FY 2004
Multicultural Alliances

Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program

Description of Funded Projects

Science and Education Resources Development
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Proposal #: 2004-04411  Lead Institution: Prince William Sound Comm College
Grant #: 2004-38426-14849  Award Amount: $181,789
Project Director: Deborah Linn  Project Duration: 24 months

USDA Program Access for Remote Students. Prince William Sound Community College serves an area of 44,000 square miles with 22 small towns and villages. Coordinated with village leadership, travel to remote areas to meet with secondary and post-secondary schools, tribal councils and village leaders increase awareness and encouragement of educational programs at the community college.

Brochures, computers, and a website for distance communication would add to face-to-face meetings with traditional leaders and schools in establishing educational criteria and training. Increase in enrollment and retention of continuing and new recruits from rural Alaska and other parts of the state would be made possible with scholarships, mentoring and tutorial assistance for students from this project. College courses and training take into consideration areas closely related to the culture and lifestyle in Alaskan rural villages.

Proposal Number: 2004-04412  Lead Institution: Ilisagvik College
Grant Number: 2004-38426-14849  Award Amount: $149,732
Lead Project Director: Dr. Mike Hartman  Project Duration: 12 months

Health, Nutrition, and the Inupiat Culture. Ilisagvik College is located in Barrow, Alaska and serves an 89,000 square mile arctic tundra region, which is not connected by roads, rivers, or rail. The Inupiat Eskimo are the residing Alaska Natives, and they comprise approximately 70% of the total population. The project proposes to identify local employment and training needs in the health and nutrition fields. It also proposes to refine our Nutrition and Inupiat Culture course and develop new health science courses. Ilisagvik College, the North Slope Borough health Department, and the Arctic Slope Native Association identified training and employment needs in allied health professions.

This project will study lifestyle issues relevant to health and nutrition, to include the current place of traditional Inupiat diet and lifestyle. It also will incorporate the research findings into a course curriculum that integrates health, nutrition, and Inupiat culture and value; and, develop a minimum of two core health science courses in cooperation with the North Slope Borough School District: Chemistry and microbiology. Travel is a must to each village to identify students who are ready to enter the health science Associates of arts degree program.

The emphasis will be on building current workers’ skills and increasing the number of residents interested in and qualified for health positions. Inupiat residents who gain local health jobs will reduce employer costs and boost the economy. Additionally, they will be a critical part of the health industry by ensuring the Inupiat culture and values are an integral part of health services.

Proposal Number: 2004-04413  Lead Institution: Sheldon Jackson College
Grant Number: 2004-38426-14639  Award Amount: $192,613
Project Director: Dr. David R. Harrington  Project Duration: 18 months

Sheldon Jackson College Fisheries and Environmental Sciences: Sustainability Through Community Connections. Sheldon Jackson College proposes a project that will assist in sustaining its Environmental Science and Fisheries programs through activities related to establishing or maintaining community collaborations. The college intends on planning and creating a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) curriculum to meet a need of Alaska Native land-holding corporations for personnel educated in this means
of forest and resource documentation. Additionally, the project intends on obtaining net-pens and nets to serve a collaborative Chum salmon project with Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association that will benefit the common fishery of Southeast Alaska. A educational model will be created of the Southeast Alaska hydrological cycle for placement in the aquarium - wet-lab area of the science building that will further our connection with local schools and provide collaboration with the local tribal tour company. Work-study positions for Environmental Science and Fisheries students will be established. This support is particularly helpful to those students from a disadvantaged economic background.

**Proposal Number:** 2004-04414  **Lead Institution:** University of Alaska Southeast  
**Grant Number:** 2003-38426-14098  **Award Amount:** $141,344  
**Project Director:** Dr. Kathie Etulain  **Project Duration:** 24 months

**Community Wellness Training in Alaska.** This project is designed to enhance a 30-credit Community Wellness Advocate Training Program in rural Alaska by adding a nutrition track to the existing curriculum. It is offered statewide by UA-Sitka Campus in conjunction with the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation(SEARHC), a professional group in community wellness, dietetics and nutrition.

The specific goals of the project are: review, create, adapt, refine, and enhance curriculum materials; develop resource support systems; enhance faculty skills in using technology; support experiential learning for students; expand program delivery; and, explore delivery options in states outside of Alaska. Alaska is vastly different from any other states due to its geography, extreme climatic conditions and low population density. Travel and communication hardships have overwhelming impacts on health care delivery and continuity.

This project develops properly trained Community Wellness Agents in a cost-effective way to promote good nutrition and healthy lifestyles as a means of preventing disease. Professional staff development and technological expertise combine to bring the benefits of modern technology to the delivery of academic course-work and on-going field supervision. Retention of continuing and new recruits from rural Alaska and other parts of the state would be made possible with scholarships, mentoring and tutorial assistance for students from this project. College courses and training take into consideration program areas closely related to the culture and lifestyle in Alaskan rural villages.

**Proposal #: 2004-04415  **Lead Institution:** University of Alaska-Fairbanks  
**Grant #: 2004-38426-14638  **Award Amount:** $831,847  
**Project Director:** Dr. Anthony T. Nakazawa  **Project Duration:** 24 months

**Year 4: A Collaboration Between the College of Rural Alaska Extended Campuses and the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service.** The project comprises of 5 extended regional campuses through the College of Rural Alaska and partnership with Alaska Cooperative Extension Service. The project has been purposefully designed to respond to the larger mission of the engaged Land Grant university as defined by the 1999 Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land Grant Universities, the mission statements of the involved institutions, and the educational and agricultural needs addressed by rural, Alaskan subsistence communities.

This project fosters the development of required partnerships by identifying stakeholder needs through participant input to develop regional needs assessments. These needs, as identified by each distinct region,
then serve as the foundation for the other two goals. The project then responds to the needs of the rural educational systems by formulating connections and resources of the University. The project, using the defined regional needs and the connections with the University, responds to the communities by supporting place-based curriculum development to address the subsistence agricultural issues and to honor Native world view and the Native knowledge base.

Proposal Number: 2004-04416  
Grant Number: 2004-38426-13905  
Project Director: Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto  
Lead Institution: University of Hawaii  
Award Amount: $1,497,325  
Project Duration: 2 years

University of Hawaii Agribusiness Education, Training, Incubator. The purpose of this project is to enhance the University’s strong public post-secondary educational capacities by collaborating with state and private organizations to serve Hawaii communities with (1) high-value instruction and training in agriculture (2) high-quality product research, production, and delivery mechanisms, and (3) sophisticated technical, business and brand marketing support to create and sustain Hawaii’s world-class commercial agriculture production capabilities. Throughout this project, emphasis is focused on building capacity and ownership among Hawaii’s many rural agriculture communities, including large number of native Hawaiian and other underserved minority populations.

The immediate challenge is to take advantage of Hawaii’s unique agricultural environment and to develop statewide capacities to bring economically viable enterprises to maturity in a local context that also works globally. The approach is straightforward. The project seeks to identify, develop and support existing community-based agriculture initiatives and human resources that require immediate assistance by infusing those assets with education and technical training and professional-level business and marketing support required to become profitable and self-sustaining.

This is an eight-campus consortium proposal request that represents substantial partnership and coordination between several of the University of Hawaii two baccalaureate and seven two-year community colleges. UH Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources will take the role as lead institution responsible for coordinating and supporting ongoing improvements to UH food and agricultural science capabilities. However, it is the aggregate responsibility of the partnership and its support staff to ensure overall program success and to stimulate the local agricultural economy in ways that are both economically and environmentally sustaining.