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Faculty, Student, and Minority Outreach Activities: A Nebraska Initiative for Aerospace Research and Industrial Development (NIARID) Emerging Focus

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Faculty, Student, and Minority Outreach Activities

A Nebraska Initiative for Aerospace Research and Industrial Development (NIARID) Emerging Focus

**Dr. Brent D. Bowen
December 5, 1996**

The NIARID has a specific goal to Amotivate talented Nebraska youth and in particular those from under-represented populations, to pursue post-secondary and graduate-level education and careers in aerospace science and industry through the development of intriguing research-related outreach activities and assistantships.@ An additional emerging segment of this cluster will also focus on the development of the research capabilities of junior faculty members at affiliate institutions with particular emphasis on the utilization of student research assistants from specific minorities.

To further this goal, this cluster will endeavor to:

- I Actively involve junior faculty in emerging research clusters. This participation will be facilitated by:
 - # Summer Research Enhancement Grants
 - # Competitive Seed Grant funding
 - # Selected travel grants
 - # Development of an NIARID Website
 - # Initiation of a proposal-writing teleconference beginning in fall 1997
 - # Awarding of undergraduate and graduate student research fellowships
 - # Inclusion of NIARID in the Nebraska Academy of Science activities
 - # Enhance Nebraska=s research infrastructure

- I Expand the holdings of the state's library resources to include more aeronautical science materials.

- I Promote greater involvement of students, both pre-college undergraduate and graduate, in aeronautical/aerospace activities. This endeavor with include:
 - # Provisions for gifted high school students to participate with faculty members of each research cluster or seed grant activity
 - # Integration of students from the UNO Goodrich Program into the NIARID program through summer research internships
 - # Encourage involvement in this program by women and under-represented minorities; in this particular case Native Americans will be specifically solicited to participate
 - # Enhance the interface of NIARID with elementary and secondary schools throughout the state

I Enhance communication among NIARID participants/affiliates, industry, the community-at-large, government agencies, and other interested stakeholders through:

- # The development and dissemination of a NIARID Newsletter
- # Involvement of the UNO College of Education in pre-college activities
- # Involvement of the UNO College of Business in technology transfer and industrial development

I Form a collaborative partnership with the Nebraska Native American educational community in NIARID activities. There are three components to this effort:

- # K -12 programs
- # Tribal colleges and UNO collaborative partnerships
- # Formal articulation agreements between the aeronautics program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and the Nebraska tribal colleges