

SKC AMP scholars flourish under science program

By Lailani Upham

PABLO — The National Science Foundation is working to increase the number of degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics completed by Native Americans through direct participation, support and collaborations with partner institutes such as Salish Kootenai College.

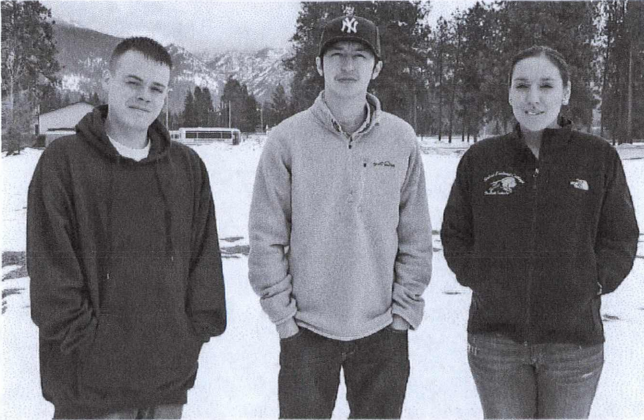
The All Nations Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (ANLSAMP) is a program under the Indigenous Math and Science Institute at SKC that provides financial support for eligible students. The scholars must be enrolled in one of the four disciplines and is contingent upon approval for NSF funding, according to SKC ANLSAMP officials.

ANLSAMP serves nine mainstream colleges/universities and 25 tribal colleges located within 13 states.

A group of SKC students presented their research through the program that sponsored an undergraduate scientific poster and oral presentation competition last fall at the National American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) annual conference.

Out of 51 undergraduates presenting scientific research at the conference, four SKC students - Gary Lesser, Matthew Nicolai, Matthew Weingart, and Ashley Marks - competed in the research projects.

Last spring, SKC junior Amy Stiffarm took first place in both the "Poster Scientific Research" and the "Oral Scientific Research" categories. Stiffarm, a Gros-Ventre tribal member is in the Life Science Degree program



(L to R) SKC students Matthew Nicolai, Burdette Bird in The Ground and Amy Stiffarm are AMP scholars and have participated in internships and national conferences presenting scientific research they have collected while working toward degrees in the science, technology, engineering and mathematic disciplines. Bird in The Ground recently attended the SACNAS conference in California. SACNAS is a national society with a 37-year history of scientists dedicated to fostering the success of Hispanic/Chicano and Native American scientists from college students to professionals in attaining advanced degrees, careers, and leadership positions. (Lailani Upham photo)

in "Detection of Phage Genes in the Genome of Mycobacterium."

Stiffarm admits that as a teen she did not see herself going off to college or leaving her reservation. She said it wasn't until she saw a job opportunity, which had slipped through a family member's hands because of the lack of a degree, that made her reconsider. It was not until summer after her senior year in high school that she applied to SKC and her future began. Stiffarm says it is hard to be away from home but the program and SKC has offered a feeling of being in a family. "There are so many opportunities out there, but you must take a chance," she said.

When asked what advice would she give to other students, she offered, "With



Nicolai operating a compensator type, automatic engineers level to survey a river cross-section on a restored section of the Jocko River near Arlee. The work conducted by Nicolai is being performed as part of a collaborative study between the University of Montana and Salish Kootenai Colleges' Department of Natural Resources, focusing on large river ecosystems. (courtesy photo)

the right amount of desire you can achieve your goals and dreams. It may seem like a never-ending road and college can be tough at times but don't give

up. Our future is our own responsibility." SKC senior and CSKT tribal member, Matthew Nicolai is working on a bachelor of science degree

in Fisheries and Wildlife and an associate's degree in Forestry. Nicolai recently participated in the AISES conference and presented a poster project named "Spatial and Temporal Variability of Discharge on a Restored Alluvial River." Nicolai said his experience at the conference gave him an excellent opportunity to network with potential employers and students nationwide. "Without the AMP program none of this would have been possible," he said. "Knowing I needed good grades to be part of the program forced me to set higher standards for myself than I normally would have and has paid off tremendously," he added.

While at the conference Nicolai said one person in particular stood out to him: Dr. Mae C.

Jemison, the first African American woman in space. Nicolai said in Jemison's background as a minority personal similarities that Native Americans face. Dr. Jemison was selected in the astronaut program in 1987 and was blasted into orbit aboard the space shuttle Endeavor on September 12, 1992, and was the first woman of color to go into space. "Her background and accomplishments really made me understand the importance of education and how it can be used as a powerful weapon."

The ANLSAMP Scholar Program is a great way for eligible students to receive stipends and the opportunities to attend professional STEM conferences while completing their educational degrees and goals. As a partner institute, SKC designs and implements components using a "4-R" model for success: recruitment, retention, research, and reporting.

Nicolai's advice to a student entering the program is to take advantage of all the opportunities. "Spend your time wisely, study hard and good things will come to you in return."

Eligibility for the AMP Scholar program requires students to be enrolled full time in a STEM discipline, involved in research with a mentor at a partner institution and maintain a 2.5 GPA, possess strong interpersonal and communication skills, and effective mentoring and tutoring skills, according to ANLSAMP guidelines.

For more information about the ANLSAMP Program, please contact Steve Dupuis, Salish Kootenai College ANLSAMP Program Director at (406) 275-4996 or email at Steve_Dupuis@skc.edu.

Deadline approaching for Montana Wildlife Federation and Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment Board Scholarships and Grants

HELENA — As we approach the conclusion of the 2010 watershed season, the Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment of the Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is also approaching the final deadline for applications to award grants and scholarships in its annual program committed to furthering the state's hunting, wildlife and outdoor heritage.

The MWF endowment offers one-year grants of \$500-\$5,000 to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations

as well as scholarships of \$1,000 to college students.

Established in 1998, the endowment honors the late Phil Tawney, a fourth generation Montanan, lifetime sportsman and conservation leader. The endowment mission statement reflects Tawney's passion and commitment to protecting Montana's fish and wildlife, vulnerable habitat, and the future of hunting.

"To educate and inform the general public about hunting ethics, fair chase, and values to perpetuate the

spirit of the hunt through efforts to conserve habitat and wildlife; and to stimulate the recruitment, mentoring, and involvement of youth in hunting and conservation activities."

Land Tawney, Phil Tawney's son and endowment board officer said, "My mother, Robin Tawney Nichols, and I are proud that the hunting legacy my father felt so strongly about can be perpetuated as a living legacy through scholarships and grants for conservation projects. By

awarding both grants and scholarships over the past few years, the endowment has made a significant contribution toward fostering a conservation ethic through the eyes of sporting people. We look forward to this year's round of applications."

The endowment seeks grant applications that emphasize one or more of the following: the interface between hunting and wildlife management, especially issues that affect youth; strategies to promote environmentally healthy

wildlife habitat; public policy changes to improve conservation habitat; strategies to improve and promote hunting ethics, fair chase, values, and safety; and activities to stimulate the recruitment, mentoring and involvement of youth in hunting and conservation activities.

Tawney Endowment scholarships are given each year to Montana college students with academic majors in a field related to conservation who 1) exhibit a commitment to general public hunting ethics and fair chase, and 2) support values to perpetuate the sport of the hunt through efforts to conserve habitat and wildlife. Students should contact college financial aid offices or MWF. Scholarships are to be used during the 2011-2012 academic year.

In 2010, the endowment awarded one Montana nonprofit organization a grant for engaging youth in outdoor conservation and hunting. The endowment also awarded three scholarships to students studying resource conservation and environmental sciences.

For information about the application process or to donate to the Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment, contact the Montana Wildlife Federation at mwf@mtwf.org; P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624; (800) 517-7256; or Land Tawney, Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment Board, at tawney@mtwf.org; (406) 541-6733. Students also may contact college financial aid offices. The deadline for grant and scholarship applications is January 18, 2011.

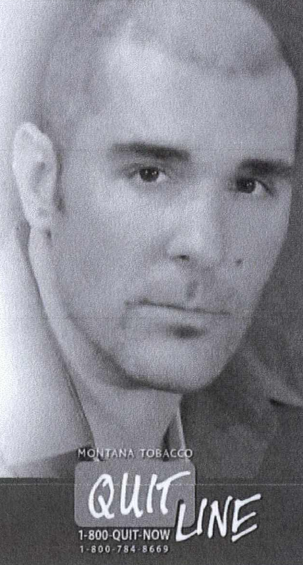
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The Indian Preference Office is sponsoring a **FLAGGER CERTIFICATION CLASS**

The class is set for **February 4th, 11th, and 25th, 2011** from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Council Chambers - New Tribal Complex
**A maximum of 20 students per class*

Preference will be given to enrolled Salish & Kootenai Tribal members, followed by members of other federally recognized tribes. Enrollment verification needs to be provided prior to class.



Participation is open to the first 20 people who qualify. People interested are required to register by calling:
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