



ROLE MODEL — SEE BACK PAGE

**SEPA PROGRAM 2019**

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

**Skidi Band of Pawnee Nation**  
Orthopedic Surgeon  
Bentonville, AR



**Sarah Knife Chief, MD**

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

Believe it or not, we are about to embark on the final year of our third SEPA program and are beginning to consider ideas and pathways for our fourth SEPA. As always, you have been instrumental in helping to shape the program to best meet the needs of your students, teachers, schools, and communities. This time it is no different.

As we begin the grant writing process, please remember that among the most important aspects of our success over the years has been the letters we have received from you and your students. If possible, we welcome obtaining Tribal Resolutions or similar support letters that will be seen in a very positive light by SEPA program staff, especially during peer review.

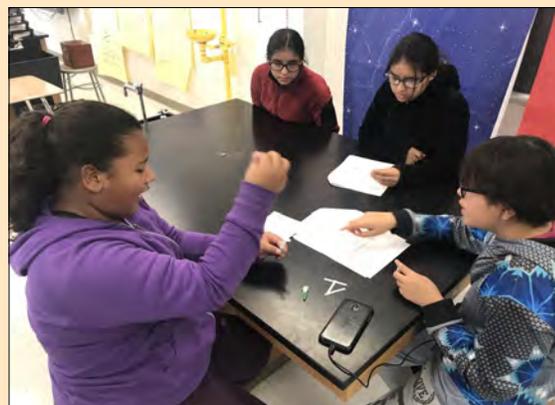
Of course, we are not going to be staying home to write. We will be ready, willing, and able to come to your schools to work with you and your students. As always, feel free to contact us with your ideas at any time.

**SEPA Health and Science Activities for Students & Teachers, Fall 2019**

**Marty Indian School Visit**

Middle and High School Students (November 21 - 22, 2019)

SEPA has been involved in outreach activity for many years—this provides a great platform to learn science in a fun way geared towards skill-building games, outdoor activities, and fun-science engaging projects. More than 50 students participated in a all-day hands-on-science activities related to cancer, diabetes, healthy living and prevention of diseases. Overall, our program provides great opportunity to expose students to science in this early stage, to help them build continued interest and plan for future careers in science.





### Marty Indian Elementary School

More than 60 students took part in a fun-filled game activity such as bird bingo. While playing the game, students learned about water molecules, bird habitat, types of birds, eating habits, and warm & cold blooded animals.

### Omaha Public Schools - OPS NICE

The SEPA team took part in the Native Indigenous Centered Education program presentations to 4th grade classes at elementary schools in the Omaha Public Schools district. These classes were in honor of National Native American Heritage month and part of the 4th grade curriculum to learn about Native American history and use of plants as medicine.

### OPS King Science Center Visit

*8th Grade Health Science Class:* More than 40 students visited UNMC (University of Nebraska medical Center). This was a great opportunity for them to explore science, technology and engineering outside the classroom. They learned about DNA, chromosome, gene and diseases. They were involved in hands-on-activities which included use of basic crafts materials to build a simplified model of a pair of chromosomes that represents some of their own physical traits. In this activity, students reviewed how human physical traits, such as eye color, are determined by specific segments of genes. Students also had an opportunity to visit UNMC nursing school and were excited to learn about career opportunities in science.





### Cancer Biology - Health & Science Event (South Sioux City, Nebraska - October 29, 2019)

High school and college students were invited to a one-day event exploring biology of cancer, healthy living and disease prevention. Thirty-six students from different schools took part in this exciting cancer-education and prevention workshop.

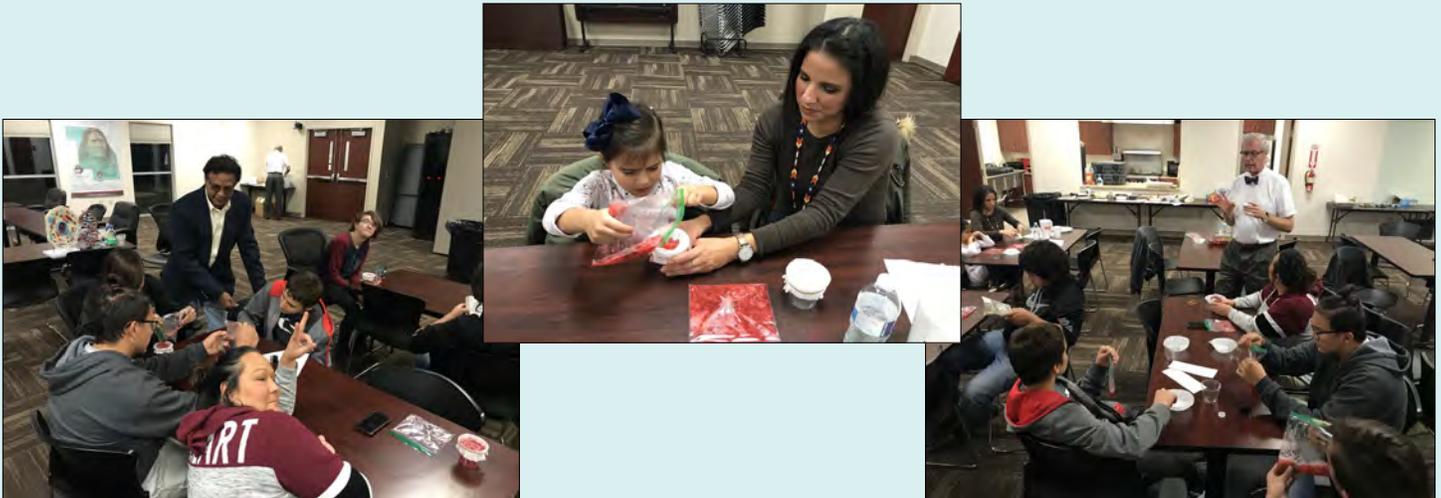
This learning opportunity was aimed at increasing student achievement in science and awareness about cancer, as well as increasing interest in healthcare research among Native American youth.

The participating schools were: NICE Program (Benson High School, Burke High School, Central High School, North High School, South High School), Nebraska Indian Community College, Tiospa Zina Tribal School, and youth from the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Professional Enrichment Program.



### Ponca Youth Center Visit - Norfolk, Nebraska Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Professional Enrichment Program

Native American students from different schools participated in this hands-on science activity. SEPA team Drs. Godfrey and Kumar visited Ponca Youth Center in Norfolk, Nebraska. 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 learned about DNA damage, chromosome, gene, cancer and other diseases. Also, involved in discussion about job opportunities in science and health related fields.





## UNMC SEPA goes to ASHG



Dr. Godfrey is now the co-chair of the Public Education and Awareness Committee for the American Society of Human Genetics. In that role, he visited two Baylor Medical School middle school academies in Houston and interacted with students.

During the conference, he also hosted an “Inspiration Lounge: Genomics Research in the Indigenous Community.”



## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS / NEWS

- Board Meeting:**  
Delta Hotel - South Sioux City, NE  
January 17, 2020 **Time:** 10 AM - 2 PM
- SHPEP-YES-WISH Summer Institute**  
June 7-13, 2020 UNMC Campus
- SEPA IPERT - Aseto'ne Institute**  
June 21-27, 2020 at UNMC Campus  
June 28-Jul 2, 2020 at Temecula, CA
- SEPA Teacher Workshop**  
June 23-26, 2020 at UNMC Campus

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>

## Role Model Poster Project

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.

Skidi Band of Pawnee Nation  
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# SARAH KNIFE CHIEF, MD

### Words of Wisdom

Never be afraid to take a risk.  
Don't allow others to program your responses. Keep looking for ways to improve yourself.



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

UNIVERSITY OF **Nebraska** Medical Center