

This Issue honors HS-MACA's Native American students**Greetings from the Associate Vice President**

As the semester comes to an end we want to reflect on our achievements this year. The Health Career Opportunity Programs, undergraduate and medical post baccalaureate, and the Center of Excellence in medical education, both supported by HRSA are in place. The mid year evaluations by the HRSA site visitors and our evaluation specialists were very encouraging. The Health Professions Partnership Initiative Program is in its final year and we are working diligently for a replacement grant. The Summer Research Institute, NIH supported, for both college and high school students was well attended.

The holidays are approaching and we reflect on the secret behind our successful programs. We want to thank you, our partners, at Creighton University, in the Omaha community and in all other institutes of higher education for your cooperation and support.

This month, we are reflecting on our partnership with the Native American Community. The Native American students in our pipeline programs are being featured and honored. Happy reading and Happy Holidays!

Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH

INSIDE ISSUE

1 Greetings from the Associate Vice President

1 HS-MACA Helps Native American Family in Need

2 HS-MACA's Programs Serve Native American Students

2 Native American Summer Research Student Receives National Honor

3 Native American Impressed by Creighton University

3 First Native American to Graduate from Dental School in the United States

4 HS-MACA Staff Contacts

4 Calendar of Events

HS-MACA Helps Native American Family in Need

The Holiday Spirit Campaign at Creighton is one in which every department or division selects a worthy cause to impact. Health Sciences - Multicultural and Community Affairs has selected the family of a previous Native American Nursing student and HCOP program participant to help this year. This Native American family has fallen on hard times lately, and it was decided to lend a helping hand to make sure this family of eight will have a Merry Christmas.



After putting in a year in Nursing School at Creighton, **Renee Aleck** and her family returned to Arkansas to be closer to extended family. Her credits for attending school at CU will always be with her as she puts her dreams on hold to be closer to her children. The family, including mother and father, Elijah, age 3; Kassandra, Age 5; Skylar, 9; Cody, 11; Robin 13 and Lila, age 15 will be very happy when they see the box coming from Creighton University to their doorstep. The future is looking bright for the Alecks.

HS-MACA's giving tree is set up in the entryway, and students who knew Renee and even those who did not are responding along with the department's staff and faculty. Even visitors to the department have been moved to donate. The response has been heart warming.

Renee, (Mom) stated, "I was praying the other day for a miracle for the children's Christmas. Maybe one day we will be in a position to help a family like we have been. God bless you". After all, isn't that what Christmas is all about?

Barb Slattery, MA

HS-MACA's Programs Serve Native American Students

By Barb Slattery, MA

The Health Sciences – Multicultural and Community Affairs Department actively recruits and serves Native American students in its programs. The numbers of Native Americans involved in the Health Careers Opportunity Program, Center of Excellence Saturday Academy and Summer Research Institute have been growing in recent years. The current number served is 43, an increase of about 43% over past years.

The purpose of HS-MACA programs is to introduce students to the idea of college and health careers and to give them a preview of campus life by inviting them on campus and involving them in long term programs in the summer as well as during the academic year on Saturday. Another important objective is to introduce students to cultural diversity and cultural competency in health careers. HCOP's Summer Academy hosted a Native American Immersion Day, featuring cultural talks and music. In the end, high school enrollment converts to college numbers and subsequently, professional schools benefit. We all benefit from including diversity in our programs.

HS-MACA PROGRAM	NATIVE-AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE
Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)	20
Center of Excellence (COE)	11
COE Saturday Academy	8
Health Professions Partnership Initiative (HPPI)	0
Summer Research Institute (SRI)	3

Native American Summer Research Student Receives National Honor



Jacob Weasel, Senior from Papillion-LaVista South High School was selected to the 2004 Temple University Minority Trainee Research Forum in Fort Lauderdale, Florida a national competition of abstracts from wet bench research. Jacob was one of twelve winning trainees from the high school educational level to receive a full travel fellowship to the Forum (air, hotel, food), where he gave a 15-minute oral presentation and participated in the poster session, seminars and awards dinner. Invitations were limited to minority groups underrepresented in the biomedical sciences. Last summer, Jacob spent eight weeks in Dr. Devendra Agrawal's lab researching the *Expression of SOCS-1 and 3 in TNF-alpha and IGF-1 Treated Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells*. Jacob is applying to Creighton University's undergraduate program for fall 2005.

We thank all of the Summer Research Mentors for their hard work this past summer with our students.

Native American Prayer

The World before me
is restored in beauty.
The world behind me
is restored in beauty.
The world below me
is restored in beauty.
The world above me
is restored in beauty.
All things around me
are restored in beauty.

It is finished in beauty
It is finished in beauty

-Pax Christi USA

Native American Impressed by Creighton University



Coming to Creighton was a huge adjustment for me. I left friends and family behind to move to a new place where I knew no one. However, the transition was much smoother than I had expected, largely due to Creighton's welcoming and supportive environment.

Creighton's teaching faculty is extremely encouraging, caring, and helpful. There is a different feeling about the environment at Creighton; people genuinely care. The staff of HS-MACA are particularly supportive. They host many activities to foster networking and group interaction among minority students such as Common Ground, Mentor-Mentee meetings, holiday gatherings and spiritual retreats.

Another great thing about HS-MACA is the mentoring program. Faculty mentor medical students, medical students mentor post-baccalaureate students, post-baccalaureate students mentor high school students, and so on. I have a mentor who is a first year medical student and I am looking for a high school or college student for a mentee. My mentor was a previous post-bac, and she has been a significant source of knowledge and encouragement for me.

Creighton is committed to the diversity of its student body. As a member of the post-baccalaureate class, I am in a class of seven with different cultural backgrounds: Nigerian, West African, Hmong, Vietnamese, Native American, Caribbean, and South American. The cultural diversity has led to many interesting discussions. I have learned a lot about other cultures through these interactions with my peers, and also through a Cultural Competency literature course we have been taking this fall.

As a Jesuit University, Creighton offers many opportunities for volunteer service. I've been involved with some unique experiences such as AIDS awareness teaching, as well as an event for grieving children called Tinsels and Tears. I look forward to many more opportunities to be involved in the Omaha community. In addition, I hope to participate in ILAC (Institute for Latin American Concern). ILAC was founded by Creighton, and provides an opportunity for Creighton health sciences students to provide hands-on care to people in the Dominican Republic. One of the things I fell in love with at Creighton is its commitment to service in underserved populations.

Finally, the clinical experiences have been very rewarding. I have been shadowing a general pediatrician at One World. One World is a community health care clinic serving a diverse patient population. It is an invaluable experience to see culturally sensitive health care facilitated at this clinic.

Overall, I have been very impressed with the post-baccalaureate program's multi-faceted training for future physicians. Personally, this program has been an incredible blessing for which I am very thankful.

First Native American to Graduate from Dental School in the United States

Dr. George Blue Spruce, the nation's first Native American dentist graduated from Creighton University in 1956, is the former Assistant Surgeon General and Director of the Indian Health Service Phoenix Area Office. In 1990, he was instrumental in the organization of the Society of American Indian Dentists and has been its president for the past 13



years. This position has allowed Dr. Blue Spruce to continue his life's work in the encouragement of Native American individuals to pursue a career in dentistry and other health professions. He holds membership in numerous American Indian organizations, with missions that promote post secondary education. Dr. Blue Spruce, a member of the San

Juan-Laguna Pueblos of New Mexico, firmly believes in true self-determination for Indian people. He says, "True Indian self determination will occur only when our American Indian people are given opportunities to pursue those educational credentials that allow them to assume meaningful leadership roles in their respective Indian communities. As leaders, Indians will be able to assess their peoples' needs, prioritize them and, most importantly, manage and control their own programs." In his new position, Dr. Blue Spruce hopes to continue addressing the severe dearth of Native American dentists and other health professionals.

Written by Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMMON GROUND
EVERY FRIDAY 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM G31

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
1ST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS LUNCH
JANUARY 6, 2005
Medical Education Conference Room
11:30 AM

GLAUCOMA AWARENESS KICK-OFF
JANUARY 10, 2005

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
SATURDAY ACADEMY
JANUARY 15, 2005

MARTIN LUTHER KING'S DAY
JANUARY 17, 2005

HS-MACA MENTORING
JANUARY 20, 2005

MEDICAL SUMMER RESEARCH
Project protocols due
JANUARY 28, 2005

12TH GRADE
FOCUS ON HEALTH PROFESSIONS
JANUARY 31, 2005

9TH GRADE
FOCUS ON HEALTH PROFESSIONS
FEBRUARY 10, 2005

10TH GRADE
FOCUS ON HEALTH PROFESSIONS
FEBRUARY 24, 2005

