

**AISES GRC Summer Meeting Proceedings**  
**June 23, 2016**  
**NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771**

- Agenda – Please see attached agenda document for the speakers and activities
- NASA Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP)
  - NASA Earth Systems, Technology, and Energy Education for MUREP (ESTEEM) program has 4 Principal Investigator’s (PI’s) and their research areas at Tribal Colleges
    - Salish Kootenai College - Climate change impact, space-based curriculum working with Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)
    - College of Nominee Nation - Solar Energy
    - Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College - Traditional knowledge with NASA science research
    - Turtle Mountain Community College - North Dakota – Utilizing Landsat and remote sensing data for visualization
  - Program has had 75 PI’s in total since the start of their program in 2008
  - ESTEEM website: [esteem.larc.nasa.gov](http://esteem.larc.nasa.gov)
- Intern Panel Discussion
  - Common theme: Pressure of “giving back to your people” to stay home and work in your communities – there must be a benefit for back home; if there is not benefit back home, then it can be isolating to leave
  - Some answers to question about top 3 difficulties a young native person faces:
    - Letting your people/your family down
    - Cultural identity (if you are all native or NOT native enough)
    - "Lower 48" natives are not as knowledgeable about their culture, how can you be Alaska Native if you are not from Alaska
    - There is a lot of judgment and they don't feel welcome anymore when they go home
    - So much pressure on cultural identity and keeping the culture alive
    - Pressure about needing to represent their people well

- Why do you need a degree if you are just going to come back and live in the village?
    - Don't want to let your family down and yet without family they could not do this (college, be away for summer on other side of USA as intern)
  - Some comments on how you were inspired to pursue Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM):
    - University of Alaska has a Native program in Engineering
    - A comment was made that you have to visit the tribal colleges to understand the issues
    - Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) Federal has a newsletter "intern insights" that interns can write their own biography, it is available only to the ASRC stake holders
    - It appears that STEM opportunities have to be "discovered" and some opportunities and information is found by "chance"
    - There is an American Indian Society of DC
- Luncheon Speaker – Mr. William Mendoza, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education
  - 95% of Native America's attend school districts where they are <10% of the population
  - Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) graduated 5 engineering students
  - Two new websites: <http://stemundergrads.science.gov> & <http://stemgradstudents.science.gov>
  - There is a Native one stop initiative: <http://www.nativeonestop.gov> – there are Federal Resources, 162 programs that have discretionary/competitive grants available
  - In 2015 there was \$3M available to tribes, school district partnerships, college/career readiness and early learning/STEM learning
  - Department of Labor has \$100M for "tech hires"
  - There is a credential barriers for Federal Research opportunities
  - Native Americans are 2nd in their interest in STEM fields
  - Tribal Colleges have 12-16 4-year programs and ~14 2-year programs

- There are 98K students attending tribal serving universities (567 tribes and 300 languages)
- Guest Speaker – Ms. Leslie Wheelock, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Director of the Office of Tribal Relations
  - USDA is 3rd largest Federal Agency
  - "Education is the only thing they cannot take away from you"
  - USDA is very focused on education
  - Here is the formula funding:
  - There are Land Grant Colleges/State Colleges (1862) - \$300M
  - There are 18 Historically Black Colleges (1892) - \$46M
  - There are 34 Tribal Colleges and Universities (1994) - \$4.5M
  - The issue is how schools administer the grant funding. There is a need to teach how to write a competitive grant.
- Subcommittee Session
  - Reviewing student resumes at the National Conference
    - Discuss ways in partnering with AISES in resume reviews
  - Job Opportunities
    - Discussed how USDA established a Pathways announcement at the National Conference – Can that be replicated for other agencies?
- Adjourn – Next Meeting: **AISES National Conference – Minneapolis, MN (November 9 – 12, 2016)**