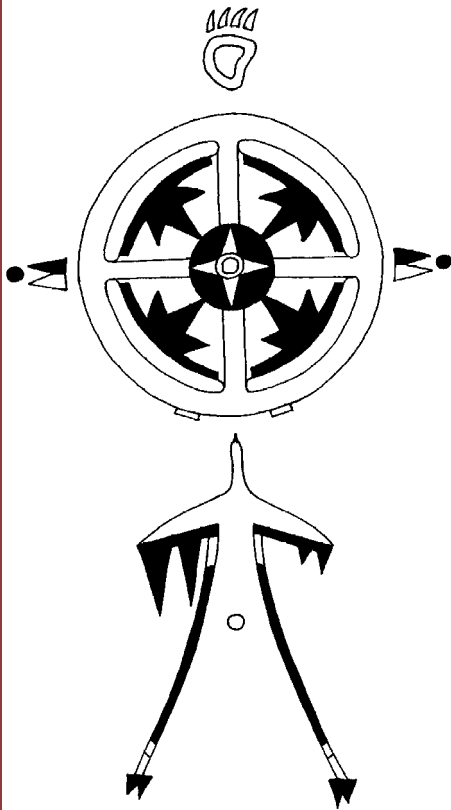


EARTH MEDICINE



June
1996

Haskell Environmental
Research Studies Center
and
Great Plains-Rocky Mountain
Hazardous Substance
Research Center

Native posters highlighted at environmental conference

The NAOMI (Native American and Other Minority Institutions) Program funded the participation of faculty and students from five NAOMI Consortium institutions at the Hazardous Substance Research Center/Waste-management Education and Research Consortium Joint Conference on the Environment, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on May 21-23, 1996. Students and faculty from Crownpoint Institute of Technology, Haskell Indian Nations University, Salish Kootenai College, Sinte Gleska University, and Turtle Mountain Community College were present at the conference with NAOMI assistance.

Navajo Community College at Shiprock, New Mexico, was also represented at the conference.

The conference featured a special poster session and reception on "Native American Environmental Education and Research." This session gave the students and

faculty the opportunity to network with each other and with other conference attendees regarding environmental issues in Indian Country.

During the conference, awards were given for several poster presentations. Two awards for outstanding Native American posters were given to presenters from Navajo Community College. Titles and authors for those posters are: "Navajo Students Monitor a Local Uranium-Mill Tailings Site," by C. Brown, M. Mitchell, W. Pierce and S. Semken, Navajo Community College, and B. Tsosie, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and "Earth Systems and Navajo Pedagogy," by S. Semken and F. Morgan.

Two additional posters in the Native American category received awards. "Environmental Concerns on the Osage Reservation," by J.O. Bear, Haskell Indian Nations University, received an award for visual effect. An award for technical content was awarded to "Radon in Houses, Its Relation to Hydrology on the Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota," submitted by K. Haukaas and P. Marshall, Sinte Gleska University.

The Haskell Environmental Research Studies

■ continued on page 3



Sinte Gleska University students Kimberly Haukaas and Priscilla Marshall in front of their award-winning poster.

On page...

- 2 .. Summer Coop Program begins
- 2 HERS on World Wide Web
- 3 Partnership announced
- 4 NAOMI Seminar Program

First students participate in NAOMI summer cooperative research program

Through the NAOMI (Native American and Other Minority Institutions) Summer Cooperative Research Program, the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center (HERS) placed its first student researchers at Hazardous Substance Research Center (HSRC) Consortium universities this summer. A faculty member from a NAOMI Consortium institution will also participate in this summer's program. These researchers will be working on HSRC-funded research projects at two HSRC Consortium universities.

The Summer Cooperative Research Program attempts to build links between the HSRC Consortium universities and NAOMI Consortium faculty and students. These links help NAOMI Consortium faculty and students develop their capabilities in research and training and technology transfer.

In Summer 1996, two students and one professor from Native American academic institutions will participate in the Summer Cooperative Research Program. The individuals and the projects they are working on are:

◆ Jamison Bear (Osage), a professor of Biology at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, is working with Dr. Lawrence Davis of Kansas State University. Bear will be working with Davis to examine the interaction of plants and microbes in the remediation of volatile organic contaminants. They will examine ways in which the

plant contributes to the degradation of the contaminant, either by its own metabolic processes or by stimulating the microbial populations that are able to carry out the degradative processes;

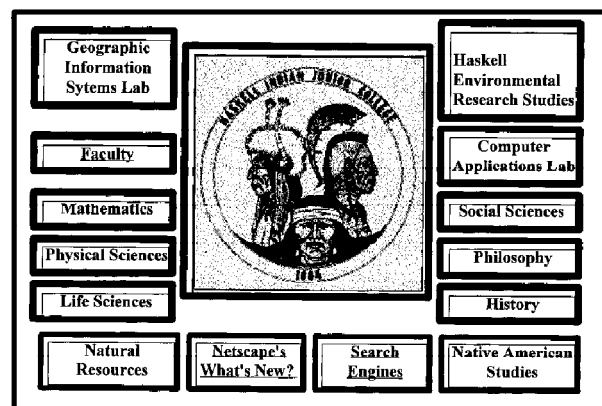
◆ Sherry Blackburn (Northern Arapaho), a student at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, is working with Dr. Tissa Illangasekare from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Blackburn is working with Illangasekare on an on-going project to develop systematic procedures for extending information from laboratory to field to design and evaluate various treatment and remediation technologies associated with non-aqueous base organic chemicals and waste products in the subsurface; and

◆ Miranda Salt (Navajo), a student at Navajo Community College in Tsaile, Arizona, is working with Dr. Kathy Banks of Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Salt will be assisting Banks in investigating the use of plants and associated soil microorganisms to remediate soil contaminated with hazardous organic contaminants.

These researchers will be spending up to eight weeks working at their respective HSRC Consortium institutions. This is the third consecutive year that HERS has placed NAOMI Consortium researchers at HSRC Consortium institutions. ■

HERS information available to internet users

The Natural and Social Sciences Department (NASS) at Haskell Indian Nations University is constructing its own Home Page on the World Wide Web. The Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center (HERS) has its own Home Page at this location. Information at this site includes HERS and NAOMI Program descriptions and information on upcoming events. The site is still under construction. Expansion plans include access to the *Earth Medicine* newsletter and links to other environmental and tribal sources on the World Wide Web. The address for the HERS Home Page is <http://www.nass.haskell.edu/HERS/HERS.html>. If you have trouble accessing the site, the HERS or NASS staff is most likely working on it. Please try again later. ■



The NASS Home Page at HINU provides a home on the World Wide Web to several university programs, including HERS.

HERS partnership with Stone & Webster to provide opportunities for Native students

The Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center (HERS) will collaborate with Stone & Webster Environmental Technology and Services in a multimillion dollar contract to fund remediation efforts on lands impacted by military operations within the Missouri River Divisional Boundaries. HERS will receive approximately \$6 million over the next five to ten years from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to support Stone & Webster's Total Environmental Restoration Contract.

HERS will provide a variety of services to the Denver-based firm including Geographic Information Systems services, archeological surveys, and technical consulting on Indian Rights and land

development issues. Helping environmental engineers understand and appreciate issues related to Indian rights and land development will hopefully help alleviate problems that have occurred in the past due to misunderstandings and poor communication.

In addition, it is anticipated that internships will be offered for American Indian students desiring a hands-on learning experience in technical or administrative roles for environmental restoration work. The collaboration will also provide support for HERS and other environmental science programs at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. ■

HERS Advisory Board convenes at conference

■ continued from page 1

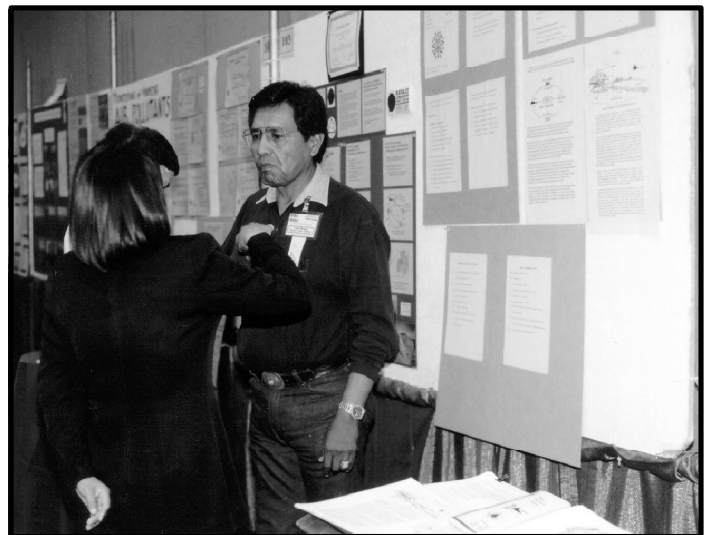
(HERS) Advisory Board also met during this conference. The Board convened to receive updates on NAOMI Program activities and to welcome new Advisory Board members. Focal points of the discussion centered upon the future of HERS and the NAOMI Program. Future plans for the NAOMI Program include a four-part seminar series that may begin and end with satellite uplink programs. The series will focus on four areas of environmental concern: Land, Air, Water, and Living Beings. The seminars will address these issues by focusing on traditional tribal wisdom and knowledge, sovereignty, science, and technology.

Advisory Board members were also updated on information pertaining to HERS' new source of support, a partnership with Stone & Webster Environmental Technology and Services. For additional information, please refer to the article on page 3 of this issue.

The Board also gave its recommendation for approval on a revised training proposal from Sinte Gleska University. The proposal, "Environmental Analysis Training for the Northern Plains American Indian Nations," was submitted by Benjamin Whiting, Environmental Science and Conservation instructor at Sinte Gleska University. The project will fund environmental assessment training for the tribes in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Northern Nebraska. The project is geared to tribal environmental personnel in order to increase educa-

tional opportunities and to improve tribal environmental monitoring capabilities. The project will also improve the capacity of tribal governments in developing and delivering environmental training programs through tribal colleges and through existing environmental programs.

The HERS Advisory Board will meet again in Fall 1996 at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. ■



Frank Morgan from Navajo Community College at Shiprock, New Mexico, discusses his poster with another conference attendee during the poster session.

Available videotapes

These tapes are available through interlibrary loan from Kansas State University's Farrell Library.

An Environmental Legacy for Our Grandchildren

Comparison of Native American and European Worldviews: A Roundtable Discussion, Part II

The Badlands Bombing Range Project

Basin Creek Mine Closure Reclamation Techniques

Comparison of Native American and European Worldviews: A Roundtable Discussion

Topics in Pollution Prevention—Vehicle Maintenance

PCBs in Our Environment—The Legacy Continues

Comparison of Native American and European Worldviews: A European Viewpoint

Environmental Impacts of Gold Mining Operations Near the Fort Belknap Reservation

Comparison of Native American and European Worldviews: A Native American Viewpoint

The NAOMI Program and HERS: New Opportunities in Environmental Research

Hózhó Kéyah (Environmental Harmony in Business)

Hózhó Hooghan (Environmental Harmony at Home)

Team America: A Strategic Plan for the 1990's

Bold print indicates that a seminar was sponsored by the NAOMI Seminar Program.



Center Directors

George Godfrey and Dan Wildcat

Supporting Faculty

Carol Bowen, Bill Curtis, Tom Dixon
Chuck Haines, Dennis O'Malley, Mike Tosee

Editors

Wendy Griswold and Patterson T. Yazzie

Grants Administrator

Helen Gee

Medicine Wheel Graphic

Leslie Evans

Advisory Board Members

Don Aragon, Les Benedict, Sherry
Blackburn, Karl Burgher, Kim Clausen,
Shelia Crawford, Sharon Crowley, Ray
Haner, Rose Main, Ella Mulford, Jerry
Pardilla, Steve Semken, Graham Snelding,
John Trottier, Gerald Wagner, Benjamin
Whiting, Roderick Yeahpau

Earth Medicine is published bi-monthly by the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center to serve as a means of communication for members of the center's consortium and the public. The Office of Research and Development, U.S. EPA, under agreement #R-819653, through the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Hazardous Substance Research Center, provides \$1,101,757, or 70 percent, of the funding for this program and publication. The content of this publication does not necessarily represent the views of that agency. No official endorsement should be inferred.



Printed on recycled paper.



Haskell Indian
Nations University

Kansas State University



**EARTH
MEDICINE**

Haskell Foundation
Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center
155 Indian Ave., Box 1247
Lawrence, KS 66046
913-749-8498

Please send a free subscription of *Earth Medicine* to:

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone and FAX _____

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Lawrence, KS 66044

Permit No. 187