FY 2008

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

Description of Funded Projects

Multicultural Alliances
Science and Education Resources Development
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Drumbeats: Haaghezetolno: We Will Live Well
The University of Alaska Fairbanks, a four-year institution, will expand the Alaska Native Serving Institutions (ANSI) capacity to respond to community-identified needs in the subsistence sciences, create career pathways in subsistence sciences, and increase the number of Alaska Natives pursuing certificates and degrees in these pathways. The plan of work builds on the accomplishments of earlier funding through the continuation of delivering coursework and supporting students in Veterinary Science, Ethnobotany, Environmental Science and High Latitude Range Management. The consortium will conduct six regional community dialogs, one in each College of Rural and Community Development (CRCD) ANSI campus region and one for the CRCD area as a whole, that will involve elders, current students, community, state, federal agency personnel, as well as the general public in an exploration of the issues facing rural residents. These issues include escalating energy costs, increasing emigration of young people seeking employment, declining stocks of traditional foods, and a variety of health challenges.

Enhancing the Fisheries Technology Programs Current Curriculum, Outreach to Secondary Schools, and Aquatic Farm Education and Research Part
The University of Alaska Southeast, a four-year institution, will continue to prepare Alaska rural and Native Students for careers in fisheries and aquaculture sciences by building upon and diversify activities undertaken during the past two years of USDA CSREES funding. Project staff will develop and implement an associate of science degree program, as well as negotiate articulation agreements with four-year institutions to enhance native student accessibility to baccalaureate and graduate degrees. The Fisheries Technology curriculum content and course offerings will be enhanced to increase experiential learning opportunities for students, as well as to be aligned with the State Grade Level Expectations for use in secondary schools. Four new training sessions for the aquatic farm industry will be developed to increase learning opportunities for local industry practitioners. Project staff will also investigate new methods for processing oysters, as well as provide site assessment tutorials for suspended oyster and subtidal geoduck farming.
Strengthening Alaska and Hawaii Student and Faculty Partnerships through Experiential Learning

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), a four-year institution, will continue to develop and strengthen experiential learning programs for Alaska Natives, as well as strengthen a cooperative initiative between UAS Sitka and University of Hawai‘i Hilo. The project staff will enhance a research course at Mount Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) to include a new assessment rubric and upgrading scientific instrumentation for teaching and research. A new field watershed course that explores the relationship between society and nature will also be developed to provide students with additional experiential learning opportunities. Additionally, the project will strengthen a cooperative initiative between UAS Sitka and University of Hawai‘i Hilo (UHH) by facilitating Alaska and Hawaii student participation in a local science symposium, Sitka WhaleFest. A workshop will also be developed between UHH students and MEHS students using a research platform that leverages the expertise of each institution. Travel scholarships will be provided for Hawai‘i students in a field course that emphasizes the connection between land management and marine resources.

University of Hawaii Agribusiness Education, Training and Incubator Project (AETI)

A collaborative effort between the nine University of Hawaii campuses and the associated Cooperative Extension Services, the Agricultural Incubator Program, local agriculture producers and business communities will create an atmosphere in which faculty, specialists, and incubator personnel can engage and interact with local farmers, existing enterprises, and entrepreneurs to enable them to thrive economically while maintaining a commitment to environmental sustainable and culturally appropriate development. Throughout this project, emphasis is focused on building capacity and ownership among Hawaii’s many rural agriculture communities, including a large number of Native Hawaiian and other traditionally underserved minority populations. The Agribusiness Education, Training, and Incubator (AETI) Project will develop the needed workforce through upgraded agriculture, agribusiness, and entrepreneurship education and training programs. Specifically, the AETI will educate and instruct agricultural entrepreneurs and agribusinesses in Hawaii’s rural communities.

Nutrition and Wellness from College to Community

Prince William Sound Community College, a two-year institution in Alaska, will address the nutrition and wellness needs of incoming college students, primarily Native-Alaskan students between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four from remote Alaskan villages. Students involved in the project will learn about human nutritional needs, as well as be able to demonstrate their understanding of the subject. Satisfactory completion of HS 203 Normal Nutrition through the demonstration of safe food handling techniques, development of a defined fitness program, and production of a relevant brochure or flyer will be necessary for students to progress through the program. The Native Student Services Coordinator will formally track participating students’ progress through regular meetings.