

SEPA SCIENCE ACTIVITIES 2013

SEPA SCIENCE PROGRAM FOR—Native Indigenous Centered Education (N.I.C.E. PROGRAM) -Omaha Public Schools: The educational success and life achievement for our Indigenous population is accomplished by advocacy, sustained cultural identity, family involvement, strong communication and positive life experiences. On November 18-19, 2013, SEPA organized science hands-on-activities for Jr. High which involved Electric circuits, Magnets and hover craft science—for Sr. High—DNA and Flower forensics from Omaha Public Schools. The middle school students came from Norris, McMillan and Davis and the high school students were from Benson, Central, Northwest & South schools. Below are the pictures showing students actively involved in science activities held at UNMC lab.



ROLE MODEL POSTER: The Role Model Poster Project features Native Americans in many health and science professions. Each poster includes the name, photograph, and tribal affiliation of the person featured. Additional information for teachers include: education, benefits, motivation, special job skills, and words of wisdom. These posters proved to be a great source of inspiration and motivation to the students and teachers. There are currently seven sets of posters and each set features five tribal members.

NAVAJO (DINÉ)

Julius Yellowhair, PhD
Optical Engineer | Albuquerque, NM

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Optical Engineer | Albuquerque, NM
WORDS OF WISDOM:
"To succeed, you must first fail. Don't be afraid to fail, but don't approach an endeavor expecting to fail. Failure (and practice) provides the experience and knowledge, which are two important components for leadership."
EDUCATION:
M.S. - Electrical Engineering, U. of New Mexico
M.S. - Optical Science, University of Arizona
Ph.D. - Optical Science, University of Arizona
FURTHER INFORMATION:
Isaac Newton and Physics for Kids by Kerrie L. Hollihan
Light Fundamentals: FUNtastic Science Activities for Kids by Robert Wood
What does an optical engineer do?
www.wisegeeek.com/what-does-an-optical-engineer-do.htm

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX

Ramona Zephier
Physician Assistant, Orthopaedics | Omaha, NE

Ramona Zephier
Physician Assistant, Orthopaedics | Omaha, NE
WORDS OF WISDOM:
"Treat all people/things with respect no matter what age, gender, race or ethnicity. Be a well rounded individual and exercise your mind, body and spirit. Do something that you are passionate about and surround yourself with good people."
EDUCATION:
MPAS - Master of Physician Assistant Studies, University of Nebraska Medical Center
FURTHER INFORMATION:
So You Want to Be a Physician Assistant by Beth Grivett
American Academy of Physician Assistants
www.aapa.org

BUILDING BRIDGES

DECEMBER 2013, NEWSLETTER
ROLE MODEL POSTER

ISSUE 8

SEPA : 2013 YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE
DR. MAURICE GODFREY
UNMC PROFESSOR & SEPA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

As this is being written there is hope that SEPA will continue, uninterrupted, for at least one more year. As everyone knows, new funding priorities in Washington, D.C. have brought some uncertainties to the SEPA program across the country. We have made great strides in the last few years and do not want our efforts to be curtailed. Multiple sources of external funding will be sought in the coming months to ensure that programs started under SEPA will continue. Teachers and administrators may be asked for multiple letters of support as the effort intensifies. Your patience and support are always appreciated.

We will continue through the 2013-2014 academic year at full speed. Our summer programs will go on as they have for the past eight years. The excitement we see from the youngest elementary school scientist to the once jaded high school student provide the impetus we need to keep going.

As always, please keep us in mind for programs in your schools. This academic year we formally added the NICE (Native Indigenous Centered Education) program of the Omaha Public Schools to the SEPA family (In this issue, see many photos of the science activities we organized). The program is led by Tami Maldonado and we are thrilled to be part of their effort to bring the enjoyment of learning to Native students in our home town.

SEPA HEALTH & SCIENCE ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS & TEACHERS IN 2013

We have held annual workshops covering topics in biology, chemistry, physics, forensic and earth sciences. Topics were chosen from the needs assessment survey that was distributed at the start of the UNMC-SEPA program. A new survey will be distributed to our partner schools. Please encourage your teachers and administrators to provide as much feedback as possible. The success of the program hinges on all the partners working together.

Pictures Below: 1. Dr. Godfrey demonstrating Augmented reality 3 D technology to students at Marty Indian school in December 2013. 2. Dr. Kumar is with Marty School students for SEPA science program in September 2013

ROLE MODEL POSTER

TECHNICAL STAFF, OPTICAL ENGINEER
Sandia National Laboratories

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