

SEPTEMBER 2019

# ACCELERATING ACCESS

ISSUE 24

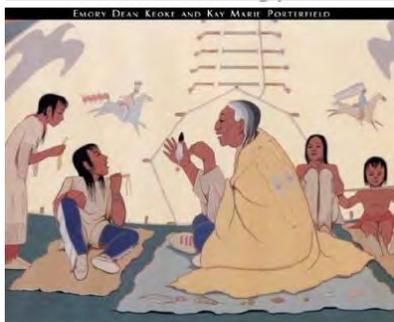
ROLE MODEL — SEE BACK PAGE

**Cheryl Miller**  
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska  
Alcohol and Drug Counselor — Macy, NE



Learn more about our programs:  
Visit our website  
[www.unmc.edu/sepa](http://www.unmc.edu/sepa)

**Newsletter Committee**  
Shrawan (Sam) Kumar  
Maurice Godfrey  
Kim Soper  
Liliana Bronner



## 2019 SEPA ACTIVITIES

Dr. Maurice Godfrey, Professor and Ms. Liliana Bronner, Asst. Professor  
SEPA Program Co-Directors

Hello SEPA family and welcome to another academic year. As always, we are here to help and be a resource for all of your needs in health and science education. We have been engaged in this partnership since 2005. Some of you have been with us from the beginning. When we began, we were virtually the only program that worked with Native schools and communities. Now there are several and many more who wish to become part of the SEPA family. This makes the SEPA world that much more competitive.

As we embark on another academic year, we also mark the start of beginning the preparation for a new SEPA proposal from our group. Your partnership has been instrumental for our success. Your ideas and input will be paramount for so that our work can continue. We are always open to your thoughts and are ready to try new things for the benefit of your schools, community, teachers, and of course, students. Please feel free to contact us for any questions, suggestions or ideas at [sepa@unmc.edu](mailto:sepa@unmc.edu)

Have a great school year!

Besides several visits to different schools to connect with administrators, teachers and students, these are some of the activities featured in this newsletter:

- Marty School Visit — Science Activities—APRIL 5, 2019
- Wakanyéja Symposium at UNMC—APRIL 23-24, 2019
- DNA Day—APRIL 26-27, 2019
- Wagner School Students Visit to UNMC—MAY 3, 2019
- SEPA Team Visits Marty Indian School Summer Program—MAY 13-16, 2019
- SEPA Health and Science Fun Camp—JUNE 2-5, 2019
- SHPEP-WISH Program—JUNE 9-15, 2019
- SEPA Teacher Workshop—JUNE 26-28, 2019
- Summer Science Program at Wagner—JULY 8-13

**Wakanyéja: A Conference on American Indian Behavioral Health (April 23-24, 2019)** brought together tribal community members, respected elders, health advocates, academics, biomedical scientists, and tribal health representatives to help better understand community issues and work to address health disparities. More than a dozen conference speakers and over 150 participants were engaged with these issues from multiple view points, including physical, mental, cultural, and spiritual factors in behavioral health. This conference was a collaboration between the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.





# SEPA Outreach & Programs

## Drs. Kumar and Godfrey visited Marty Indian School on April 5, 2019

More than 50 students were engaged in science activities which included hands-on experiments on conduction, convection, radiation and water molecules.



## DNA DAY on APRIL 26-27, 2019

More than 250 students were involved in hands-on-activities to explore the exciting world of DNA. Students were directly involved in extracting DNA and were extremely surprised to see DNA. They also learnt about DNA damage, cancer and other diseases.



## SEPA Summer School Program (K-12) at Marty Indian School on May 13-15, 2019

This three-day science learning and career opportunities program was conducted by SEPA team Drs. Godfrey and Kumar. More than 50 students participated each day with different topic of hands-on-activities. The three day experiments included: 1. Skin Cancer and Prevention 2. Diagnosing Diabetes, Healthy Eating Habits and steps to prevent diseases and 3. Bang to Head—concussion awareness and early intervention. This was a great opportunity for all the students to interact directly with scientists. They loved all the experiments they could perform and results they obtained right there in the classroom. Also, every students were able to give a talk for few minutes about their learning experience.



## Wagner School Students (5th Grade) visit to UNMC on May 3rd, 2019

More than 40 students visited UNMC. This opportunity enabled students to explore science, technology and engineering outside the classroom. They participated in several interactive activities which included :



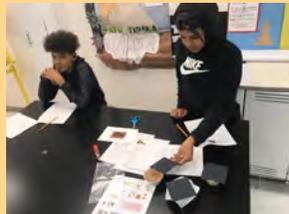
1. **Mind & Brain Health Labs**—to improve mind and brain health and mobility



2. **Motion Analysis & Virtual Reality Lab**—Blend of engineering, biomechanics and brain imaging—a diagnostic tools for the treatment of walking disorders



3. **Recreation Therapy**— to improve physical, cognitive, social and emotional functioning. Students were also excited to learn more about career opportunities in science.





### SEPA Summer Health & Science Fun Camp ( June-2-5, 2019)

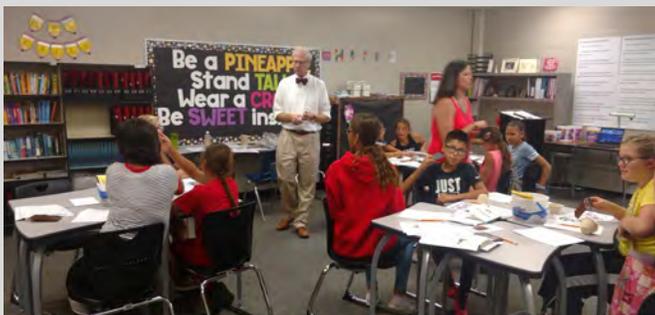
This year more than 40 students (K-12) from 10 different schools participated in Summer Science Fun Camp—held in Omaha, Nebraska. Participating Schools were: Andes Central, Davis Middle School, Marty Indian School, Morton Magnet Middle, Norris Middle School, OPS

NICE Program, Santee Community School, St. Augustine-Winnebago, White River Middle School and Winnebago Public School. The program started with a Chemistry show by Dr. Eric Haas. Three days were filled with many science hands-on-activities which included 1. Mind & Brain Labs, 2. Nursing Simulation Lab, 3. Anatomage Lab: digital viewing of different human and other animals body 4. Planetarium show at UNO 6. Wellness Activity—Learning Yoga to be fit and healthy 6. Big Garden—learning about science of gardening 7. Clinical Lab science activity—experimenting bacteria and learning about virus, cancer and other diseases 8. Visiting Omaha Zoo—learning about science careers and animals and 9. Visiting UNO College of Engineering (iSTEM activities) - building robots and discussing career opportunities. Students were deeply engaged in all the activities—they loved all the programs and were involved in discussions and asked questions. SEPA science camp is one of our key programs which stimulate interest in science and provides direct interaction with scientists and researchers. This is a huge for the students to get excited about science and continue their interest to finish school and hoping that someday become science professionals.



### Wagner Community Summer School Program (K-8) on July 8-13, 2019

SEPA has been involved in this summer program for 5 years—this provides a great platform to learn science in a fun way and make new friends. This 5-day program was geared towards skill-building games, outdoor activities and fun-science engaging projects. More than 100 students participated and also many parents and other community members were involved. Overall, our program provides great opportunity to expose students to science in this early stage—which will help them to build up continued interest and plan for future career in science.



### SEPA TEACHER WORKSHOP June 26-28, 2019

This year's teacher workshop was organized at UNMC to promote and reinforce good teaching strategies that teachers can take to the classroom to provide efficient and effective learning tools for their students. In total, 18 teachers who teach Native American students at 7 different Nebraska and South Dakota schools\* participated. This year, the topic of workshop was "The Science in Energy." In this three-day workshop, teachers were involved in various hands-on-activities which included Earth Science, Rube, Goldberg Machines, Fun lab activities, Energy in Agriculture and creating a Wind Turbine. The workshop was a great success—many teachers expressed desire to return next year.



(\*Andes Central School, Marty Indian School, Pierre Indian Learning Center, St. Augustine Indian Mission School, Umó'ho<sup>o</sup> Nation Public School, Wagner Community School, Walthill Public School)





**SHPEP-WISH (Summer Health Professions Education Program, Weeklong Institute for Students in High School) PROGRAM at UNMC**

**JUNE 9-15, 2019:** A week-long summer enrichment program, at UNMC, focused on improving access to information and resources for college students interested in the health professions. Although this program is for college students, SEPA team took initiative to introduce this to high school students so that they can get exposed to range of health professions earlier in their career. This also provides a great opportunity to them to interact with scientists and researchers and familiar with many health related field they can choose from. This year four Native American students from Omaha North High School took part in this program. They had a great time and all of them expressed desire to become a health professional.



**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 ten sets of posters and each set features five tribal members.

**Cheryl Miller**  
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska  
Alcohol and Drug Counselor – Macy, NE

**Words of Wisdom**  
God only gives you what you can handle so do what needs to be done, even in fear - it's what makes you stronger.  
In my Umo'ho" language, we have a word, Wa'shko" that means, "Do your Best." No matter what you do in life, you do your best & with a good heart.  
EwityhWongithe (all my relations).

SEPA SCIENCE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD  
Supported by the National Institutes of Health

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA Medical Center

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/ UPCOMING EVENTS/NEWS**

- 1. BOARD MEETING:**  
Delta Hotel in South Sioux City, NE  
**Date:** September 13, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- 2. Cancer Biology and You Day:**  
Delta Event Center South Sioux City, NE  
Tuesday, October 29, 2019  
**Time:** 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Email us with your questions at [sepa@unmc.edu](mailto:sepa@unmc.edu)

**SEPA Publication**  
*The Power of Role Models*

Information about the Native American Role Model Poster sets is available on the web at: <https://nativeamericanrole.wixsite.com/rolemodels>