EMerging PrOgrams for Workforce Development, OutReach, Education and Diversity—North Dakota (EMPOWERED-ND)

IVN site addresses:

Room 209, Main Campus, TMCC, 10145 N. Fish Lake Rd., Belcourt, ND 58316 (broadcast site)
Admin 359, 500 Univ. Ave W, MiSU, Minot, ND 58707
EML 183, 1310 Centennial Blvd., NDSU, Fargo, ND 58102
119 Abbott Hall, 151 Cornell St., UND, Grand Forks, ND 58202

Monday, June 27, 2016
3:00 pm -- 4:00 pm

Polycom users: 6062872
By phone, its 701-328-1601, meeting ID: #62872

3:00 pm – meeting begins
Scott M. Hanson, Ph.D., ND EPSCoR Tribal Colleges Liaison Manager and EMPOWERED-ND Chair

- ND EPSCoR personnel
  - Mark Hoffmann, Ph.D., ND EPSCoR Associate Project Director and Associate VP for Research and Capacity Building, UND, ex-officio committee member
  - Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, Ph.D., CPA, ND EPSCoR Program Administrator, NDSU, ex-officio committee member

- NDUS member
  - Richard Rothaus, Ph. D., Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, ND University System

- Tribal college members
  - Teresa Harding, M.Ed., NATURE PI, CCC – unable to attend
  - Kerry Hartman, Ph. D., NATURE PI and track 1 researcher in CRCS, NHSC – unable to attend
  - Mafany Mongoh, Ph. D., NATURE PI and track 1 researcher in CSMS, SBC
  - Miles Pfahl, M.S., NATURE PI, TMCC
  - Jeremy Guinn, Ph. D., NATURE PI, UTTC – unable to attend

- Primarily undergraduate institution members
  - Eric Brevik, Ph. D., CRCS PI, DSU-- unable to attend
  - Khwaja Hossain, Ph. D., CSMS PI, MaSU – unable to attend
  - Mikhail Bobylev, Ph. D., CSMS PI, MiSU
  - Andre DeLorme, Ph. D., CRCS PI, VCSU

- NDSU and UND members
  - James Nyachwaya, Ph. D., Education and Workforce Development co-Lead, NDSU
Business:
• Ideas for next track-1 ND EPSCoR proposal

4:00 pm – Adjourn

IVN Connectivity
Polycom users: 6062872
By phone, its 701-328-1601, meeting ID: #62872
• CCC – not necessary, Teresa Harding cannot attend
• DSU – not necessary, Eric Brevik cannot attend
• MaSU – not necessary, Khwaja Hossain cannot attend
• MISU -- Admin 359
• NDSU – EML 183
• NDUS – Not necessary, Richard Rothaus will attend via Polycom
• NHSC – not necessary, Kerry Hartman cannot attend
• SBC – TBA
• TMCC – room 209– broadcast site
• UND – Abbott 119
• UTTC – not necessary, Eric Brevik cannot attend
• VCSU – not necessary, Andre DeLorme will attend via Polycom

IDEAS FOR THE NEXT EPSCOR PROPOSAL

These are rough outlines of a few ideas for the next round of track-1 funding for ND EPSCoR based upon conversations with people at the tribal colleges. All tribal colleges agree that an increase in budget would allow the tribal colleges to do more to enhance STEM programs.

Transfer specialist at each TC

Most STEM students at the TCs who want a 4-year STEM degree will transfer to one of the universities, and transferring from a TC to a large university is a big transition for a TC student. A transfer specialist can talk with TC students about the challenges they will face and help them design strategies to deal with the challenges. The transfer specialist can take TC students to the university they are considering and introduce them to people who will be part of their academic, financial and social support system. The transfer specialist can help the students find out which courses they should take at the TC that are required for the 4-year degree they want. The transfer specialist can also keep up with changes in requirements at the universities, help resolve course transfer issues and help the student services department keep the articulation agreements current.
Scholarships for junior and senior STEM undergrads

Many TC students who complete a two-year STEM program do not go on to a 4-year STEM program, and one of the reasons is the lack of available financial aid. Moreover, most tribal students seeking a BA or BS degree move away from their community and social support system to a distant university, thus exacerbating their financial need. Therefore, it would be good to help STEM students overcome this financial bottleneck by offering scholarships to juniors and seniors pursuing BA and BS degrees at a TC, PUI or RU. Should this funding include students seeking health-related degrees such as nursing and med school or are they already adequately funded?

Tutoring

Currently there is a need for more STEM tutors at the TCs, and past tutoring programs show that TC students definitely benefit from tutoring, because tutoring improves retention and success rates. It would be good to have designated tutoring areas at each TC where the tutoring takes place, and there should be some sort of system by which students needing help can sign up for a session with a tutor. The tutors should be TC students, but if there are not enough TC students willing to be tutors, it may be necessary to hire people from the community as tutors.

K12 STEM outreach coordinator at each TC

To enhance outreach activities with American Indian K12 students, it may be best to have a full-time outreach coordinator at each TC to conduct outreach activities at K12 schools. The outreach coordinator would do STEM activities with the K12 students, recruit students for the NATURE program and even take part in the Sunday Academy and summer camp activities. The outreach coordinator can get TC STEM students involved in the K12 STEM activities so the TC students can serve as role models or mentors and learn leadership skills.

TC STEM students in K12 classrooms to do STEM activities and/or science fair

In an effort to enhance the local K12 students’ exposure to STEM, TC STEM students could go to the K12 schools and do STEM activities with them. Possibly the outreach coordinator from the above activity could coordinate these activities with the TC STEM instructors and students. The STEM and/or education instructors at the TCs and the K12 teachers should review the activities before the TC students do them in the schools. The TC students should practice the activities before doing them with K12 students. Maybe Ed students could partner with STEM students in doing these activities. It may be possible to use past NATURE SA and summer camp activities.

More research opportunities for TC STEM faculty

The current track-1 grant has enabled researchers at the TCs to build collaborations with researchers at NDSU, UND, the PUIs and out-of-state institutions. The next grant can build on those relationships by providing TC researchers with travel funds to enable them to visit collaborators in order to learn specific research techniques or to use equipment or facilities that they do not have at their own institution. These visits to the RUs would further foster and strengthen the research collaborations and facilitate the development of meaningful mentoring relationships between the TC researchers and RU researchers. Another way to increase research opportunities would be to provide funds for TC researchers to purchase new equipment that would enable them to perform research that they are not currently able to do for lack of the requisite equipment. Having graduate students teach at the TCs would give TC faculty needed release time to have the opportunity to do more research.