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## The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Native American Outreach Program

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## **The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Native American Outreach Program**

The NASA Nebraska Space Grant and Experimental Program to Stimulate Research (EPSCoR) has, under the leadership of Dr. Hank Lehrer of the UNO Aviation Institute, initiated the Nebraska Native American Outreach Program (NNAOP). The NNAOP focuses on the use of aeronautics to improve the math, science, and technology skills of not only K -12 students but for higher education students as well. The three pillars of the initiative are Infrastructure and Partnership Building, Motivation of Students, and Curriculum Enhancement/Teacher Training.

The Infrastructure and Partnership Building portion includes the formation of Nebraska Native American working Group (NNAWG) which includes the superintendents of the four Nebraska reservations school districts (Winnebago, Walthill, Macy, and Santee) and the presidents of Nebraska Indian Community College and Little Priest Tribal College. A proposal writing workshop this past fall was attended by 21 faculty and staff from the member institutions. Future joint South Dakota, Kansas, and Nebraska tribal college-related educational projects are planned.

The Motivation of Students segment provided several scholarships at the tribal colleges. A major activity was a NASA Aeronautics Day at Sioux Gateway Airport when 203 5th and 6th grade reservation school students and teachers spent a day exploring aeronautical activities and career activities. A similar activity is planned for 7th and 8th grade students in the spring as is an aeronautics career day for high school students.

The enhancement of Curriculum Enhancement/Teacher Training segment's goal is to better prepare Native Americans to meet national math and science related standards through the use of aeronautics. Several science-related educational activities have been funded this past year such as Organizational Enhancement Grants for the two tribal colleges, a Global Positioning Receiver, and two weather data collection stations. Teacher workshop for science and mathematics enhancement began early in 1998.

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