http://www.northstarstem.org/

Contact information:
Sheryl Garcia, Associate Director, American Indian Center: sagarcia@stcloudstate.edu
June Sayers, North Star STEM Fellow: saju0601@stcloudstate.edu
Upcoming Events

Spring 2011 Events

January
Events TBA

February
American Indian Speaker Series
Annamarie Hill-Kleihans-MN Indian Affairs Council
February, 2011 5:00-6:00 PM

Power In Diversity Conference
February 4-6, 2011
Atwood- TBA

March
Lame Deer Spring Break Trip
March 5-12, 2011
Northern Cheyenne Reservation
Lame Deer, Montana

April
American Indian Awareness Week
April 4-8, 2011

18th Annual ATC Pow Wow
SCSU Halenbeck Hall –Main Gym
April 9, 2011

May
AIC Mentoring Program Dinner
May 5, 2010 4:30 PM
TBA

We are American Indian Scholars

Check out this poem found by our Associate Director, Sheryl Garcia!

We are American Indian Scholars
We wonder if we are strong as our elders and ancestors
We envision a time when more young people go on to college
We need a sense of belonging and trust
We think our people are the most resilient on earth

We are American Indian Scholars
We lead our people with pride, knowledge and wisdom
We feel we can make a positive difference
We worry that we will let our people down
We cry when we think of those we lost along our way

We are American Indian Scholars
We understand the importance of education
We dream of a better life for our children
We try to balance the traditional and modern worlds
We hope our people find the support and strength to succeed

We are American Indian Scholars
We love our people, our mother earth and our father sky
We pray that all of our surroundings will be blessed
We will soar to new heights in our minds, hands, and hearts
We plan to become prominent leaders

We are American Indian Scholars
We thank those who were part of our educational journey
We must remember who we are
We acknowledge where we are from
We know where we are going


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